



HEADTEACHER: Mr K Ford

26th September 2020

Travelling to and from Great Marlow School

Dear Parents/Carers

At Great Marlow School we want to actively encourage all of our students who live locally to walk or cycle to school. Such travel is hugely beneficial for both our local community, by reducing traffic congestion and in improving the quality of our local environment, and for our students, in encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle. We have invested heavily in improving the facilities for securely locking bikes during the school day and are always looking at how we can continue to improve these facilities.

However, we do recognise that walking or cycling is not always possible and that some students will be dropped off by car. On site traffic levels have significantly risen in the last few years and so continue ask that all parents to drop off and collect their children away from the busy junctions and entrance to the school and sports centre. We have received several complaints already this term from local businesses and residents where cars are parking across driveways and/or restricting access to properties. We ask that you be considerate of our neighbours

The main site is very busy from 8:25am to 8:45am in the morning and from 2:50pm to 3:15pm in the afternoon. Please help keep our site free from traffic and safe for our students at these times.

It is our expectation that all of our students will travel to and from school in a kind, considerate and a safe manner. We value our place at the heart of the local community and we ask all of our students to respect the community as they arrive and leave the school site.

We ask that all students walk sensibly along pavements, taking care to cross roads safely, being aware of other road users and pedestrians. This includes using the designated crossings that have been provided a short walk from the main entrances/exits.

We regularly remind students about the increased risk to them if wearing earplugs or using mobile phones whilst walking and we ask that you help us to reinforce this message to your children.

We also ask that all cyclists understand, and abide by the Highway Code. That they only cycle on the road or designated cycle paths and at all times they are mindful of other road users. We also insist that all cyclists wear a cycle helmet when on school site and ask parents to support this. We also expect all bikes to be roadworthy.

The entrance road to the sports centre is used by the coaches and minibuses who collect students using the transport service from Bucks County Council. It is essential that the areas marked by the yellow No Parking lines are kept clear to allow the larger vehicles to turn.

If parents/carers are waiting for students at the end of the day, we ask that they turn off their engine. An idling engine can produce up to twice the emissions of a car that's in motion. The impact of the chemicals being emitted is proven to have a negative effect on the environment by contributing to poor air quality. We are continuing to work with the Sustainable Marlow Project alongside Marlow Town Council.

The school will continue to help at key arrival/departure times by having staff on duty out at the main entrances to the school site. Please bring to their attention anything that you see that might risk the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff. We work very closely with Thames Valley Police on ensuring the safety of everybody and we will pass on any concerns that are shared with us.

We will be continuing with our consultation around the school's travel plan, looking at; traffic flow onto the school site and within our local area, local public transportation and bus routes, safe walking schemes and the environmental impact on travel. We would very much value your continued support and engagement within this process.

Kind regards

Mark Ballard
Commercial & Operations Director