



April 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

As a cluster of local schools serving the Chessington community, we are keen to work together with our families to develop positive relationships and interactions across our school communities and to safeguard all of the pupils within our care.

With this in mind, we want to share some guidance for our parents/carers about safe and appropriate use of local parks and playgrounds. We are aware that as the weather begins to improve and the afternoons/evenings become lighter, many of our families will make use of the various recreational spaces around Chessington following the school day, such as: Churchfields, King Edwards rec, Sir Francis Barker rec, RAF Chessington playground, Jubilee Wood, King George's rec, Pear Tree Close playground, Woodgate Avenue playground to name but a few.

Every year we have reports of primary school-aged children spending time in the local parks without any adult supervision and are also aware that there will often be secondary school pupils making use of these areas too.

Whilst we appreciate that many of our older primary school pupils will be making their own way home without an adult, we are keen that our families set clear boundaries to ensure that they know where their children are at all times after school hours. We are asking that our parents/carers of primary school-aged children ensure that they are not allowing their children to spend time in the local parks and playgrounds after school without adults there to supervise.

Schools sometimes receive reports of behaviour incidents and concerns within groups gathering in these spaces, sometimes involving interactions with older pupils, which can leave pupils in a vulnerable position and would be avoided if they were being supervised.

We ask that parents/carers of secondary school pupils ensure that they have discussed with their children the types of behaviour that are/are not appropriate when making use of these spaces and ask them to consider their behaviour towards younger pupils that they encounter within these spaces too.

We are keen for our families to make use of these local parks and playgrounds as spending time outside and being active is an important part of leading a healthy lifestyle, but we also want to ensure that the spaces are respected and looked after by those using them.

We also want to ensure that the interactions that our primary and secondary pupils are having within these spaces are positive ones which are where adult supervision is vital.

Assuring you of our best attention and support for our children at all times,

The South of the Borough Headteachers group.

Mr A. Ali - Headteacher, Chessington School
 Mrs D. Johnson - Headteacher, Castle Hill Primary School
 Mr N. Smith - Headteacher, Southborough High School
 Mr A. Novak - Head of Spring School
 Mr B. Walsh - Headteacher, St Phillips School

Mrs E. Evans - Headteacher, St Paul's CE Primary School
 Mr R. Meakin - Headteacher, Lovelace Primary School
 Mrs L. Keogh - Headteacher, Ellingham Primary School
 Mrs E. Lawlor - Headteacher, St Mary's CE Primary School
 Mrs. J. Botha-Smith - Headteacher, Tolworth Girls School