

This document contains information regarding vehicle stopping and parking at or near to our two school sites



We have researched published information on this subject for the benefit of parents and all who visit our two sites. Information contained has been gathered from the council's published sources – we have reproduced relevant sections in good faith, but if you have any queries as to the law please consult Sutton Council and/or their enforcement contractors Indigo (formerly VINCI Park), who can be contacted on tel. no. 020 8661 0096.

The Problem

We are now experiencing an ever increasing number of:

1. Vehicles stopping or parking on the zig-zag "School – Keep Clear" markings during the restricted times
2. Vehicles parking on the yellow "No waiting" areas
3. Complaints from parents who see their children's safety compromised by 1 and 2 above
4. Complaints from our residential neighbours
 - who find their driveways blocked by car drivers picking up/dropping off children
 - who receive verbal abuse when drivers are asked to move their vehicle

Somehow, the school is expected to solve this problem. We cannot do this on our own. Mrs Day regularly appeals in her newsletter for parents to obey the law, to be mindful of the children's safety and to respect our neighbours. We also ask the police and civic enforcement officers to help deal with offenders.

Ultimately it will be the goodwill and a willingness of all parents/carers who drive to school to respect others and park with consideration.

Please read the following sections – if everyone could understand and follow this guidance the children, parents and carers will be safer and our neighbours happier.

Parking restrictions in the roads outside the two school sites i.e. Kingston Avenue, Molesey Drive and Chertsey Drive – the yellow “zig-zag” markings

What are the yellow zig-zag lines on the road outside schools for?

Yellow ‘zig-zags’ road markings have been painted outside the schools in for a very good reason: the safety of pupils.

You are not allowed to park or stop even for a short moment on these markings. Stopping to let someone in or out of a vehicle is PROHIBITED

Any cars stopped or parked in the restricted area can hide small children who are about to cross the road. The children may not see approaching cars, and approaching motorists may not see the children.

Enforcement and penalties

Time plates are fixed on poles near the zig-zag road markings. There are different timings and they vary from road to road.

The Highway Code states: **“You MUST NOT wait or park, or stop to set down and pick up passengers, on school entrance markings.”** (Highway Code rule 238, Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984)

Despite the best efforts of schools, governors, parent-teacher associations and the council’s road safety team, a small number of parents/carers continue to stop or park illegally and dangerously on these markings. Enforcement is used to target those who ignore the rules.

- If you stop or park on the markings, you could face a fine of £130 (£65 if paid within 14 days).
- If your car is towed away to a pound, the cost to release it is £200 (on top of the penalty charge).
- There are other possible charges if the vehicle is not collected promptly.

Do you have to drive to school?

Most children live close enough to walk or cycle to school. Please consider this option. It's often faster than driving in the rush-hour and looking for a safe and legal place to park.

- If you do drive, please park safely and considerately and do not block entrances, driveways, or junctions. Morning arrival and afternoon departure of pupils inevitably results in traffic congestion nearby.
- Please be considerate when parking in roads near or surrounding the school, especially over our neighbours’ driveways. You may feel you are only parking there for a minute to collect/drop off your child/ren, but it can be very frustrating for the

residents if they are returning to their home or need to go out. If you are asked to move your vehicle away from the private driveway, please do so politely and in a non-confrontational manner.

- For those parents/carers who feel they must drive to drop off/pick up their children to the Kingston site, consider using the nearby St Margaret's Avenue and Brocks Drive and walking through the pedestrian footpath opposite the school. For the Molesey site consider Walton Avenue, Caversham Avenue and Egham Crescent.
- Our number one priority is ensuring that children and the community are safe walking in, out and around the school premises. Motorists should be cautious and think before they park. Inconsiderate parking causes congestion and also endangers lives.

Parking enforcement

The London Borough of Sutton has contracted out parking enforcement to Indigo (formerly VINCI Park), who you can contact on **020 8661 0096** if you need to report illegal parking.

General requests for parking enforcement

If you wish to report a vehicle parked in contravention telephone Indigo on 020 8661 0096 during operational hours.

Dropped kerb enforcement

Residents wishing to report a vehicle parked in front of their dropped kerb without permission should also telephone Indigo (formerly VINCI Park) on 020 8661 0096. You will be asked for your name and address and the Civil Enforcement Officer will knock at your door to confirm you are the householder before issuing a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN). This statement from the Council's web site would suggest that the householder must make a complaint to Indigo and not rely on a passing Enforcement officer to issue a PCN.

Please note the contravention is only deemed to have occurred if any part of the vehicle is adjacent to the lowered flat section of the dropped kerb - this does not include the angled section of the kerb.

Footway parking enforcements

There is a London wide ban on parking on the footway (that is parking with one or more wheels on pavements, dropped kerbs and grass verges) and is enforced in the London Borough of Sutton. Do not park on the footway unless there are signs and white bay markings indicating that you may do so.