St Walburga's Catholic Primary School, a Voluntary Academy

'Putting Others First'

"Let no-one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbour" (1 Corinthians 10:24)

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Headteacher: Mrs E Fearnley

22nd October 2026

Dear families

Re: Serious Concerns Regarding Parking and Dangerous Driving Around School

I am writing to express my serious concern regarding the continued dangerous and inconsiderate parking and driving taking place around our school, particularly at the beginning and end of the school day.

Despite two polite reminders in The Walburga Weekly this half term, we continue to receive complaints and witness behaviour that places the safety of our children, families, staff and local residents at risk.

Of particular concern are vehicles parking on restricted areas, obstructing access and visibility and drivers travelling up Victoria Park towards the school office before attempting dangerous manoeuvres to turn around or reverse. These actions are entirely unacceptable, particularly at times when large numbers of children and families are walking to and from school.

The parking restrictions and road markings around school are there for a very important reason: to protect children and prevent accidents. They are not optional, and no individual's convenience should ever take priority over the safety of others.

We have been working closely with our local Police Community Support Officer (PCSO), who shares our concerns and has witnessed some of the difficulties firsthand. Following discussions with West Yorkshire Police, I must make parents and carers aware that **vehicles parked in contravention of parking restrictions may be photographed, with evidence passed to West Yorkshire Police for consideration of appropriate enforcement action.** Where appropriate, concerns may also be referred to the local authority.

I must also make it absolutely clear that driving towards the school office, undertaking unsafe turning or reversing manoeuvres, obstructing pedestrian access or parking in a manner that compromises children's safety must stop immediately.

Our PCSO has also contacted Bradford Council regarding the ongoing concerns and the possibility of further measures to improve road safety, including the ongoing consideration of a School Street scheme. We will continue to work with the police and local authority to explore what additional steps can be taken to make the area safer for everyone.

As a school, we teach our children to be responsible citizens who show care, consideration and respect for others. It is important that the adults within our school community demonstrate these same values through their own actions.

I recognise that the beginning and end of the school day can be particularly busy and that parking close to school is not always easy. However, this does not justify unsafe or illegal parking or driving. I ask all parents and carers to allow sufficient time, park legally and considerately, and, wherever possible, walk the final part of their journey to school.

We should not have to wait until a child or another member of our community is seriously injured before these concerns are taken seriously.

I am disappointed that previous reminders have not brought about the necessary improvement. I therefore ask every parent and carer to take personal responsibility for ensuring that their actions do not put others at risk.

The safety of our children is paramount and is a responsibility we all share. I trust that this letter will be received in the serious manner in which it is intended and that we will see an immediate and sustained improvement.

Thank you to the many parents and carers who already park responsibly and demonstrate consideration for the safety of our school community.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs E. M. Fearnley
Headteacher

Sgt S Brown
West Yorkshire Police