

September 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

I have been contacted by a number of local residents and the Wyke Ward Councillor regarding parking issues in the Academy drop off/pick up car park and the highway outside school.

I appreciate that the drop off car park has a limited number of spaces and cannot cater for all of the people who wish to use it at the start and end of the day in order to drop off or collect children. Indeed, given the nature of our site and the land available to us, it would be impossible for us to ever build a car park that could satisfy the demand to use it.

When the site was first planned and built, the intention was that the drop off car park would be used on a 'loop' system so that, if there were no spaces available, visitors and parents would exit the car park and re-enter when spaces became available, using the entry and exit gates and the highway right turn filter lane on Woodside Road. What has happened instead is that parents and visitors will find any space in which to park, even if this means parking on footpaths, crossings, in disabled bays, double parking, or parking in a way that causes a nuisance and inconvenience to our neighbours.

I have mentioned in previous letters that our own analysis shows that the great majority of our students live within 1 to 3 miles of Appleton Academy. This means that there are clearly a majority of parents who are driving to collect or drop off children who could in fact walk or find alternative means of transport. While I appreciate this can cause some inconvenience and I would never wish to be seen to be lecturing people on how best to get children to and from school, it does mean that the parking issues we are witnessing are disproportionate and unnecessary.

I would appeal again to all parents and visitors to think about whether it is necessary to drive to school. If you must drive to school, I would ask that you ensure you do not park in a way that endangers your children. This means not parking on footpaths and crossings, not double parking and not displaying verbally or physically abusive behaviour towards others on the school site. I would also ask that you respect our neighbours and ensure that your parking does not inconvenience or cause disturbance to them or restrict access to their properties.

I have once again contacted the neighbourhood policing team and the Local Authority Parking Warden Service and I have asked them to provide a more consistent and visible presence around school. If problems persist, I will also re-visit with partner agencies the possibility of further restricting access to the Academy site for parents and visitors.

Finally, I would like to remind parents that there are also a number of public highways within a short distance of the Academy and West Yorkshire Police have advised our parents in the past that there is parking available further up and down Woodside Road and in adjacent roads closer to the village of Wyke itself, such as around the site of the old Wyke library. Please take a moment to think about how poor parking affects the way we are able to safeguard your children and protect them from the dangers of vehicles that are driven recklessly or parked irresponsibly around the car park and immediate Academy site.



Thank you for your co-operation.

Yours faithfully

*Helen Jones.*

Ms Helen Jones  
Executive Headteacher