

St David's R.C. Primary and ELC Setting

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Midlothian 

7th September 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Parking and playground safety

I write to remind you of the **ongoing parking expectations** at St David's and **seek your commitment to further improve the situation**. You can do this by parking in a courteous and respectful manner.

Maintaining positive, reciprocal relationships with our school community and local residents is key. I am disappointed to report I continue to receive complaints about the poor parking choices, disregard for other road users and the high risk this poses to pedestrians (including young children) at school pick up and drop off times.

I therefore send a reminder to all families of the ongoing reported issues to ensure we have a clear, shared understanding of the challenges and parking expectations at our school.

Parking on Wester Kippielaw

- Please continue to **use the designated areas to drop off and collect your child/children giving thought and consideration to other road users and local residents**.
- **Resident parking spaces within the local development are not available for parking**. These are clearly marked and visible for all to see. Please refrain from parking in these bays.
- **Please do not stop or mount the kerb between the staff car park entrance and bus drop off zone**. This is extremely dangerous. We recently encountered a near miss where a pupil was almost knocked over as a parent/ carer drove on to the pavement as a family were walking to school. The driver was unaware of the potentially catastrophic incident.
- **Cars are not permitted to drive up or down the bus/ taxi drop off zone at any time**. This is for the sole use of school buses and taxis only.
- **Cars are not permitted to park on grassed areas**. Instances in the past have resulted in damage to the grass area by the drop off zone. This area is maintained by local residents through their factoring company and has resulted in additional fees being passed to residents. This is unacceptable and entirely avoidable.



- The **school car park is limited and is for staff parking and delivery vehicles only**. There is **use of a disabled bay for those in receipt of a blue badge**. The gates for the car park are closed from 8.30am to 9am daily to ensure Primary 2 pupils can safely enter and exit the school building via the main entrance at this time. **Primary 2 parents/ carers, please ensure you child/ children assembly on the pavement and are supervised closely**. It is not acceptable for young children to be running through the cars or playing in the car park.

We receive feedback from residents about the parking and congestion issues at St David's. This includes correspondence from the estate's factor as well as from local residents who are directed to report any incidents to Police Scotland by dialing 101. We work in partnership with Police Scotland and the Transport Officer within Midlothian Council to listen to and respond to all concerns raised.

The Highway Code sets out very clear rules in relation to waiting and parking which can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code/waiting-and-parking-238-to-252> . **Please support us to maintain a safe school community by valuing the laws of the road and placing the safety of our children at the forefront before your own needs and commitments.**

Consider your parking choices and the difference parking a few additional metres or steps further away from the school will actually do. There is a wide range of parking available in the side streets off Lauder Road (Hepburn Drive) with a Crossing Patrol to allow safe crossing across the main road.

The rear gate exiting out into Wester Kippielaw is now open for pick up and drop off. This is to reduce the number of families needing to access through the front gate. Please consider using this gate to reduce congestion at the front of the school.

Playground Safety

- Please note that **dogs are not permitted in our school grounds at any time** (this includes dogs on leads, in arms of parents/ carers or within handbags). **Dogs should not come beyond the school gates in any instance (this includes to the school office).**
- **Smoking is also not permitted.** Please be mindful of the large number of children exiting through school each day and **refrain from smoking by the school gates.**
- All pupils entering the school grounds on a bike or scooter should **dismount at the school gates**. Pupils should then **walk their bike or scooter to the parking bays in the playground**. This is to avoid any collisions between pedestrians and riders.

I'd like to thank you for your continued support with the above matters. I understand the frustration around the limited parking choices however must stress the importance of placing the safety of our pupils and families at the centre of everything we do.

Yours sincerely,



G McPh

Mrs Gill McPherson
Head Teacher

