

New road safety camera car for schools

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The car will patrol the area immediately outside schools at pick-up and drop-off times, issuing £70 Fixed Penalty Notices to cars parked illegally – and unsafely – from next month.

The scheme is being brought in following concerns from head teachers about dangerous parking outside their schools and forms part of a wider initiative – the Parents' Parking Pledge – which encourages parents and carers across York to pledge their support to parking safely and considerately when taking their children to and from school.

Whilst similar 'Parking Promise' schemes have helped to raise awareness in schools in other areas across the UK, such as Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire, alone they do not completely prevent parents/carers from parking inappropriately.

The use of CCTV camera cars has proven successful in other authorities in deterring illegal parking and thereby increasing safety around schools. It will also be able to visit schools more frequently than enforcement officers alone are able to do.

Cllr Janet Looker, Cabinet Member for Children's Service at City of York Council, said: "Over the past 20-years the percentage of children travelling to school by car nationally has doubled. In York around 30 per cent of primary and 10 per cent of secondary school children are now driven to school, the majority of these journeys are less than one mile.

"Working with schools and parents we hope to further highlight that there are other options available than driving to school, but if parents choose this option then we want to encourage them to do this safely and join this scheme to make children feel safer on their way to and from school.

"Many head teachers have expressed concerns to us about the inappropriate parking outside their schools and in response to these concerns we are introducing the road safety camera car. However, we hope that by highlighting the Parking' Parents Promise scheme it will help raise even more awareness and help further reduce poor parking around schools."

Jane Nellar, head teacher of St.Lawrence C of E VA Primary School, said: "We all want our children to be safe; if this initiative saves the life, or prevents the injury, of even one child and makes drivers think carefully about where to park, then it will have had a great impact."

Deputy Chief Constable Tim Madgwick, of North Yorkshire Police, said: “I am very pleased that North Yorkshire Police are supporting this campaign which I know is very important to parents with young children at school.

“It is really important that the roads around schools are as safe as possible and hopefully this campaign will prompt people to be more considerate and bear the safety of children in mind.

“It’s great that the children at schools in the City of York are getting involved in promoting the scheme and I would encourage as many people as possible to take part, back the campaign and help make our children safer.”



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