

King Ina Church of England Academy

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KING INA



CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

3rd November 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Several of you have shared concerns about the safety of you and your children walking to and from King Ina C of E Academy to drop off and pick up. These issues are:

1. The speed of some drivers up and down Northfield
2. The amount of traffic queuing at pick-up and drop-off times
3. Drivers not keeping the crossing gap clear as driving into the school
4. The amount of cars parked in the surrounding roads whilst waiting for their children to meet them after school

We want to assure you that we take any issues relating to the safety of the children at King Ina seriously. However, as a school, we have a limited ability to impact on the current situation. After several discussions with individuals at parish and county level, we have agreed the following plan:

1. All concerns/issues relating to road safety should be directed to Somerset County Council Highways Department (trafficmanagement@somerset.gov.uk) with a copy to Dean Ruddle Chair: Somerton Town Council (dean.ruddle@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk)
 - Dean shares many of your concerns and has already been made aware of the issues that have been raised to date. He will use his contacts to ensure these matters continue to have local and county level representation which can be considered at planning meetings
 - The County Council Highways Department will ensure any future concerns raised are passed on to the relevant councillor. This includes reports of traffic any offences
2. This advice will be reiterated where future concerns are directed to the school
3. The matter of how to walk home to and from school, whether accompanied by a parent or not, will be addressed directly with the children at school, using the recommendations below

As a school, it is not our intention to relinquish responsibility. However, a single point of direct contact at town and county level is more likely to affect changes that can only be made at this level.

In the meantime, these are our recommendations for keeping your child/children safe walking to and from the school:

- Use our recommended route. This will add around 5 minutes to the time taken to walk directly to/from the school using Northfield and focuses on using roads where a footpath is provided:
 - Use the designated crossing area now provided on the Langport Road into Northfield (a pavement is provided on the left-hand side of the road)
 - Cross over into Waverley Road on your right
 - Turn left into Highfield which narrows into Northfields Way
 - Turn right into Northfield
 - Cross the road using the designated crossing to enter/leave the school
- Parents driving their child/ren to/from school are politely reminded to:
 - Maintain the identified speed limits (30mph) along Northfields
 - Keep the full gap clear of your vehicle at the designated school crossing
 - Arrive at school between 3:15pm – 3:30pm for afternoon collection. We clear the whole school in the designated 15 minutes. Not only will this help with local congestion but, more

importantly, this will allow emergency services to access the site, if necessary, and the wrap around care staff to be in situ ready for the children

- Use sensible road safety advice for parents with children:
 - Always be attentive. Children are likely to run ahead or lag behind to chat with their friends. We suggest therefore that parents don't use mobile phones whilst walking home with children
 - Walk behind at a reasonable distance or alongside your child/ren so you can reinforce safety advice
 - Ensure children:
 - walk on the inside of any footpath with you on the outside edge when accompanying young children
 - don't allow your child/ren to run into the road to get ahead on the footpath, to talk to their friends
 - don't allow your child/ren to run too far ahead
- Share your road safety plan with your child/ren and regularly reinforce it

With the planned housing development in Somerton, new 'safe' routes might emerge in the future. In the meantime, **the safety of children at King Ina is of paramount concern and the school, parents and children need to work together to make this happen.**

Yours sincerely



Mrs S Svenson