



SUNLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

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IMPORTANT UPDATE ON DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP PROCEDURES

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I trust this message finds you well.

I am writing to inform you of an important decision made by the school's management regarding the drop-off and pick-up procedures for learners. Effective immediately, parents and guardians will no longer be permitted to drive onto the school premises for drop-off or collection of their children.

This decision was not made lightly, and we fully appreciate the potential impact on traffic in the surrounding area, particularly in Kenwyn. However, it is important to note that the Western Cape Education Department (WCED) provides clear guidelines discouraging schools from allowing parents to drive onto school property due to the significant safety risks posed to learners.

Since assuming my role in 2021, I have been particularly concerned about student safety, especially during the period of COVID-19, when school routines were adjusted. Over the past few years, I have observed several incidents that have heightened these concerns. Unfortunately, the likelihood of an accident has become increasingly apparent due to unsafe driving behaviours on school grounds. In the past week alone, staff members have encountered incidents of disrespect from a few parents, further complicating the challenges we are addressing.

Additionally, there have been instances of property damage, including a recent case where a grandparent's vehicle was damaged, as well as a dent on one of our teachers' cars. Despite clear chevron markers being placed by our foreman to indicate a hazard in the tarred area, a parent drove over them, disregarding safety precautions. These events, coupled with numerous complaints from parents regarding non-compliance with school instructions and general disrespect, have underscored the need for immediate action.

The school's notice board explicitly advises parents not to park on the left-hand side of the road. Regrettably, this request is frequently ignored, requiring staff to repeatedly remind parents and grandparents to move their vehicles. Such behaviour disrupts dismissal procedures and makes traffic management increasingly difficult.

This decision has been thoroughly discussed with staff and the School Governing Body, taking into account the ongoing safety concerns and challenges. The well-being and security of our learners, as well as the safety of our teaching staff, remain our highest priorities. It is also essential to emphasise that teachers have the right to park on school premises, and we are committed to safeguarding their access.

We kindly ask for your understanding and cooperation as we implement this change. While it may require adjustments to your routine, we firmly believe that this measure is in the best interest of everyone's safety.

Going forward, the procedures will be as follows:

- **Morning drop-off:** A drop-and-go system.
- **Afternoon collection:** A pick-up-and-go system.

We will closely monitor traffic patterns and make any necessary adjustments based on our observations.

We understand that procedures vary among schools, but this approach aligns with the practices of most educational institutions.

Thank you for your continued support, cooperation, and understanding and we ask that you please do not spread false information.

Warm regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Rhode', written in a cursive style.

Mrs M Rhode
Principal
2025-01-20