



## **This document contains information regarding vehicle stopping and parking at or near to our school site**

We have researched published information on this subject for the benefit of parents and all who visit our school site. Information contained has been gathered from the council's published sources – we have reproduced relevant sections in good faith, but if you have any queries as to the law please consult Richmond Council.

### **The Problem**

We are now experiencing an ever-increasing number of:

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1. Vehicles stopping or parking on the zig-zag “School – Keep Clear” markings
  2. Vehicles parking on the yellow “No waiting” areas
  3. Complaints from parents who see their children’s safety compromised by 1 and 2 above
  4. Complaints from our residential neighbours:
    - who find their driveways blocked by car drivers picking up/dropping off children
    - who receive verbal abuse when drivers are asked to move their vehicle
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Somehow, the school is expected to solve this problem. We cannot do this on our own. We regularly appeal in the school newsletter for parents to obey the law, to be mindful of the children’s safety and to respect our neighbours. We also ask the police and civic enforcement officers to help deal with offenders.

**Ultimately it will be the goodwill and a willingness of all parents/carers who drive to school to respect others and park with consideration.**

Please read the following sections – if everyone could understand and follow this guidance the children, parents and carers will be safer and our neighbours happier.

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## Parking restrictions in the roads outside the school site i.e. Friars Stile Road and surrounding roads - the “zig-zag” markings

### What are the zig-zag lines on the road outside schools for?

The white ‘zig-zags’ road markings have been painted outside the school for a very good reason: the safety of pupils.

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**You are not allowed to park or stop even for a short moment on these markings. Stopping to let someone in or out of a vehicle is PROHIBITED**

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Any cars stopped or parked in the restricted area can hide small children who are about to cross the road. The children may not see approaching cars, and approaching motorists may not see the children.

### Enforcement and penalties

The Highway Code states: **“You MUST NOT wait or park, or stop to set down and pick up passengers, on school entrance markings.” (Highway Code rule 238, Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984)** Despite the best efforts of schools, governors, parent-teacher associations and the council’s road safety team, a small number of parents/carers continue to stop or park illegally and dangerously on these markings. Enforcement is used to target those who ignore the rules.

- If you stop or park on the markings, you could face a fine of £130 (£65 if paid within 14 days).
- If your car is towed away to a pound, the cost to release it is £200 (on top of the penalty charge).
- There are other possible charges if the vehicle is not collected promptly.

### Do you have to drive to school?

Most children live close enough to walk or cycle to school. Please consider this option. It is often faster than driving in the rush hour and looking for a safe and legal place to park.

- If you do drive, please park safely and considerately and do not block entrances, driveways, or junctions. Morning arrival and afternoon departure of pupils inevitably results in traffic congestion nearby.
  - Please be considerate when parking in roads near or surrounding the school, especially over our neighbours’ driveways. You may feel you are only parking there for a minute to collect/drop off your child/ren, but it can be very frustrating for the residents if they are returning to their home or need to go out. If you are asked to move your vehicle away from the private driveway, please do so politely and in a non-confrontational manner.
  - For those parents/carers who feel they must drive to drop off/pick up their children consider using the nearby Queens Road and walking to the school.
  - Our number one priority is ensuring that children and the community are safe walking in, out and around the school premises. Motorists should be cautious and think before they park. Inconsiderate parking causes congestion and endangers lives.
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## Parking enforcement

Faults and illegal parking enquiries for Richmond Council

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To report a fault with a parking machine, or report a vehicle which is contravening parking restrictions.

- **Online:** [make an enquiry](#)
- **Telephone:** 020 8744 0462 - 7am to 7pm Monday to Saturday; 9am to 7pm Sunday, Bank and Public Holidays (excluding Christmas Day)
- **Out of hours:** 0773 3308 600 - 7pm to 10.30pm every day including Bank and Public Holidays (excluding Christmas Day)