



Grove Park School
Hilton Drive
Sittingbourne, Kent. ME10 1PT
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26th February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Changes to parking Grove Park Primary School.

Over the past 18 months we have been monitoring and reviewing the effectiveness of using the drop off circle within our school car park. We have been discussing this matter with local councillors, KCC representatives and our PCSO regarding ways that we can ensure your children are safe during this busy time. Whilst we recognise that it is helpful to some of you to use this facility, we have seen a rise in the number of altercations between parents during this time. Residents have made further complaints and as a result children are at risk of unsafe driving on Hilton Drive and arriving at school unhappy and worried. The issues that are reported are only in the mornings, never at the end of the school day and this is due to our main car park gates being closed.

Considering this, as of Monday 3rd March, we will trial closing the drop off circle to cars each morning, until further notice. This is to protect our children travelling to and from school. By closing the main school gates to traffic, we know that our children will have more safe space to move within the school grounds and the segregation between cars and pedestrians is low risk. We ask that you understand our efforts to help the situation and support us, by parking in neighbouring areas, like you do at the end of the day and walk up the hill each morning.

There will be no traffic movement within the school grounds between **8:25am to 8:45am** and then **3.10pm to 3:30pm**.

We know that some of our school community hold blue badges and are permitted to park within the grounds, and this will remain in place for those registered cars. Staff will happily discuss this with you if this affects you.

Staff will be present at the front main gates to support with children arriving to school, so if you need assistance, please let one of the staff team know.

We will continue to review this situation and monitor the effect of closing the school gates. In the meantime, we ask that you respect the decision and understand that it is to ensure the safety of children arriving at school each day.

If you need any further assistance, please contact the school and we will be happy to help.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs L Flain
Head of School

