



## Health and Safety Concerns



Dear Parent / Guardian

As you are aware, a meeting was held in the school on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023 with representatives from the Department of Education, the Education Authority, the Community Centre, the school's Board of Governors, Fr Boyle, and myself to discuss the current safety risks to pupils when parents use the Parochial car park at pick up and drop off times.

The Education Authority have informed the school and parish that **no** vehicles are insured when using the car park during these times.

A further meeting took place on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023 with the relevant representatives to seek a solution to this ongoing situation.

Regrettably after much deliberation it was found that there was no immediate solution to this safety issue. It was therefore agreed by all the representatives at the meeting to close the Parochial Centre gates to **all vehicles during pick up and drop off times.**

**Therefore, the Parochial Centre gates will be closed for vehicle access from Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023. However, I would like to reassure you all that the gate will be supervised for access for pupils and parents walking onto the school grounds at these key times.**

The essential delivery vehicles will continue to use the service strip to access the school kitchen.

I appreciate this is not an ideal situation for parents who have previously used the Parochial Carpark. However, Fr Boyle has kindly agreed to allow parents to park in the Chapel Carpark as an alternative parking area. In addition to this, there are vacant car park spaces along the Fair Hill Road and on the grounds of the Fairhill Recreational Playpark area.

At present there is inadequate staff parking on the school grounds. To date staff have also been availing of the Parochial carpark. From Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023 school staff must park in the Nursery Carpark which will regrettably limit availability for other users. Therefore, it would be appreciated, if nursery parents **only** use the Nursery entrance at pick up and drop off times.



Over this last three years, the schools inadequate parking facilities for parents and staff has been brought to the attention of the Catholic Council for Maintained Schools (CCMS), the Department of Education (DE), the Education Authority (EA) and numerous local councillors by the school board of governors, the parish and myself. I would like to reassure you all that I will continue to liaise with all the appropriate bodies to seek a better short / long term solution.

I thank you in advance for your understanding and co-operation in relation to these new procedures. Keeping our pupils safe is paramount.

Kind Regards

Miss S Devlin (Principal) & Mr D Sonner (Chairperson of Board of Governors)

Mr I Millar & Mrs D Mc Veigh (Chairperson & / treasurer of Cookstown Community Centre)

Ms H Holland & Mrs J Mc Millan ( School Catering )

Father L Boyle (Parish Priest)