

## **Friends of Burford's KEEP OUR KIDS SAFE campaign**

Dear parents and residents,

'Dangerous'. 'Hazardous'. 'A nightmare'. This is how local residents have described parking at drop off and pick up near Burford School. Friends of Burford, the school's parent/teacher association, is launching a campaign to Keep Our Kids Safe. We are working with the police, the head teacher, the children and the parish council to improve road safety and we need you to help as well.

The pressure on parking is only going to get worse because birth rates are falling in Marlow Bottom and every year more pupils are coming to Burford from outside the valley. Solutions that worked in years gone by, such as volunteers supervising 'a walking crocodile', are non-starters now that in most families both parents are rushing off to work in the morning. Getting funding for road safety markings is a challenge when there are so many other demands on council expenditure. Therefore the only way of fixing the problem is for us all to work together as a community.

## **What is Friends of Burford's KEEP OUR KIDS SAFE campaign?**

### **1. KEEP OUR KIDS SAFE: Work with local residents to target road safety hotspots**

The first hotspot Friends of Burford (FoB) is targeting is the junction of Kingsley Drive and Marlow Bottom Rd. Parking here contravenes **Rule 243 of the Highway Code: Do not park opposite a junction**. A child narrowly escaped injury in a near miss here in 2019, caused by poor parking. FoB have paid for 'no parking signs' to be erected in the gardens of some sympathetic local residents. Over the next couple of weeks we will be using our new cones to remind drivers of their responsibilities.



**Where should our next road safety hotspot be?** Please email [Fob@burfordschool.co.uk](mailto:Fob@burfordschool.co.uk) with your suggestions. Are you a local resident who would be happy to display a road safety sign on your property? Please get in touch.

## 2. KEEP OUR KIDS SAFE: Empower Burford children to improve road safety

Friends of Burford have asked the school's Junior Road Safety officers to design some signs and banners which we will fund to be printed.

## 3. KEEP OUR KIDS SAFE: Encourage drivers to take responsibility for road safety

It's a long time since many of us sat our driving tests. Please feel free to remind drivers who have forgotten some rules of the Highway Code.



**Rule 243: DO NOT stop or park within 10 m of a junction or where the curb has been lowered.**

A child would struggle to cross the road safely from behind a car parked like this one in Kingsley Drive.

**Rule 206 Drive carefully and slowly when reversing into a side road**

Take particular care if turning around in side roads such as Squirrel Rise or Kingsley Drive. It is much safer for the children if you drive further up these roads and turn in the designated turning circle.



**Rule 243: DO NOT stop or park anywhere you would prevent access for Emergency Services.**

Generally in Marlow Bottom you need to park on the Burford School side of the road. If you park on the opposite side and create a chicane like this one, it could stop an ambulance from getting through.



**Rule 243: DO NOT stop or park near a school entrance**

Here's a visual reminder of what's at stake.

Clearly, the easiest way to have a stress-free parking experience is for parents to arrive in plenty of time for drop off or pick up. However, whatever time parents arrive, there is always safe parking available further up Marlow Bottom Rd towards the Methodist Church, so there is never an excuse for parking that puts children in danger. Parents just need to walk a bit further. We recognize that walking such a distance may be difficult for people with disabilities; they should contact the school office to arrange to park in the school car park.

We welcome other ideas about how to improve road safety. For example, it's been suggested that there may be Marlow Bottom residents who would be willing to rent out their drive for parents to use at drop off or pick up through a website such as <https://www.parkonmydrive.net/>. Please email FoB if you are interested in this scheme.

Thank you very much for your support for Friends of Burford's KEEP OUR KIDS SAFE campaign.

Yours faithfully,

Rebecca Lewis  
Chair Friends of Burford