

ENSURING CHILD SAFETY AROUND THE SCHOOL

06/06/16

The safety of all children attending the school must be our top priority and we're all responsible - we all have to care about it.

Within the last 18 months there has been at least one near miss around the school where a child narrowly avoided injury from being hit by a car: one child too many.

At drop-off and pick-up times the roads around the school are very busy and congested, not only by those attending Oxfords, but also Firhill and Braidburn, as well as other peak-time passing traffic. Parents running late or under other external pressure sometimes park unlawfully, e.g., on the zig-zag lines outside the school gates.

Beyond raising it with the local authorities the Parent Council can only re-iterate what the rules are and that Edinburgh Council and the Police are taking an increasingly active interest, not only as a result of parents individually voicing concerns, but also, unfortunately, it has led to abusive exchanges between parents.

At the very least we have to obey the laws of the land, and we should respect the rules of the school.

Zig-Zag lines:

Instruction on the operation of Zig-Zag lines can be found at the following websites:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code/using-the-road-159-to-203#rule191>

<http://www.drivingtesttips.biz/yellow-zig-zag-lines.html>

The main points are as follows:

Yellow zig zag lines can be found at the entrance or exits of hospitals, fire stations, police stations or ambulance stations and are used to indicate the length of road where you should not wait, stop or park a vehicle.

Where there is an upright sign, there is a mandatory prohibition of stopping during the times shown. (This is the case at Oxfords)

Yellow and white zig zag road markings are placed to show that the area must be kept clear to allow an unrestricted view for approaching drivers and riders or children wanting to cross the road.

School Car Park:

The school car park is intended for the use of staff at Oxfords and Braidburn schools it is not intended for use by parents or carers during school hours, the exception being for those with valid disability badges. Amey has started to enforce this restriction.

Recommendation:

If parents cannot find a legitimate parking space around the vicinity of the school then the recommendation is that they park in the Tesco car park and walk their children to school from there.

There are no ideal solutions and Oxfords is not alone: some primary schools in the capital are currently piloting a project to completely ban cars from outside the schools for an hour at the beginning and end of

the day to alleviate similar problems. The Parent Council is opposed to this as a solution for Oxcgangs, but without parental co-operation and respect for other children, other road users, and the laws of the highway, we would have little evidence to demonstrate that we all take child safety seriously.

Dogs:

Dogs are not allowed in the school playground, unless they are registered assistance dogs.

Many parents have mentioned to us that their children have an innate fear of dogs - please, if you bring a dog to school, be considerate and keep it on a short leash around the school and tether it away from main entrances and exits if you intend entering the school playground.

Owners of dogs fouling outside the school playground who fail to remove the faeces are committing an offence under the Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003 and are subject to a fixed fine.

We extend a heartfelt thank you to all parents who do handle their dogs with care and consideration.