



10<sup>th</sup> May 2024

## Not in front of the children

Dear Parents and Carers

What is going on? I feel I have been plunged into some sort of dystopian 'Parents behaving badly' sitcom. In the space of two weeks, we have had:

- A serious 'parking rage' incident on Downs Way – with aggressive exchanges between parents causing distress for a large number of our smallest children
- An exchange around the school gates at school pick up time, with one parent showing threatening behaviour towards another

If these exchanges had happened between children within the school gates, there would have been serious consequences!

On top of this, we have an increasing number of children who are showing higher levels of anxiety than usual – some of which is displaying as anxiety about being in school away from their parents. We are working extremely hard to help them realise that some anxiety is normal, but that most of the things we worry about do not actually happen, and that school is a safe place. These incidents are not helping!

As a school, we are committed to enabling your children to learn how to be good citizens, and good people – living out their values, not only when times are good, but also during time of stress. Children need consistent messages – and they need to have the behaviours we expect of them modelled by all the adults around them.

I am grateful to one parent who contacted me about one of these issues leading their message with:

Tolerance towards all

Goodwill towards all

I hope and pray that, with God's grace, we can all find forgiveness in our hearts – and live together in peace and harmony, helping all our children to flourish.

Yours

Sarah Lewis

Confidently Me    Belonging Together    Challenged to Contribute

