

January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

We would like to remind parents, students and visitors about a number of site rules and expectations at Appleton Academy.

We are receiving a growing number of complaints from other parents, and from neighbours who live in properties adjacent to the Academy, about instances of unacceptable behaviour on the part of drivers and visitors to the school site. Some of this behaviour is breaking the law, all of it is causing disruption and is potentially putting your children, our students, in harms' way.

We would like to remind parents and visitors that you must not park on the double yellow lines, permit holder bays or across drives or access roads to properties in the vicinity of the Academy. If the drop off car park is full, you must continue to loop around the car park and the filter lane for the Academy until a space opens up. Those choosing to park in a way that causes inconvenience or may be breaking the law, are subject to enforcement action by the Council's Warden Team and/or the police. More covert monitoring of this issue will be undertaken in the future and could lead to fines and penalties being issued on an increasing basis.

Visitors must use our car park responsibly and should refrain from parking in disabled spaces (unless you need to and have reason to do so), on crossings, pavements, or in a way that obstructs the access/egress of other vehicles. Parking in this way is endangering your children when they enter and leave site.

Further to the issues around the use of vehicles on site, we would remind you that this is a school and that the safeguarding and wellbeing of your children is of paramount importance. To that end we have a number of other site rules we would please ask you to respect. In particular, we would kindly ask that you refrain from bringing dogs onto site. If you wish to walk your dog to drop off and collect your children, you must remain outside the school gates with your dog on a lead at all times.

The Academy is also a no smoking site and it is actually illegal to smoke anywhere on our grounds – including outside in the playgrounds, car park and footpaths leading to and from the building. This includes cigarettes, e-cigarettes and vapes. Anyone found smoking or vaping will be asked to leave site. For those who refuse to comply, details will be passed to our Safer Schools Police Officer for the consideration of the issuing of a fixed penalty.

Finally, we would like to remind parents of children who cycle to site, that they do so at their own risk. If your child cycles to school, you should ensure that when they arrive, they can securely store their bike in our bike shed with an insurance grade lock. All bicycles brought onto site and stored on the premises are left at the owner/cyclists risk and the Academy cannot be held responsible for any damage or theft of property which occurs. This is particularly the case where the owner has failed to properly secure their bicycle.

UPDATE – MAY 2023

Use of Vehicles and Electric Powered Modes of Transport – including Scooters

In addition to the information above which has been issued on numerous occasions; we would like to remind parents that you must not bring any type of vehicle onto the Academy footpaths and walkways. This includes, electric and motor engine powered scooters and mopeds, electric bikes and motorcycle style modes of transport, as well as all push powered bicycles and scooters.



There have been several instances of late of parents dropping off and picking up children on this style of transport. This creates a danger to pedestrians on footpaths around site - students, staff and parents - and there have been 'near misses' between vehicles and people on site in recent weeks.

This sort of behaviour will not be tolerated and has been reported to our Safer Schools Police Officer, who has in turn passed on intelligence to the Neighbourhood Policing Team about some of the people we have seen driving these scooters and other modes of transport onto site in recent weeks.

The Academy site is operated at our discretion and we will not hesitate to seek the prosecution of anyone who acts in a way that endangers parents, students, staff or other visitors. If necessary, we will also extend the period of closure of our car park to limit the number of all types of vehicles coming onto site to prevent them being driven or parked in an irresponsible or dangerous manner.

Use of Bicycles and Instances of Theft

Unfortunately, the Academy is increasingly being targeted by thieves who are coming onto site using mopeds and attempting to steal bicycles. There have been two actual instances of theft and several of people on mopeds driving to the bike shed to look for unsecured bicycles.

We would once again remind parents that children bring property and bicycles onto site at their own risk and we will not be held responsible for the safe keeping of their belongings while they are on site. We would particularly like to remind parents that if you do allow your child to cycle to school, you must ensure that they have a method of securing their bicycle, ideally something such as an insurance grade/approved lock. You should also ensure that bicycles are listed on your insurance policy wherever possible, in the event that you need to make a claim for damage or theft.

The Academy will be doing some work during the summer to increase the security of the bike shed and we have also been liaising directly with West Yorkshire Police's Steerside bike crime team and will be implementing several additional measures to deter these thefts. However, we would once again ask parents to ensure that your child has a means of securely storing their bicycle if they are bringing it to site.

We would like to thank you for your ongoing support and cooperation.

Yours sincerely

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

Ms H Jones
Executive Headteacher