

## Orchard School Bristol

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**Headteacher:** Mrs Julia Hinchliffe **MA (Hons), MA, NPQH**

16 October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

### **Safeguarding Update – Site Security**

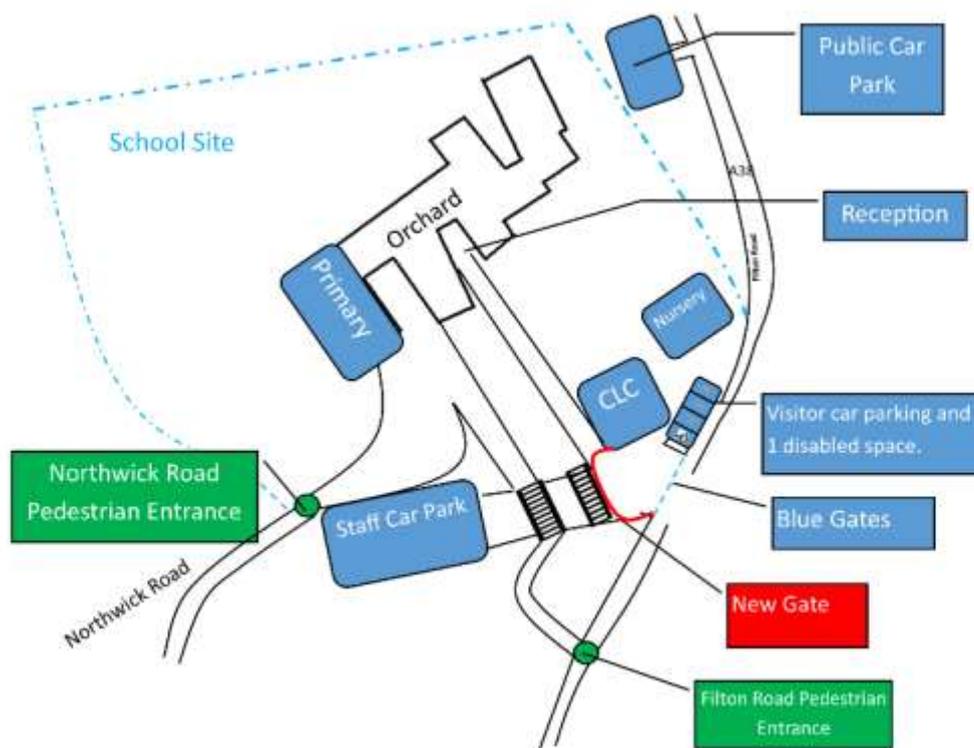
Over the last couple of years, we have been working on improving our site security in order to better safeguard your children. A year ago, we installed a fence in front of the Sports Hall to ensure that the back of our site remained secure at all times. The fence has worked very effectively, and staff and students are more secure as a result.

Between 2017 and 2020, the number of people on the Orchard campus has doubled – and we now have up to 1,500 people on the site at any one time, over the nursery, primary school, and secondary school site. The Staff Car Park has become far too busy, and we are now educating more children with additional needs and disabilities who require space to be collected safely.

To keep all of our children safe, and to keep the car park area safe, we are installing a set of security gates at October half term. The new gates are shown on the map below as a red line.

The gates will cross over from the Filton Road main entrance (the large blue gate) to the CLC building. These gates will be open for staff to access the Staff Car Park before and after school, but during the school day they will remain locked. Only staff with a staff card will be allowed through the gates to the car park.





From the start of term 2, access to the school site is as follows:

- Filton Road pedestrian entrance and Northwick Road pedestrian entrance are open for secondary school children and staff to walk or cycle to/from school from 8 – 8.45am and 2.40 - 3pm each day. Outside of this time, they are available for primary school children. Staff will ensure children who stay beyond 3pm can leave the site safely.
- For parents/carers who have an appointment with a member of staff, you can walk in through the Blue Gates and ring the bell on the new gate by the CLC. A member of staff will come out to meet you. If you need to drive in, you can make use of the three visitor spaces by the CLC. Turn RIGHT inside the blue gates and the parking spaces are signposted.
- If you have an enquiry at Reception, you will be able to use the bell to contact Reception, and they will manage the query. We encourage you to email or phone first, as we can manage your enquiry much better when we are able to book time for the right person to see you.

We strongly advise all students to walk/cycle to school and avoid being driven in wherever possible.

If your child is able to walk into school from your car, please drop them further away, so they walk the last minute or two. You cannot stop along Filton Road. There is a public car park just beyond the school by the set of shops, which may be useful for a quick stop, if necessary.

If your child is a wheelchair user or has a disability (or broken leg, for example), and may need dropping off, then you can make use of the disabled bay or three visitor spaces. Turn RIGHT when you come in the main blue gates and these spaces are on the right.

I understand this will feel different to those of you who were used to driving onto site, but the purpose behind this is to keep all of your children safe.

Thank you in advance for your understanding.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J Hinchliffe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Julia Hinchliffe, Headteacher