

Tuesday 23rd January 2018

RE: Parking outside Millfield Primary/Grange Lane

Dear Parents,

I am writing to you with regard to the ongoing issues of parking on Grange Lane, and around the Primary School – specifically at the key times of picking up and dropping off children.

We have received a number of reports – both from the school and from parents – showing concern for the children as a result of vehicles being left in dangerous positions that cause obstructions to pedestrians.

An additional issue is the risk of vehicles having to manoeuvre around parked vehicles while being unsighted of children who lack a sophisticated appreciation of the roads.

I met with Headteacher Deborah Hannaford today who has reassured me absolutely that the safety of the children is her first priority. She has tried to engage with parents to appeal to people not to bring their cars up to the school – but is understandably frustrated because few people have actually changed their habits.

Without doubt, nobody wants to see the implementation of fines and penalties (£50) – however, in the short term, few other options exist to protect the children and the parking regulations that surround the school site.

For this reason on an unspecified date you can expect to see PCSOs carrying out enforcement activity at the school. I do not doubt that fines will be issued (I have directed the officers to take positive action). This is not a revenue generating activity, and it is not about drivers being an ‘easy target’. *This is not about box ticking.* We want all of the parents and carers who take their children to school to understand the responsibility they hold for keeping all children safe, and not simply getting kids to school on time.

It is far better to plan a journey that does not involve bringing the car up to the school site, and allows enough time in the morning for this to happen.

In the longer term Mrs Hannaford and I are going to speak to our District Councillors about local planning arrangements to help improve access to the site – such discussions do not bring changes overnight and we all have to be realistic about that.

Please do take this message on board – I hope you don’t receive a penalty – if, unfortunately you do, your patience and politeness towards the PCSOs doing their job is very much appreciated.

With kind regards,



Sergeant 2164 Phil Priestley

Ely Police Station