



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

*Headteacher: Mrs Helen Armstrong
Diocese of Plymouth*

20th November 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Local Governing Body met last night and discussed traffic and parking on the roads surrounding our school.

Governors are aware of the difficulties some parents are facing regarding parking and making their way safely to the school premises and therefore the Governing Board discussed a wide range of possible solutions; first and foremost taking into account the welfare of our pupils, views of parents and the perspective of our local community. We are, of course, very aware that we will not be able to reach an outcome which will please all.

We are keen to promote that parents and carers act in a responsible and respectful manner and yet this is not within the control of the school or the Local Governing Body. We can only stress that we urge parents to work collaboratively with all parties involved to make travelling to our school safe.

As has been repeatedly requested, we would urge parents who do not have the appropriate parking permit to not park on Devon Road at drop off or pick up. We are aware that this is still happening, at times obstructing driveways and subsequently it is felt locally that our parents and our school are not good neighbours. It would also be prudent to mention the amount of time it takes the Senior Leadership Team and office staff to manage complaints from our neighbours. As a Governing Body, we would much prefer for staff to be spending time delivering and supporting the education of our children.

There is also much concern for the way some parents are parking on double yellow lines, on curbs and undertaking potentially dangerous manoeuvres at the junction of Hunt Road and Devon Road. The school has repeatedly expressed its concerns to the Local Authority, who have initiated traffic patrols in the area. These matters have also been reported to the 'No Excuses' team at Dorset Police. Once again, the Governing Body would ask for parents and carers to consider our children, parents and younger siblings who are walking on the pavements and crossing the road. We will write to the Local Authority to request a Zebra crossing on Hunt Road.

The school has in the past suggested the possibility of a 'walking bus', where children may be dropped a short distance away from school and walked in with parent volunteers. Only one parent volunteer came forward to assist with this initiative. We would once again invite parents interested in volunteering on a regular basis to come forward to the office.

Our school is in close proximity to two other local schools and we understand the options for a solution are limited. We would be happy to consider any further suggestions and would request that these are received via letter into the school office before 10th January 2020.

Yours sincerely

