



ST CHAD'S PATCHWAY CE VC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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RE: traffic near school during drop off and pick up times.

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you know, we share the same issue as many other schools, which is school was built at a time before most drove a car. As such, the roads around our school are not really suitable for the volume of traffic.

In the past this congestion has caused unrest with some local residents understandably upset that their drives are being blocked and also that they have been shouted at by parents. Even if you are not a local resident, the congestion is simply irritating for all of you who use the roads near school. Over the years we have tried many ideas to ease the congestion that everyone who drives feels.

The most successful actions we have taken to make things a little easier are the following:

1/ an informally agreed **one way system on Standish Avenue** with the 'entrance' being the second right turn off Shellmor Lane once you have joined from Stoke Lane and the 'exit' being... well, simply follow Standish Avenue heading with school on your right and you will re-join Shellmor Lane whereupon you can go left back onto Stoke Lane eventually, or right which will bring you to the A38. *This was the most successful action and this way there are no issues of passing, and everyone can get back and forth.*

2/ **Avoiding parking on corners** so people can see around them.

3/ **Not parking across drives**, this is one of the biggest cause of complaints school gets from neighbours and I am sure in their situation, you would feel annoyed if you were unable to get to work (for example).

4/ **Not parking or stopping in the school gates bay.** The school gates are framed by yellow zig zag lines to remind people of the Highway code Rule 243 which states: *DO NOT stop or park: near a school entrance, anywhere you would prevent access for Emergency Services*, (it also states in front of an entrance to a property). The school entrance is the place most likely to have children, parents, buggies, bicycles, pet puppies and all manner of movement that could cause an accident. A parked or stopped vehicle will prevent line of sight and increase risks. You'll note that often when it rains I will be in the gate area helping cars use this as a passing place, which allows cars to move more freely. During dry days when there are less cars I am sure people can manage this themselves, but cannot if a car has stopped in this area.

I know that 99% of school car drivers try really hard to support everyone's road use and thank you if that is you.

If everyone followed the above, *everyone* would have a smoother car journey. Although we are never going to remove school traffic, I urge you all to work together to make the school run easier for everyone around you, and in turn they will make it easier for you.

Thank you in advance,

Mr D Brown
Headteacher.

