



**Dear Parents and Carers**

**IMPORTANT: Changes to parking, road markings and traffic flow from 1st September 2019**

19<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

In November 2018 the leadership of Audley, St Francis and Sunnydown schools conducted a survey of parents. We had 231 responses which gave us a really good picture of how people travel to and from school. We also received many very helpful suggestions on possible actions to help reduce the impact of traffic flow at peak times, recognising the harm to the health and safety of all of our children. (A copy of the findings is under latest news on the St Francis' Website)

Since then, many media reports and studies have kept this important issue at the forefront of our collective minds.

More recently, the Strategic Risk Management Health and Safety Team have advised all schools that Health and Safety Executives (HSE) inspectors will be visiting sites to assess how well schools are '*controlling risks to pupils from vehicle movements*'.

The three Headteachers and Governing Body representatives have been meeting for an extended period over the 2018 – 2019 academic year to discuss the outcomes of the survey from 2018, and the wider implications of our traffic issue.

We, fellow staff and even concerned parents have attempted to educate drivers who chose to double park, speed, leave their engines running and even block driveways including emergency access points, often to unnecessary impolite responses.

The most frequent suggestion (20% of respondents) made by parents in the traffic survey was to close the entrance to all three schools, only allowing access to emergency vehicles, staff and SCC commissioned taxis.

This is a genuine possibility, however, the potential impact of this will take some time to realise and will require wider consultation with neighbouring residents and Tandridge Council.

In the meantime, the Governing Bodies of all three schools and the respective Headteachers, have agreed to some interim measures which will allow some immediate action while the situation is further assessed. The phases are as follows:

### **Phase 1:**

1. Repainting and increasing and the areas with double yellow lines
  - To decrease the volume of cars parked on pavements
  - To reduce the number of cars parked while engines are still running
  - To increase traffic flow
2. To have marked parking bays with the expectation that these are the only sites where cars are able to be parked.
3. To increase signage reminding drivers of expectations, including no right turn back towards Audley when passing the Sunnydown caretaker's house and that parking is permitted in marked parking bays only.

It is intended that these measures will be put in place in preparation for 1st September, and the impact monitored for a period of approximately 3 - 6 months.

### **Phase 2**

Additional measures have already been explored but may be introduced following the trial of phase 1. These may include:

1. Increasing the number of speed humps
  - To decrease the dangerous speed of a minority of drivers
2. The introduction of bollards near the Whyteleaf Road exit
  - To prevent drivers turning right (near the exit), back into the traffic already on the one-way system
  - To improve traffic flow

### **Phase 3**

We have also committed to explore the complete closure of access to the school sites at the Whyteleaf Road exit/entrance and will keep families and residents informed of progress in this regard.

It is important to understand the leadership of each school has the health and wellbeing of each child, your children, at heart; as well as all adults accessing the site.

None of us want anyone hurt through inappropriate parking and driving behaviours. Reducing the air pollution and improving on site air quality is a priority.

Yours sincerely,

The Headteachers and Governors

Mrs M Rebello



Mrs M Wheeler



Mr P Jensen

