

Grove School – Stop and Drop Scheme

This is an initiative that Grove School has undertaken in a bid to alleviate traffic congestion outside the school in the mornings. Parents may drop children at the school gates and immediately drive away, rather than park on Hazel Grove. The children are collected from the car by a member of staff and escorted into the school premises.

The road safety team at Wiltshire Council has not been consulted about this scheme, however the school has the co-operation of the local Neighbourhood Policing team and they have no concerns regarding the safety of the children. The road safety manager has discussed this at length with the head Teacher and offered assistance if required. The school travel plan adviser has worked with the school regarding the school travel plan and to identify ways to encourage walking, scooting and cycling to school to reduce car use for the school journey.

The markings outside the school are advisory and have no related traffic regulation order attached, which would make parking illegal. Other than guidance given in the Highway Code there is no official Wiltshire Council policy regarding stopping of vehicles in school entrances. Each site is different and the advisability of vehicles stopping is based on an assessment of risk at the site and whether there are upright signs indicating a prohibition of stopping. In the case of the school keep clear markings on Hazel Grove there are no signs to indicate a prohibition of stopping. The school has carried out a full risk assessment of the current stop and drop scheme and has employed staff to manage this on a daily basis.

There have been no recorded injury collisions in the vicinity of the school over the last 5 years to 31.12.2015.

Whilst the scheme is not ideal, given the presence of the school zig zag markings, it is an effective way to reduce congestion in the morning rush and we are confident that it is well managed and children are not being unnecessarily put at risk. Were the school to cease their current practice, the level of on street parking in the vicinity would increase, with consequential adverse safety and amenity implications.