

## Environment & Regeneration.

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### Parking Outside School Entrances and on School Keep Clear Markings (Yellow Zig Zags)

Recent changes have taken place regarding the parking of vehicles outside schools where School Keep Clear markings (yellow zig zags) are present and the enforcement of those markings. It is important that all parents/carers are aware of these changes as there are significant implications with regard to enforcement.

Previously these markings were advisory and were used to highlight to drivers an area to be kept clear in front of the school entrance, this would ensure that children are clearly visible to drivers and that similarly pedestrians also have good visibility should they choose to cross at this point. The enforcement of these markings was previously carried out by the Police under the offence of 'Unnecessary Obstruction' however this depended heavily on the individual circumstances at each school and the dropping off and picking up of children whilst waiting on these markings was often tolerated, this has largely devalued the reasoning behind the introduction of the markings and it has become common practice for some parents/carers to use the School Keep Clears as a specific waiting area for dropping off and picking up.

In order to prevent this and to ensure that the markings are correctly enforced and respected in a uniform way at all schools within the Borough, the Council took the decision to introduce a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) which would make the School Keep Clear markings legally enforceable in a similar way to Double Yellow Lines. All School Keep Clear markings in the Borough now have a legal order which makes it **an offence for any driver to STOP on the markings, this includes stopping to drop off or pick up children**. There are now signs present at each end of the markings which state "**NO STOPPING Mon – Fri 7.30am – 5pm on entrance markings**", outside of these times vehicles may be parked on the markings. The Council's Parking Services team of Civil Enforcement Officers will enforce the School Keep Clear markings and any vehicle parked on the markings will be subject to a Penalty Charge Notice, there are **no exceptions for any vehicles to park on the markings and this includes those displaying a 'Blue Disabled Badge'**. Parking Services may also use the mobile CCTV van to patrol School Keep Clear markings, this will photograph any vehicles parked on the markings and Penalty Charge Notices will be issued by post.

Additionally drivers, who park their vehicles wholly on the footway, therefore diverting pedestrians from their desired line of travel and into the road or who park their vehicles wholly across a dropped kerb, are committing the offence of 'Unnecessary Obstruction' (**Contrary to Regulation 103 of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 and the Road Traffic Act 1988**). This offence is dealt with by the Police by issuing a Fixed penalty Notice (FPN) or removal of the vehicle concerned.

It has also been brought to the Councils attention that there are number of drivers who do not stop for the school crossing patrol. It is an offence under the **Road Traffic Act 1988 (Sec 28)** to fail to stop for a school crossing patrol officer in uniform when presenting a stop sign, any driver who does so may be dealt with by the Police and may be subject to a fine of £100 and 3 penalty points on their licence. Should parents witness such an offence taking place on a regular basis then this should be reported to the Police.

If parents have any questions over any of the above then please feel free to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,



**Marc Hill**, Traffic Liaison Officer.

Transportation Infrastructure Service  
Planning, Regeneration & Transport