

Dear Parents and Carers,

I know that many of you share my concerns in relation to the parking outside our school, which is often dangerous and poses a significant hazard to our pupils. As a result of my concerns, I have been liaising with the police and Parish Council to discuss possible solutions; however in the immediate future I wish to remind families of the places where they can park to ensure the safety of all our children.

Alongside this letter is a map, which shows designated places for parking. There is the car park adjacent to the school, which often has numerous spaces during busy times at the beginning and end of the day. I appreciate in this weather, the car park can get a little muddy, therefore the Cogenhoe Working Men's Club, have kindly allowed parents to use their car park for a number of years. On the map, you will also see areas where parents are unable to park, in line with the Highway Code. Parents are unable to park in these places because the Highway Code states that:

Rule 243

DO NOT stop or park:

- near a school entrance
- anywhere you would prevent access for Emergency Services
- opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction, except in an authorised parking space
- in front of an entrance to a property

Rule 244

- You **MUST NOT** park partially or wholly on the pavement unless signs permit it. Parking on the pavement can obstruct and seriously inconvenience pedestrians, people in wheelchairs or with visual impairments and people with prams or pushchairs.

Rule 152

- **Residential streets.** You should drive slowly and carefully on streets where there are likely to be pedestrians, cyclists and parked cars. In some areas a 20 mph (32 km/h) maximum speed limit may be in force. Drivers should look out for: vehicles emerging from junctions or driveways and children running out from between parked cars, cyclists and motorcyclists.

From these points, please can I respectfully remind drivers that emergency services would often not be able to attend an emergency within the village or our school, because of the cars that are parked along York Avenue making it incredibly narrow for other passing cars. In addition, cars should not be parked opposite Orchard Way junction, as this is stipulated in the Highway Code and is very hazardous for both drivers and pedestrians. Finally, there are not any places outside the school or the surrounding areas where drivers are able to park partially on the pavement, so please refrain from doing this for the safety of the children.

Finally, the police are fully aware of the situation and I have been assured by them that they will be periodically visiting the school during peak times; to make drivers aware of parking, which is deemed to be causing an obstruction or hindering the safety of our children. I thank you for your continued support and actively encourage parents to use the designated parking spaces, so that the safety and well-being of all the children is further secured. If you have any concerns regarding this matter, please don't hesitate to contact myself or a member of the team.

Kind regards,

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