

November 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

We have recently met with our local ward councillors and neighbourhood policing team to discuss ongoing incidents of poor parking and dangerous use of the site drop off car park at Appleton Academy. This is obviously most prominent during the start and end of the school day and also affects the public 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. 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. The school is also well served by public transport. 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 use alternative means of transport. It is evident, therefore, that many of 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.

Could I also ask parents to turn off their engines when you are sat waiting for your children, whether parked in the car park or the public highway. This will create a much cleaner and more pleasant environment around school.

Finally, I would like to remind parents that there are also a number of public highways within a short distance of the Academy, which when used cause less inconvenience. This includes 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 on site 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.



We hope that you will cooperate with us in school to create a safer school site and prevent instances where some parents and visitors are acting in a way that is putting the wellbeing of your children at risk. If the issue does not improve, all remedies to these problems will be considered, including closing the school site again at the start and end of the school day to make the front of our premises a vehicle-free space for children.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Helen Jones.".

Ms Helen Jones
Executive Headteacher