

Our ref: ljm/KDV/Correspondence

24 November 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Student Travel in Winter

As we head into the darkest and coldest days of the year, I thought I would write to you and remind you about some key travel reminders in the winter season. Winter is where travelling to and from school is the most dangerous and I would appreciate your support in sharing these reminders with your child and supporting us to keep our community safe.

- A large number of our students cycle to school, which is great for reducing pollution and traffic, while also keeping students fit and healthy so we would always encourage this. It is really important though that especially in the dark, that students have appropriate lights and protective equipment to avoid injuries. The highway code (rules 59-71) outline these rules in more detail and can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code/rules-for-cyclists-59-to-82>
- It is also this time of year where unfortunately we need to be extra vigilant about stranger danger. While we have had no suspicions or reports of anything of this nature at TCOLC, vigilance is key in avoiding anything of this nature. Please remind your child about remaining in groups wherever possible and never going to speak to strangers, even if they seem friendly. We have staff on duty at the end of the day, but a number of our students travel a long distance, and they should always walk on the most well-lit route home.
- With the cold and wet weather, plus the increased difficulty in waking up in the dark, we have seen the usual sharp rise in students being dropped off and collected by car. Unfortunately, we have also received a sharp increase in the number of complaints from residents, other parents and local business owners about the situation at the start and end of day. Can I ask again, that you do not enter the Evington Leisure Centre or school car park and arrange to drop off and pick up your child further along Downing Drive rather than just outside the school. Could I also ask that you are mindful of blocking drives and entrances so that others can use the roads easily. Just today I had a complaint from one parent whose child needs extra support getting in and out of the building who has been finding it impossible to support her child with the number of cars parked in the car park waiting for students and the number of cars illegally parked outside school. It is unfortunately always the most vulnerable members of our community that suffer the most, so please be mindful of this and respectful of the rules. In dialogue with local residents, we have informed the local police of the current traffic situation and asked for their support. They have been asked to come and do checks at the start and end of the day as our power is very limited when it comes to road use.

I know that in your busy lives, getting your child to and from school can be very difficult and time is often of the essence. However, without us all working together there will almost certainly be an accident that we will all regret.

Kind regards,

Mr. K Vernon
Head Teacher