

20 November 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian

### **Student Safety and Behaviour**

I am writing to ask for your support in a number of related areas.

Firstly, we continue to be concerned with the lack of road safety sense shown by a number of students. This manifests itself in students crossing roads at inappropriate places, crossing without checking for traffic, running or pushing one another into the road, causing cars to brake suddenly or take evasive action. Unfortunately, some of our students seem to think that they are immune to danger and are taking unacceptable risks. If this continues then it will only be a matter of time before a student is badly injured or worse. We have been addressing this issue in school assemblies this week but ask for your support in discussing these issues at home.

Secondly, and on a related matter, whilst we encourage students to ride their bike to school we are becoming increasingly concerned about some students' sense of bike safety. Too many do not wear bike helmets (and the evidence is clear that bike helmets hugely reduce head injuries in accidents) and, again, basic road safety guidelines are not being followed; many students ride into the road without taking care or checking for traffic. We have also had to speak to a number of students who are riding their bikes on the school site at the end of the school day. We will be reminding students that in the morning, bikes should be dismounted at the school gate and walked to the bike rack areas. In the afternoon, bikes should be walked to the school gate and mounted at that point. Our site is just too busy for students to be riding their bike on school grounds. If a student does not follow our rules on this matter, we may need to ask their parents to find an alternative way for them to travel to and from school.

Our related concerns about road safety are often exacerbated by unhelpful behaviour from parents in their own dangerous driving and obstructive parking, especially on Crescent Road. The school will continue to put pressure on the local council to develop better traffic management plans for the road, but students and parents must also take responsibility to act safely and appropriately in such a congested area.

Finally, we have received complaints about a small number of our students misbehaving on buses or gathering in inappropriate places outside of school where they are trespassing on private property or putting themselves in dangerous situations. Please could I ask all parents to ensure that you have clearly understood plans for your child at the end of the school day and that you know what they are doing when they leave the school premises. We will be reminding students that whilst they are wearing our school uniform they are representing the school and if students are identified behaving poorly outside of school then our behaviour policy clearly spells out that consequences may follow.

Many thanks for your support in these matters.

Yours sincerely



**Mr A Johnson**  
Headteacher