

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

We have teamed up with the road safety and active travel team at Portsmouth City Council to produce this **Park & stride** map to help prevent congestion and improve safety levels outside the school.

Like many other schools, we place a strong focus on road safety education. However, in **2011 child pedestrian casualties in Portsmouth rose to 40, with 16 of those being seriously injured**. The most common contributory factor was children having to cross from behind parked cars.

It is vital we keep the area outside the entrances clear of parked cars as they make it difficult for children to spot oncoming traffic and, similarly, approaching motorists struggle to see youngsters behind or in between vehicles.

Park & stride maps show time zones that give parents and children three different lengths to walk into school from side roads where more parking may be available. These **2, 3, and 5** minute walking zones allow very young children and those who can only manage a short distance to participate.

Walking regularly with your child helps develop their road sense and is a means of fostering good travel habits for when they are older and need to take journeys alone. Studies also show that a short walk to school can improve their alertness and concentration during morning lessons.

We appreciate that the beginning and end of the school day can be a very busy and stressful time, particularly if parents are running late or traveling onwards to work, but the **School Keep Clear markings are not for parking on**, even for a short period.

In light of this, Portsmouth City Council is the first local authority in the country to introduce a new initiative to tackle irresponsible parking outside the school gates. This involves issuing warning letters and, ultimately, court summons to those found repeatedly parking on the yellow School Keep Clear markings.

Police, PCSOs, and community wardens will be taking vehicle registrations of those infringing this law. Since the council began this scheme in November 2012, 181 people have been caught out, so please **don't let it be you!** Help us provide safer crossing points for children by keeping the zig zags clear.

Sincerely,

Head Teacher and Portsmouth City Council Road Safety Team