

Friday 15th March 2024

Road Safety

Dear Parents/Carers,

We recognise the growing concern amongst Southwold families regarding road safety and responsible driving near the school. This is not a new issue for the school or our community and work has been ongoing with Hackney Council for a number of years to campaign for safer road crossings and effective School Street implementation.

Here at Southwold we recognise the shared responsibility between home and school and we are committed to ensuring that our pupils have safe routes during drop off and pick up times.

There are ways to ensure we can all help to make travel to and from school safer for everyone. Families can help by:

- Considering walking, cycling or using public transport to travel to school where this is possible.
- If you must drive, maintaining the 20mph speed limit that is in place across the borough.
- Park further away from the school entrance in a safe, legal place and walk the remainder of the journey.
- Avoid blocking the Detmold road entrance to the school or parking on pavements or stopping cars by drop kerbs to drop children off.
- Follow the School Street restrictions in place between 8:30-9.15am and 3:15-4.00pm on Monday-Friday during term time which means not driving down Detmold Road.
- Reminding your children about the importance of road safety: finding a safe place to cross, stopping before getting to the kerb and looking around and listening for vehicles.

Further information and advice on the importance of safe and responsible travel can be found on the THINK! website here: <https://www.think.gov.uk/>

At Southwold, through assemblies, PSHE lessons and class council meetings, we regularly teach our pupils about staying alert and safe when travelling to and from school. Our Junior Road Safety Officers also receive training from the team at Hackney about how to promote safe travel behaviour from children, parents and school staff.

The school remain in regular contact with Hackney Council who have acknowledged our concerns alongside those of councillors. A parent group is also actively campaigning for a formal crossing.

If you have concerns regarding Hackney's road safety measures around the school, these can be raised directly with Councillor Ian Rathbone, who is also our local authority appointed school governor ian.rathbone@hackney.gov.uk

Thank you for your support with this very important issue and for working together with us to ensure our pupils are safe on their journey to and from school.

Yours Sincerely,

Rachael Carr
Headteacher



The Federation of  Orchard Primary School  Southwold Primary School  Hoxton Garden Primary School

Headteacher: Ms Rachael Carr

Executive Headteacher: Ms Rachel Davie

Address: Southwold Primary School, Detmold Road, London, E5 9NL Email: adminsouthwold@vs.hackney.sch.uk Tel: 020 8806 5201 Web: www.southwold.hackney.sch.uk

