



RISEDALE
A family of learners

RISEDALE SCHOOL

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Thursday, 2nd October 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

SUBJECT: Urgent Safety Notice - School Drop-Off/Pick-Up

Over the last year, we have been working closely with the Local Authority Health and Safety team to assess safety on and around the school site during school drop-off and pick-up. We are acutely aware that there is often congestion in the car park and some unsafe driving, and we have worked to identify and minimise risk.

However, I am writing to politely make you aware that the behaviour of drivers is not changing enough to make a difference. The Local Authority (LA) assessments and observations, as well as those of the two schools on site, indicate that Risedale, rather than Hipswell, parents are more often coming on site in cars and are parking or stopping in unmarked areas. They are also often travelling at an unsafe speed.

For the safety of all pupils and staff, we require the following from **ALL** drivers:

- **Avoid coming onto the school site in a vehicle entirely.** We are making a plea to parents to drop pupils off somewhere less busy than the school car park/entrance if they absolutely need to be dropped off, rather than walking. If you do this, please be considerate of local residents.

If you have to drive onto the school site for an event or because you have a pre-arranged meeting:

- Keep your speed to the signposted limit of **5 mph**.
- **Park only in designated parking spaces** - no double parking, stopping on zig-zag lines or parking in the bus/cycle lanes
- Be acutely aware of the marked crossings to ensure safe passage for all children.

The current dangerous situation has, over time, resulted in property damage, including damage to staff and visitor cars, and has caused problems for buses needing to drop off or collect pupils. More critically, there have been several '**near misses**' that could have easily resulted in serious accidents on site.

Staff have also, disappointingly, been spoken to rudely when asking cars to move away from prohibited areas. Please be reminded that **staff are acting under the authority of the school and the Local Authority when directing traffic, and abusive behaviour will not be tolerated.**

We remain open to the solution of fitting an electric barrier to the car park to ensure everyone's safety, but we appreciate this will have some impact on the village and Hipswell parents, and we are therefore continuing to work with Hipswell and the LA on this.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping to protect our children and ensure they can travel to and from school safely. We hope to see a lasting solution to this issue.

Yours faithfully,

Greenwood

Mrs L Greenwood (Headteacher)

