



**THE WHITEOAK ACADEMIES,  
HANNAH MORE INFANTS AND GROVE JUNIORS**  
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Headteacher: Mr Duncan Cook, BSc Hons



*"Planting Dreams. Nurturing Hearts. Growing Minds."*

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Parking and Road Safety**

As a school we have had a number of concerns raised about both dangerous and inconsiderate driving and parking outside of our school. I know that parking at pick up and drop off times is difficult and I am very aware of time constraints for families and working parents in the morning who may have no alternative but to drive their children to school. However, the safety of all children and adults must be the primary concern of everyone at the Whiteoak Academies.

In order to ensure that everyone can travel to school safely, we need all motorists to consider the consequences of their actions, and we ask for your full co-operation in this matter. Therefore, in considering all children's safety and the difficulties around school, it is important to plan where you are going to park or drop off. In this regard, I would urge all parents to plan their route to school carefully and where possible, leave home a few minutes earlier, park away from school and then walk in.

Further to this, I have been contacted by frustrated and angry local residents who have been inconvenienced by parents blocking their drives and parking dangerously and inconsiderately on pavements. This often adds to the congestion and can also block the view of oncoming traffic when children and pedestrians are crossing roads as well as causing access problems for our neighbours. I am also very saddened to share that we have now had three of our road safety signs, purchased by WOWSA, broken as they have been hit by oncoming / parking vehicles.

### **What can you do to help keep everyone safe around school?**

#### **Please do not:**

- Block the road – emergency vehicles and other traffic may need access.
- Park on yellow lines, zig-zags or block the school entrance / gates.
- Park on the pavement, across dropped kerbs or residents' driveways.
- Park where you will cause any inconvenience to other road users.
- Leave your vehicle with the engine still running.
- Stop in the middle of the road to drop your child off, even for a few seconds.

As you may be aware, we have been in contact with Nailsea police and the PCSOs about the parking and road issues around school. However, this will only provide short term support and it remains the responsibility of all drivers to drive safely and park legally and responsibly. We hope our PCSO team will be patrolling the area in the coming weeks but they cannot be exclusively outside our school on a daily basis.

In school, we teach road safety as part of our curriculum and in assemblies which I am sure you support at home. We also reinforce that when crossing the road, please look for a safe place to cross and always use the pedestrian crossings where provided.

Thank you in advance for your support in this very important matter and let's hope that together we can ensure the safety of the children and all pedestrians and be more considerate to our local residents.

Your care and co-operation is greatly appreciated.

Mr D. Cook



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