



Dear Parents

31 January 2020

### **School Site Security update**

We thought it would be helpful to provide you with a brief update after the first week of operation of the new arrangements for site access which are supporting the safeguarding of all children and staff as well as site security at Greenway.

Thank you for your cooperation with these new arrangements. We are very conscious of the fact that these changes may cause some inconvenience for parents/pupils particularly Nursery families but can only repeat that our safeguarding responsibilities have to take priority over ease of access to the site.

A very small number of communications have been received from parents around the issue which have been shared with the Chair of Governors and Chair of the Personnel, Finance and Premises Committee. We would like to reassure all parents/carers who have written that their feedback/suggestions had in fact already been discussed at some length by governors.

By way of general feedback:

- Like Greenway, St Thomas More have their own safeguarding duties for their school community and cannot have unknown persons walking through their school site (no matter that they may be collecting pupils from Greenway) other than at the start and end of the school day.
- As mentioned in our letter dated 24.1.20 Greenway does not have the staff resource to open and close the side gate at the start and end of the day and very unfortunately definitely does not have the capacity to do so at lunchtime to aid ease of access to the Greenway site for Nursery parents.
- Installing an electronic keypad system is prohibitively expensive – the school is positioned in the middle of a large site and there is no electricity supply to the side gate (or the school main gates). The school does not have the funds to support this.
- If anyone is determined to enter the site they will do so regardless of security measures in place. However, it is important that we provide some sort of deterrent. Further youths were on the school roof last weekend.
- The school catchment area is very small so we are not envisaging that it will be necessary for anyone to drive as a result of these new arrangements. Access can be gained to the site via the Crossways entrance or the St Thomas More entrance on Greenway at the start and end of the day, both of which are a short distance from the side gate. Whilst we would not wish to encourage driving to school parking should not be an issue for Nursery parents a lunchtime.

We can only repeat that we are as frustrated as you are by the situation and will continue to closely monitor the situation and will discuss the matter further at our next governors meetings and listen to

any further concerns at Parent Forum in March. However please do contact us if you have additional concerns and/or would like further clarification of the points raised in this letter.

Regards

Katharine Ellwood  
Head Teacher

Elizabeth O'Reilly  
Chair of Governors.

