24th February 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Grove Academy we take our duty to safeguard the children in our care, very seriously. Safeguarding takes many forms, and there are ever increasing dangers. We are becoming extremely concerned for the safety and wellbeing of our pupils when they are being dropped off, or collected in a car.

While we appreciate that parking is limited, local residents and parents have again expressed concerns about illegal and unsafe parking in the streets around our academy. Drivers are frequently parking unsafely on pavements, and at times, against the flow of traffic meaning children have to get in and out of the car on the road instead of the pavement.

As an academy we hold regular lessons around road safety, complete assemblies about this topic, and lots of our children have taken part in the ‘Stepping Out’ programme, which teaches children to have awareness of the dangers when crossing the roads. We know that you, as parents and carers, will be supportive of us, and will work together to create a culture where children’s safety is our priority and unsafe parking is seen as unacceptable.

As you may be aware, we are holding regular fundraising activities this year, and are hoping to purchase some signs to raise awareness of Road Safety and parking responsibly around our academy. We hope you will back these events in order for us to reach our target.

Please consider parking a short distance from school and allowing your child to take part in our **‘Walk to School’** scheme. Both you and your child will benefit from the exercise. Children will also be safer, especially as we currently don’t have a crossing guide. We appreciate time is precious, and everyone is busy, but the children are also precious and it is only a matter of time before a parent in a hurry to drop off their child and get on with their day, results in a serious injury or worse.

**In order to support us, the local authority regularly patrol the area with the CCTV car, however, this only deters people on the day it is present, and does not seem to have any lasting impact.** Should you feel a car is parked illegally, please feel free to email the council at the following email address: parking.enforcement@stoke.gov.uk

I would ask, however, that you do not approach a driver directly as altercations outside school are unpleasant and frightening for the children. As adults we should be providing a role model for the children and we would hope that all parents would agree with this.

Our only concern is to create a safer environment for the children as they arrive and leave our academy. Please help to support us in our efforts to keep all our children safe, by signing and returning the Parking Promise we are sending home. Let’s work together to create a culture where children’s safety is more important than convenient parking.

Thank you in anticipation of your ongoing support,



Mrs J Oakes

Designated Safeguarding Lead