

Chertsey Library Parking Permits for St Anne's Parents

9th March 2023

Overview

- St Anne's Catholic Primary School has a wide catchment area to allow it serve Catholic families across the area as well as serving other faiths in the local community.
- We currently have 429 pupils, many of those with SEND and in an area which has high deprivation.
- We are situated on a residential road with very limited parking options.
- An agreement was made with the council to allow parents to park in the library carpark during term time between the hours of 8.45am and 9.15am and 2.45pm till 3.30pm to elevate the parking on the main road and keep the children safe.

Context

- This agreement has worked perfectly well for many years.
- On 16th December the school were advised that Free Prae Road would be closed from 19th December for Road works, the school term ended on 21st December for all Xavier schools.
- After a lot of work and panic and a decision to issue permits to all families to allow them to have an option on collecting their children on these days we received a letter from the council informing us with immediate effect we could no longer use these permits.

The letter



Head Teacher

DEPARTMENT; PARKING
DATE: 21 December 2022

Dear Head Teacher

Parking permits for school drop off and pick up times

I understand that there may have been an informal arrangement agreed many years ago whereby the Council allowed some schools to issue temporary parking permits to parents to enable them to drop off and pick up children without paying for parking in the Council's car parks. Unfortunately, I have no record of this agreement and the income generated from parking fees is used to maintain our car parks, so it is important that users of any car park pay for the service provided.

Therefore, this informal arrangement can no longer be supported by the Council for the afternoon pick-up. It appears that parents are parking for much longer periods than the 5/10 minutes that the temporary permits were intended for and as such, this temporary permit will not be accepted as a reason for non-payment in the future.

In addition, the Council is aware of traffic congestion around many schools in the Borough and whilst we do not have the resources to patrol every school, every day, the Civil Enforcement Officers will be patrolling as regularly as possible and will be issuing Penalty Charge Notices (PCN) where illegal parking is observed or to people have not paid for their parking in the nearby car parks. We will only be observing the legal grace period for illegal parking so I would be grateful if you could remind parents that PCN's will be issued as follows:

1. Parking on double yellow lines
2. Parking outside of designated parking pays including obstruction of other cars
3. Non-payment of parking fees
4. Obstructing residents' driveways

I would appreciate your co-operation in reminding parents of the need to observe the parking regulations in force in the area and that they do need to pay for parking in designated car parks otherwise they may receive a Penalty Charge Notice.

I trust this clarifies the position and hope that we can work together to improve road safety around our schools over the coming months.

Yours sincerely,

Linda Norman
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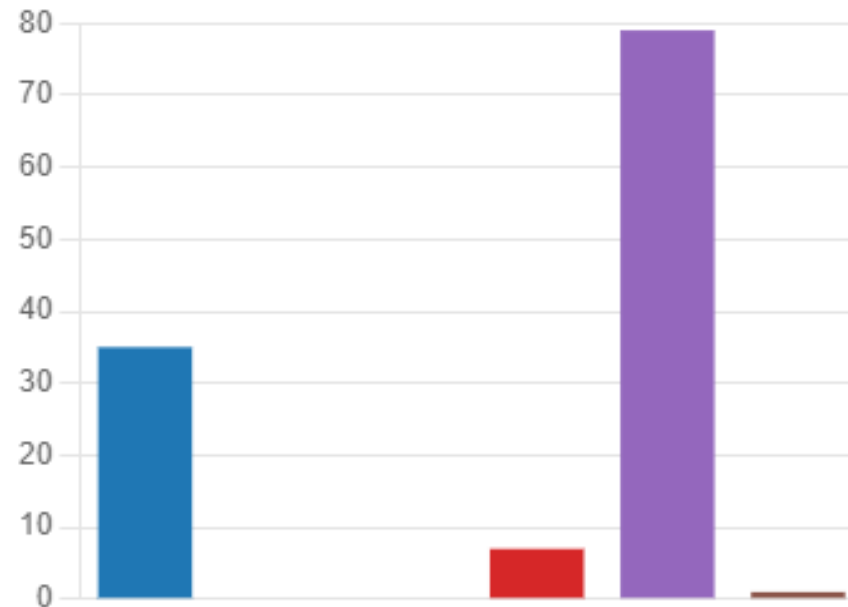
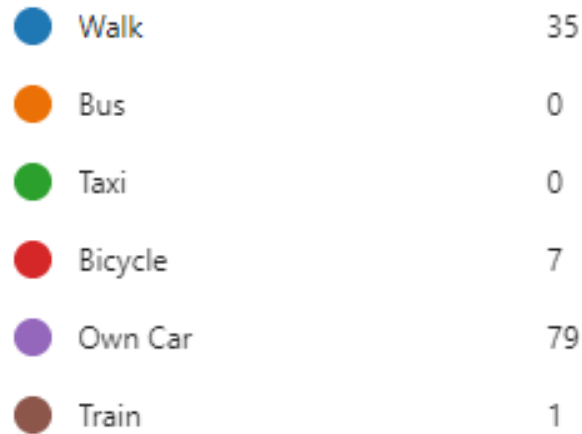
- This letter arrived immediately after discussing the road closure in the Christmas holidays.
- We were given no notice that permits would be removed and were only advised that they would continue by a parent who had contact the council and been advised of this meeting.

