



The Sutton Academy

Together Students Achieve

Principal: Mr P Willerton

27 February 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Due to the increase in student numbers, we are aware of the challenges that have arisen when dropping students off in a morning, and picking students up at the end of the academy day. The capacity of the car park does not support the increase in student numbers; however, we are exploring re-marking the car park to improve capacity, but we are restricted to the footprint of the car park itself and the entry/exit points.

Over recent weeks I have received a number of complaints from parents/carers and members of the community. **To be clear, I know that this is a very small proportion of our parent/carer body, but these actions include:**

- Parents parking on the housing estate across the road, and at times parking across driveways so residents cannot leave or arrive home.
- Dangerous driving in the car park in a rush to leave, this includes driving over pavements and cutting corners.
- Aggressive behaviour from drivers on the car park, this has included verbal and threatening behaviour from one parent/carer to another.
- Parking in disabled bays when there is no blue badge present in the vehicle.

I appreciate how frustrating it is when rushing in a morning, but the behaviours above are unacceptable. Our priority is that students arrive to the academy safely and on time, and they should not have to witness such behaviour, nor should other members of our community.

We speak to the students daily about our core values of being Kind, Resilient, Reflective and Part of a Community. We do this as we believe that being part of the academy is more than just the grades that students' leave with, we want our students to leave as good role models and members of the community. I ask that we all reflect on those values too, when conducting ourselves around the academy site.

Please can I ask that parents/carers:

- If possible, encourage your child to walk to the academy or catch public transport. I appreciate that this is not always possible or appropriate.
- Avoid parking on the housing estate across the road from the academy.



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- If you do drop-off or pick-up your child from the academy, please drive responsibly and considerately. Driving 'bumper to bumper', which does not allow a flow of traffic, causes congestion. Like any busy junction, please be considerate and let cars out from the more congested parts of the car park to keep the flow of traffic moving.
- If you do become frustrated, please do not behave in an aggressive or unacceptable manner. We are all member of the same community trying to move forward with our day.
- Do not park in the disabled bays, unless you have a blue badge. I have asked the academy minibus to now be parked elsewhere on site to ensure we maximise this parking capacity.

As always, if you have any worries or concerns over the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

P Willerton
Principal



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