



## SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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9<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Dear Parents,

We are very disappointed to have received, for the first time in more than 50 years, a letter of complaint from residents in Oakleigh Park South about the rudeness shown by parents parking to attend this school. We are told that drives are obstructed, pavements blocked and traffic/parking regulations blatantly ignored. Some parents/carers are even parking on private drives which is, of course, trespass. In addition to this, when challenged, many parents/carers are rude, swearing and using threatening behaviour towards residents, often in front of our children.

This is in addition to the residents of Russell Road who tell us of rubbish being left by people waiting, including a nappy which was changed and then left on the road. Children are being allowed to run between the parked cars and onto residents' property. There is no sense of urgency to move cars causing an obstruction and little responsibility taken for children who are putting themselves in danger.

Residents are rightly upset by this kind of behaviour and when they phone or visit the school to complain it is Mrs. Murray and Mrs. Box who have to experience their frustration and anger. This is not fair on them; they have not parked across someone's drive!

We teach the children that we should treat each other and others' property with respect and courtesy, but this is not being demonstrated to them when there are arguments about inconsiderate parking. This kind of behaviour ruins the reputation of the whole school and paints us in a very poor light within our local community. The reputation of our school is very important to us and we are proud to be held in high esteem in the local area.

We are well aware that the majority of parents show the kind of respect we expect from our children, but we are all being tarnished with the same brush. Imagine how you would feel if unable to leave your property in an emergency because someone had blocked your car in. We never know when an emergency may arise, therefore, should not take such chances. It is up to the whole community to point out if someone has parked selfishly. It is worth remembering that you might only have blocked a drive



once for five minutes, but that drive might be blocked every day by someone - and often for more than five minutes; it is no wonder that the residents are losing patience.

As we approach the Christmas play season and going forward I would ask you all to make sure that you give yourself sufficient time to park legally and considerately and that you remind others to do the same if you see them park inconsiderately. Under no circumstances should anyone stop or park on the zig zags near the school entrance at school times. They are there for the safety of our children and should be adhered to.

The school will be publishing the registration numbers of all cars reported to us and we are contacting the local community support officers to ask that they increase their patrols of the area.

Please work with us to help maintain our high standards of behaviour outside of school as well as inside it and restore our standing in the local area.

Regards



Geraldine Smallbone  
Chair of Governors



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