The impact

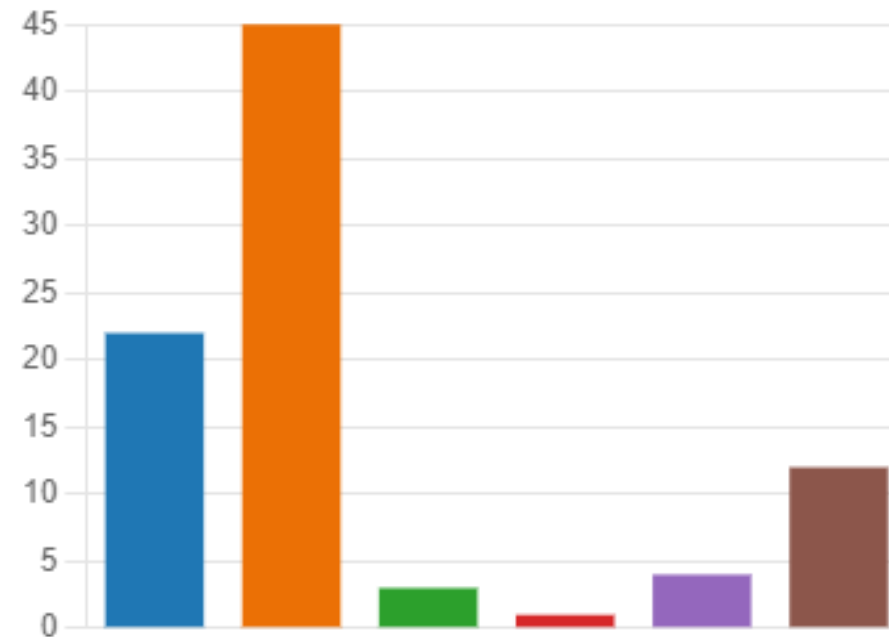
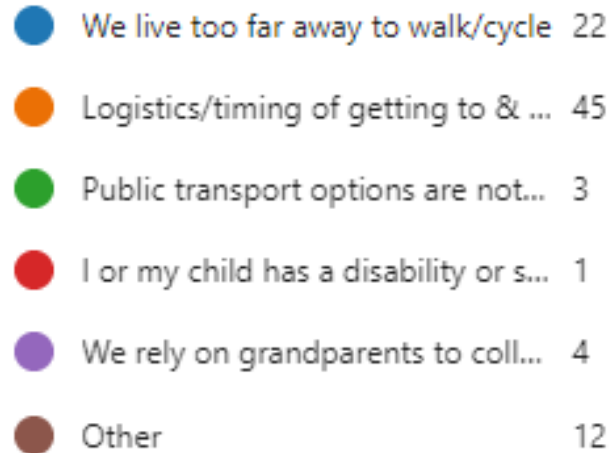
- This facility allows parents to park and walk to school safely.
- It keeps Free Prae Road clearer which helps the residents, makes it safer for the children and parents who are able to walk or cycle.
- The school handles the admin of the permits currently and advises parents they will receive a ticket if parked outside of the permit times.
- The school regularly reminds parents not to park on yellow and zig zag lines or block driveways.
- The school fully supports greener travel, and runs many projects to do so. However, there must be understanding that this is not possible for all our families.

We asked our
parents....

How do you currently travel to school to drop off and collect your child(ren) most of the time?

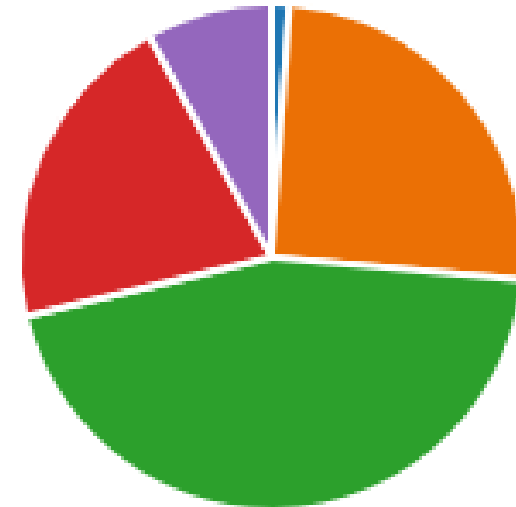


If you Travel using your own car, what is the main reason for this?



Do you currently take advantage of the parking permit?

● Yes in the morning only	1
● Yes in the afternoon only	22
● Yes morning and afternoon	39
● Occasionally use it	18
● Never use it	7



If you could no longer use the parking permit how would this impact you?

We live on the corner of Eastworth Road and Free Prae road and experience the congestion, road chaos and pollution school drop-off creates in this area. By effectively closing off the library parking option you are likely to funnel more traffic onto these two roads. In short, you are making a bad situation unbearable.

Parking on free Prae road and surrounding roads is very congested so I think you will see lots of parents double parking which then becomes dangerous

It will impact financially and it is already a very difficult time

parking around drop off and pick up is too congested already.

I would have to drive to the school and find parking around there. Paying for parking will not be an option for us

Will be late to pick up my children as is hard to find any parking space after I finish work, can't leave working place any earlier.

Conclusion

- We can see that we do have a significant number of parents who drive their children to school. Although, this is mainly due to the logistics of dropping their children to school, getting to other schools, nurseries, work or simply they live too far away to be able to walk.
- The permits are used, mainly in the afternoon by around 60 families on a daily basis, the impact of not having the permit would mean another 60 cars on the main roads surrounding the school.
- If this option is removed please can the council contact all local residents to advise of your decision and provide us with information on how you plan to control the parking on Free Prae Road & surrounding areas.