

28 September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

**Re: Ditton Park Academy – Major Travel Concerns**

We are looking to make the journey to school safer for pupils now they have returned to school this autumn.

Acting together and reducing traffic around our school will help to aid social distancing for the local community and make the journey to and from school safer for children. The reduced congestion will also improve air quality.

Whilst no active enforcement is taking place at this stage, the success of all of us to reduce traffic around the roads at Ditton Park Academy and the benefits of increased safety and less pollution outside of the school gates depend on everyone – the school, parents/carers, residents and businesses – in the local area working together.

We hope that more children and families will feel able to use active travel as a means of getting to school (see attached poster from Slough). As staff support students coming and going from the school reminding them about social distancing, sanitising their hands and to have a good day/evening we are distracted by the dangers all of the cars pose to everyone's safety. Students inform us they are worried that so many cars at the start and end of the day mean that when they cross the roads it is becoming more difficult to do it safely.

Our time should be spent supporting our young people to navigate through the difficulties this country is going through. Instead we are spending more and more time asking parents to move their cars from pavements children can no longer walk on, double yellow lines where residents cannot get to their front door or residential roads which are blocked because of the volume of traffic at pick up and lock down.

The new path through Upton Court Park has now been finished and the pedestrian crossing on Upton Court Road offers many more options. This was designed so that the roads around the school remain a safe place for both the students and staff to come and go safely. We cannot thank those parents who are obviously doing this and we are very grateful to you for making our lives easier and that of your children safer.

The areas of significant concern to us involving student safety, air pollution and the impact on our local community are:

1. Kings Reach Road/Estate – Students raise concerns about crossing the road outside of the school using the pedestrian crossing. They know cars do not always stop and as they leave the school the high volume of traffic frightens them.
2. Litten Close – This is a residential cul-de-sac where residents regularly contact us about cars blocking the only way in and out of their property.
3. Road to Slough hockey, rugby and cricket clubs – This single-track access road is used by three sports clubs and regularly coaches bring students from other schools. It is evident that these coaches are not able to drive along this access road easily or at all whilst cars are parked. Therefore, let's support our local sports clubs and avoid parking along this access road.
4. Double yellow lines – These are there for a reason but we have to regularly walk away from supporting our students at the front gate and ask parents not only to move off these lines but the pavement they have driven on to making it dangerous for everyone.
5. Cul-de-sac opposite school – Stopping or turning in this entrance/exit opposite the school vehicle gates has become very difficult for our staff coming and going safely as well as the residents who have designated parking spaces. Students often are seen to run across the road which is very dangerous.



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Nick Caulfield – Principal

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6. Random drop off/pick up – Please observe the rules of the road on all occasions and please do not stop and collect students in the middle of the road. This is not only dangerous for the traffic but also for your child who clearly has to walk in the road to get into the car.

It is up to us as staff, students and parents to lead by example to our young people and inform them that different travel arrangements will be used or a drop off/pick up further away from the school arranged to ensure all of our safety.

Yours sincerely

Nick Caulfield  
Principal