

NORTON PRIMARY ACADEMY – BERKSHIRE ROAD, TS20 2RD

I am a governor at the above school and am writing to see if we can secure your help regarding the current hazardous parking situation at the academy.

We are a fair sized primary school with 400+ children on the role and inadequate parking provision.

We have a small car park of our own that holds around 20 cars and a larger car park that I understand belongs to Stockton Borough Council (SBC). I know that compared to most schools we are very fortunate in the amount of space adjacent to school, but that space actually creates some dangers, as it can mean that some parents for reasons known only to themselves, can drive quite fast at times ignoring the 20 mph speed limit!

We have tried to enforce a one way system with parents who seem unable to grasp the concept; and with no road markings and only small signage we have had trouble trying to enforce it. The result of this is that cars are coming in and out at the wrong junctions causing chaos and confusion and very near misses. Is there any chance of a meeting at school to discuss options on how to make the one way system clearer for all users who come to the school but especially parents at busy times?

Parents are also blocking access to the only road in and out by parking cars in an inconsiderate manner on zig zag lines where the children should be crossing to enter the school. My worry is that it's only a matter of time before a child or parent steps out and is hit. We very rarely see parking enforcement wardens policing the area. However, on the odd occasion they are on-site parking is much improved, they have an instant presence.

I understand that resources are very limited, however with the larger car park being owned by SBC I wondered if you would be prepared to accept some responsibility for it? On here, cars are left blocking the full car park on a daily basis, again not great for children crossing into school as the car park is a sea of vehicles playing wacky races.

Would we as a school be able to access any help? Either financially or from the wardens, road painters etc. that are in your employment? When we converted to an academy we agreed to a joint funding arrangement for any repairs etc. for car park so we would be more than happy to look at splitting any costs if they are reasonable.

Any help would be very gratefully received.

If there is any chance I could discuss this with you or someone who could help us I would be delighted.

Bev Goodall