



September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

The Academy is once again receiving an increasing number of complaints and concerns from local residents, our neighbours and other road users who pass the school in their vehicles in the morning or afternoon. These are predominantly about the way a small, but significant, number of parents use the highways around the Academy when dropping off and collecting children and where they choose to park.

We understand that the way the Academy has had to operate during the pandemic has caused inconvenience and made it more difficult to drop off and collect children in very close proximity to the school. The drop off car park was closed for a long period as we had to prioritise pedestrian access for our pupils while enforcing social distancing, for example. The car park is also smaller than we would like and so we know there are also not always spaces available. This is a longstanding problem, which dates back to when the Academy was first opened and was caused by a large amount of the funding that had been allocated to building our new school being withdrawn by the government of the time. This meant that some parts of the site and facilities were scaled back, and monies prioritised inside the building instead. This was done to ensure that the educational facilities available at the school, to provide the best possible teaching and learning experience for children in our community, did not suffer for this cut in funding.

The Academy is currently in the very early stages of working with partners to assess our use of the land we have available for vehicle access and the design of our car parks. This work will look at what solutions we may be able to find in the longer term to address some of the current problems. However, this work will take some time to complete and will potentially require applications for funding that may not be immediately forthcoming.

We are also currently speaking to the Council's Local Warden Team, the Neighbourhood Policing Team and Bradford Council's Highways Department about some solutions in the short-term around more enforcement of the highways immediately around the Academy.

However, we would much rather appeal to our parents to make some small alterations to their drop off and pick up habits where possible and consider a number of pertinent pieces of information as follows. Firstly, over 90% of our pupils live within 1 – 2 miles of the Academy. If your child can walk to school, or you are able to walk with them, we would encourage you to do this. Our Parental Engagement Officer will be asked to do some work on initiatives to encourage walking and we will speak to parents about this again in the coming weeks.

Over 98% of our pupils live within 1 – 3 miles of the Academy and are on a direct public transport route to the Academy from their home. If you can, please look into the use of public transport for you and your children.

We understand that some parents will need to drive, such as those of you who go straight on to work in a morning or collect your children on your way back. You may also have other children you need to drop off at other schools or childcare. Wherever possible, if you can park in areas of the highway where there are not double yellow lines or permit holder only parking restrictions, this would make a huge difference to our neighbours. We are receiving a growing number of reports of parents parking illegally or in ways that are causing obstructions to the roads residents use to access their properties.

Within a very short distance of the Academy, there are many areas of the public highway, including on Woodside Road, where you can drop off or pick up children within a very short walking distance to school. Parking here instead of immediately outside the school would not cause obstruction or inconvenience for our neighbours or other road users and would only require a short walk on the part of parents and their children to get to and from vehicles.

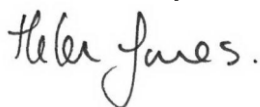
We would also respectfully ask that people refrain from parking on pavements outside the Academy site and from making dangerous U-turns in the road. Please do not use High Fernley Road, adjacent to the rear of the Academy site, as a drop off area or park in the middle of the road to let children jump in and out of cars. This is causing an obstruction to the road and preventing neighbours from accessing their properties. It is also dangerous as other motorists turning into High Fernley Road from Woodside Road do not have a large amount of time to see other vehicles parked in the middle of the road after they have made their turn.

Finally, we would ask that, when parking in the drop off car park, people refrain from parking on the pavements and crossings. Please do not double park or cause obstruction to other people using the car park or to areas required for access to the building and wider site. Please remember that the children and staff using the car park are your children and those of your friends and neighbours in our local community.

There will be increased enforcement coming to highways around the Academy in the next few weeks, as we have now contacted other agencies to ask them to work with us and provide additional resources in these areas around the Academy. In the longer term, we will look at solutions we may be able to implement to assist with access to site. However, we would appeal to parents and visitors to kindly think about any of the small changes we have outlined in this letter that you could make, particularly to how your children get to school or where you park. If everyone who can makes one of these small changes, not only will this provide a safer environment around the Academy it will also mean less disruption for our neighbours and local residents.

I would like to sincerely thank you in advance for your co-operation and assistance in this matter

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Helen Jones".

Ms H Jones
Executive Headteacher