

## Heaton Park Primary and Nursery School

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11<sup>th</sup> October 2023

### Traffic Calming – Traffic Safety

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to inform you of many concerns which have been raised by both residents and parents/carers about parking outside the school and surrounding streets.

Regularly, School has reminded parents/carers to be safe and considerate of where you park around the School. We have been without a Crossing Patrol for several years (please note, this is a Bury Council vacancy, not a school vacancy); to improve the safety, the Council has repainted the zig zag and double yellow lines in specific areas outside the school. **There should be no stopping or parking in any of these areas.**

Please show the children good examples by obeying all the rules. Parking on pavements and across residents' driveways is not acceptable. Please remember that the school is in a residential area. It is an offence to wilfully obstruct the highway, which can be enforced by police.

I appreciate that it can be very difficult to park near the school, but driving and parking in an unsafe manner is putting your children at risk. Please allow yourself extra time to park away from the school and walk round with your child. Our school gates are open from 08:45-09:00 to enable a staggered drop off in the mornings.

Driving children to school is often seen as the most convenient choice for parents with busy lives. Many parents take the view that by driving their children to school they are keeping them safe. Yet the combination of each individual decision makes an increase in vehicle traffic and congestion, particularly on Cuckoo Lane.

Many children now miss out on the opportunity to develop vital road safety skills with their parents on the way to school. They fail to build up confidence and learn the ability to manage risk walking around their local community. Walking can improve overall levels of fitness in children and adults. It is a cheap low impact way to exercise. This can have a positive impact both mentally and physically. We realise that there are some parents who have no alternative but to drive their children to school, however many are driving short distances where walking is a real option.

Let's all work together to ensure our school area is a safe place.

I do appreciate that most of the parents walk or drive responsibly to school. Thank you for your good example and being an exemplary role model to the children.

Yours sincerely,

P. J. Lord,  
Head Teacher