



# Fleet Primary School

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Headteacher: Don McGibbon



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## Parking Outside School

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27<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Dear Parents and carers,

As we strive to provide the best environment for our children to learn and grow, we must also consider their safety and well-being on their journey to and from school. With this in mind, we are reaching out to encourage a shift towards more sustainable modes of transport such as walking, biking, or scootering to school, rather than relying on cars. The vast majority of you already engage in active travel (walking, scooting and cycling) but a small number do regularly drive to school.

There are numerous benefits to embracing alternative modes of transportation, not only for our children but for the community as a whole. Choosing to walk, bike, or scoot significantly reduces traffic congestion in the surrounding areas, improves air quality, and promotes physical activity among our children.

Regular physical activity is essential for the healthy development of children, contributing to their physical fitness, mental well-being, and academic performance. Incorporating walking, biking, or scootering into their daily routine not only helps them stay active but also instills lifelong habits that promote a healthy lifestyle.

Moreover, the safety of our children is paramount, especially during school drop-off and pick-up times. Parking cars on blind bends or allowing children to disembark from vehicles onto busy roads poses significant risks. By reducing the number of cars in the vicinity of the school, we can mitigate the dangers associated with traffic congestion and improve the overall safety of our children's commute. I have recently received communication from local residents who have encountered near misses with cars and children due to them being parked illegally outside of the school.

We understand that transitioning to alternative modes of transport may require some adjustments, but we believe that the long-term benefits far outweigh any initial inconvenience. To support this transition, we encourage parents to explore safe walking routes, establish walking or biking groups within the community, and educate their children about road safety practices.

If you have no alternative to driving to school we would ask that you park on one of the quieter side roads nearby school where your vehicle does not pose a danger to you and do not park illegally – no matter how brief – directly outside the school. Parking directly outside the school puts you, your child and other road users at risk. Parking away from school and walking over to school using the crossing guard is much safer.

Together, we can create a safer, healthier, and more sustainable environment for our children to thrive. We appreciate your support and cooperation in making our school community a shining example of responsible transportation practices.

Best wishes

Don McGibbon - Head Teacher