



VARDYS ROAD PUBLIC SCHOOL

Quality Education in a Caring Environment

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23rd May 2018

SCHOOL CAR PARKS

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Every school struggles with the ongoing issue of parking and similar to most schools, Vardys Road Public School is no exception, with the school trying to juggle parent convenience, limited car parking in adjacent streets and the most important consideration, child safety.

In light of a 2017 tragedy at a Department of Education school, a health and safety audit/risk assessment was carried out with our Work Health & Safety consultant. After further discussions with Jigsaw OOSH, the teachers and the P & C, the school has reviewed some of its guidelines for the use of the Vardys Road staff car parks. The changes, which will come into effect from **Monday 28th May**, will minimise the use of the staff car parks during times when our staff need to park for work and students will be crossing the driveways, as they walk along the Vardys Road footpath. It is suggested that when families travel to school, that parents allow plenty of time to park in either the Solander Road Shopping Centre car park or one of the local streets, a short distance from our school gate and walk the remainder of the way.

We will trial the following changes for the remainder of Term 2:

- **Between 7:30am and 4:00pm, we advise that the school staff car parks are only for the use of Vardys Road staff. The car park gates will be closed from 9:15am to 3:15pm. This is for the safety of all members of our community.**
- **Due to the size of the smaller car park, adjacent to the office, parents are instructed not to use it at all.**
- **Parents who need to use the car park for Jigsaw OOSH pick-ups and drop-offs are advised that this may be done before 7:30am and after 4:00pm. We will ensure that the back gate is unlocked (but closed) until 4:00pm for Jigsaw OOSH access during these hours. Jigsaw OOSH staff members currently unlock the back gate at 6:30am each day – this will continue.**
- **Parents who need to park their car between the hours of 7:30am and 4:00pm will need to utilise the adjacent streets or the Solander Road Shopping Centre car park at the back gate. Our school's pedestrian entrances (back gate/front gate) will be closed but unlocked.**

Parents and carers also need to be mindful that they do not block the neighbours' driveways or use the neighbouring childcare centres' driveways/car parks to park their cars. It not only inconveniences our neighbours and the users of the child care centres, but also jeopardises their safety as well as the safety of Vardys Road children walking past.

The above procedures are being reviewed by the Health and Safety Committee and there may be further Department of Education changes implemented in due course, to ensure the safety of our students at all times.

I thank you in anticipation of your understanding of this very important safety issue. Please feel free to contact me at school if you have any questions or concerns.

Ian Short
Principal