



Inspiring Learning, Achieving Excellence

Headteacher: Mr Adam Shelley MEd, BSc Hons, PGCE, NPQH

December 2022

Dear Parents

Re: Road safety for students walking home along Pymore Road.

We have recently received some concerning reports from motorists using Pymore Road at the time many of our students also use it to walk to and from school. The reports state that although there is a footpath, large numbers of students are choosing to walk side by side along the road. This obviously makes it difficult for vehicles to pass but more importantly, poses a danger to the students. Unfortunately, we are also aware that in their frustration, road users are attempting to speak to students but that this is resulting in unpleasant, sometimes verbally- abusive altercations by both parties. We would like to take this opportunity to offer clear warnings about this. Firstly, the risk that students are placing themselves in by verbally abusing unknown adults who may choose to retaliate. Secondly, some motorists have been filming and photographing students in an attempt to evidence dangerous, inconsiderate or rude behaviour in the community. We do not condone this at all, but motorists may choose to use this footage to report incidents to the police and to the school. If we are able to identify students from photos or videos, we will sanction accordingly which may, in some cases result in suspensions from school. Finally, students should also be aware of safety around vehicles on the road. In some cases, there have been reports of students being dangerously close to moving cars, causing them to brake or swerve – possibly in front of other pedestrians, cyclists or drivers.

We have notified the local community and policing teams of our concerns for the road at this time of day.

Our key messages to you are that we want our students to be safe on their journey to and from school, to be considerate of road users on the public highway and that we will not tolerate abusive behaviour from our students. Your support in reinforcing this message would be appreciated as we do the same in school.

Yours faithfully

Carol Duffy
Deputy Headteacher

