



Archibald First School
Archibald Street
Gosforth
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE3 1EB

Headteacher Mrs R Turner
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Dear Parents,

Regrettably, a serious incident between a member of our school community and a resident took place at home time yesterday.

An argument over parking resulted in a heated confrontation in the street with inappropriate language being used. I will not make comment on the finer points of the confrontation but what I can say is that this behaviour is dreadful and totally deplorable.

My main concern relates to the language shared and the volatile nature of the incident which was witnessed by many of our children. Irrespective of the 'right and wrongs'; this is categorically NOT acceptable for any reason. I can also imagine that it was quite distressing for some.

At Archibald, we teach our children to be respectful, responsible and safe as part of our school rules, whilst our culture is to be caring. We sincerely hope that the behaviour of **ALL** our families emulates this, and not just the vast majority.

Sadly, the behaviour of the minority reflects heavily on the majority as well as on the school. Today I have been faced with emails from and conversations with the residents who have vocally shared their views of the school and the community.

My response has been that the vast majority of our school community are thoughtful and careful, and that the school works hard with the children and adults to promote an active start/end to the school day for health benefits and for the environment. Our children area credit to us.

I will continue to strongly advocate for the majority of our school community who are always considerate of our children's safety, the environment and the residents, and for the positive actions of the school. However, I will also advise the residents to make reports to the police when improper behaviour, parking and driving occurs.

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Parking violations and driving are beyond my remit as a headteacher. I would prefer to be in a position to be visible to the school community, to welcome you arriving and to see the children as opposed to monitoring cars and parking. I would like school to be able to focus on the education of the children instead of writing letters and posters about parking and cars.

As a school we have actively requested to a part of the School Streets project. We will continue to ask for this opportunity.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to request that if you are travelling from further afield, that you park further away from school. Please park before walking/scooting/cycling the last part of your journey. This helps towards an active start/end for everyone as well as keeping the street quieter, safer and healthier.

We have an increasing number of children moving from the Gosforth area to the Great Park and we are therefore mindful of the increase use in cars.

To end, thank you to the vast majority of families who are responsible and respectful. Your help regarding the parking and driving is greatly appreciated. An even bigger thank you to those who can (and do) leave the cars at home.

Thank you.

Rebecca Turner
Headteacher

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