

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025

Dear Brookside Academy Community,

At Brookside Academy, the safety of our children, families, and staff remains our highest priority. We understand that parking and traffic outside the school continue to be a challenge, and we are committed to supporting safer parking and travel options for our community.

### **What We Are Doing to Improve Parking Safety**

We have been working closely with local authorities to review and strengthen road safety measures. During the recent half-term break, we met with Street Councillor Liz Leyshon and Chair of Street Parish Council, Cllr. Bryan Knickerbocker (our second meeting in recent weeks) to discuss the current situation and explore possible solutions.

To help manage traffic and improve safety, the following measures are in place:

- **20-Minute Parking Limit (Monday–Friday, 8:00 am–4:00 pm)** – Introduced in 2017 to keep traffic flowing. However, it is clear this is not being followed effectively.
- **Zig-Zag Lines** – Stopping or parking on these lines is strictly prohibited and will result in an immediate penalty. As of 8th February 2024, enforcement hours have been extended to 8:00 am–5:00 pm, Monday–Friday. Additional bollards and notices have been installed to reinforce this, though, unfortunately, one bollard was stolen on the first day.
- **Double Yellow Lines** – Placed at road junctions to improve visibility and prevent dangerous parking.

### **Challenges and Considerations**

We recognise that space outside the school is limited and have explored several possible solutions. However, some options come with significant challenges:

- **Extending School Opening Times** – While staggered start and finish times may seem like a solution, this would create difficulties for families with children in multiple year groups.
- **Short-Stay Drop-Off Zones** – Many of our children are too young to walk into school independently, meaning what was intended as a quick drop-off area is often used for longer stays. In some cases, spaces are taken well before the start or end of the school day, meaning only a small handful of families benefit.
- **Expanding On-Site Parking** – While we have considered additional parking within the school grounds, space is already allocated for school transport from wider areas. Further expansion is not feasible, as it would likely increase congestion and pose additional safety risks.

## How You Can Help

While we continue working with local authorities on long-term solutions, we ask for your support in keeping our school environment safe by:

- **Parking safely and legally** – Avoid stopping on zig-zag lines, blocking junctions, or parking in restricted areas.
- **Using the short-stay drop-off zone correctly** – Please do not park here for extended periods, especially well in advance of drop-off and collection times.
- **Considering alternative travel options** – Walking, cycling, or parking further away and walking the final stretch to school can help reduce congestion and improve safety.

## Reporting Parking Concerns

While we take your concerns seriously, please note that Brookside Academy is not responsible for parking enforcement or traffic management. If you see vehicles parked in violation of restrictions, please report them directly to Traffic Management.

### To report parking violations:

 Email: [somersetparkingenquiries@nsl.co.uk](mailto:somersetparkingenquiries@nsl.co.uk)

## Working Together for a Safer School Environment

We truly appreciate the efforts of those who already take extra steps to create a safer, less congested school environment. By working together as a community, we can continue to prioritise the safety and well-being of all our children.

Street Parish Council, Brookside Academy and members of the community will be putting up new banners and meeting again on Wednesday the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

Thank you for your ongoing cooperation and support.

Yours sincerely,

**Brian Walton**  
Headteacher  
Brookside Academy

**Cllr Liz Leyshon**  
Lead Member for Resources, Procurement & Performance  
Deputy Leader, Somerset Council

**Cllr. Bryan Knickerbocker**  
Chair of Street Parish Council

**John Dodson**  
Chair of Street Neighbourhood Watch Association