



Thursday 6th February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

SUBJECT: Road Safety

I hope this letter finds you well. We would like to once again jointly take a moment to remind all our families about the importance of road safety, both for our children and for the wider community. This is especially pertinent on the roads approaching school, our drive and in the Risedale car park, which is often congested.

With many of our pupils walking, cycling, or being driven to school, it is vital that we all work together to ensure their safety. We are still noticing vehicles driving excessively fast up/down the drive and in the Risedale car park. We also continue to see many vehicles parked in restricted areas of the car park that obstruct visibility and block access, as well as pupils being dropped off in places that are not safe, such as the bus lane, halfway up the drive and in the middle of the car park. Another concern is pupils (both walking and on bicycles) crossing the end of the drive when vehicles are entering and exiting, often way above our 5mph speed limit. Please take a moment to review the following requirements:

For Parents Driving Pupils to School:

- Keep your speed to the signposted limit of 5 mph.
- Park only in designated parking areas, avoiding double parking, stopping on zig-zag lines and parking in the bus or cycle lanes.
- Never park or stop on the drive or in unmarked areas of the car park.
- Be aware of the marked crossings to ensure safe passage for all children.
- Consider ways in which you can avoid bringing a car onto the school grounds, as the congestion is becoming unsafe.

For Children Walking or Cycling to School:

- Children should always cross the road at designated crossings and under the supervision of an adult if necessary.
- When crossing at the end of the drive, always look both ways and check the way is clear and safe before doing so.
- Please encourage children to use cycle lanes where available, wear helmets, and be mindful of other road users.
- Pupils cycling to school should ensure they **bring a bicycle lock** to secure their bicycles during the day.
- We also recommend bright or reflective clothing during early mornings or late afternoons, as visibility can be poor during winter months.

For Everyone:

- Please drive and cycle slowly around the school zone, particularly during drop-off and pick-up times.





RISEDALE
A family of learners

RISEDALE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs L Greenwood - BA (Dunelm), NPQH
Hipswell, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire. DL9 4BD
Tel: 01748 833501 | Email: enquiries@risedale.org.uk
www.risedale.org.uk | @RisedaleSchool @RisedaleFamily

- We urge all children to use the pedestrian crossings and walkways to avoid running across roads.
- If your child walks to school independently, remind them to avoid distractions like mobile phones and head/earphones while crossing roads.

Our goal is to make the journey to and from school as safe as possible for every pupil. We are making a strong plea for your support in reinforcing these road safety measures at home and in your daily routines as previous efforts have not led to significant change. We have seen little improvement in standards of driving and parking around the two schools since our last joint letter, and therefore Risedale School (to whom the car park belongs) has consulted with the Local Authority Health and Safety Team and both schools have consulted with the local policing team.

It is clear that the current situation is untenable as congestion in the car park has resulted in damage to staff cars, damage to school property and problems for buses needing to drop off or collect pupils. In addition, there have been several 'near misses' over recent years and months that could have easily resulted in accidents at various places on site. Staff have also been spoken to rudely when asking cars to move away from prohibited areas. As the safety of pupils and staff is always our primary concern, Risedale School is therefore considering installing electric gates which would permit only staff and authorised visitors to enter the car park, as is the case at many other schools. If the situation does not improve significantly over the coming weeks, Risedale will have little choice but to take action in this way.

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,

Lucy Greenwood
Headteacher (Risedale)

Carolyn Ewbank
Headteacher (Hipswell)

