

• Case Study South: Jul-Sep 2019. Birdwell Primary/Upperwood Academy Primary/ High View Primary Learning Centre and Jump Primary School.

Birdwell Primary, Upperwood Academy Primary, High View Primary Learning Centre and Jump Primary School were schools which have been identified by Local Area Councillors to be part of a case study in which leaflets have been handed out to parents warning them of the dangers of parking illegally outside their child's school. As part of this operation, a parking amnesty was in place for the first 4 weeks of the school calendar, in which our officer issued verbal warnings and reminded them of the dangers/illegality of where they have parked and moved them on, warning them that if they were caught again in the future a PCN would be then issued to them.



Birdwell Primary School

Only one of the four schools to employ a lollipop person, Wendy Jones. This school was probably the best of the four visited. Not really any problems with the parents who dropped their children off at the school. Our officer only witnessed 4 cars pulling up in the restricted area's during the entirety of his 3 visits there, all of which were spoken to by our officer and a leaflet given to them warning them of the dangers as well as giving them a warning that if they did park there again whilst he was present a PCN would be issued. The officer noticed that whilst the parents do not park on the Zig-Zag areas, they do however all pull up down one of the side streets at the side of the school, Hay Green Lane on both sides of the road, which creates lots of problems. However this street is not enforceable as there are no parking restrictions on it. Wendy Jones, who has 10 years' experience in her role, also confirmed that this was the major parking issue at this school when our officer had a chat with her and that nobody hardly ever parks on the yellow Zig-Zags, or if they try to, they are quickly moved on by herself.





Jump Primary School

Again our officer found the Yellow Zig-Zags not the major problem for parking, as again during his 3 visits he only had to warn 4 parents for parking there. The majority of the flyers here were all issued on the single yellow lines which go around the corner at the bottom of the hill. Lots of parents were found to be parking in this area as well as the opposite side of the road to the Zig-Zag markings where there are no markings at all? The parents who parked around the corner at the bottom of the hill are the main problem as they are causing the traffic to back up on both sides of the bend, with some vehicles seen to go around the bend far too quickly. Some parents asked our officer if part of the field could be made into a car park to alleviate the problem. Ideally both sides of the road should have the Yellow Zig-Zag markings and not just the one side. The school is set back from the road, which is probably why just one side is marked up, but because of the parking at the bottom of the hill and on the bend, our officer described it as “an accident waiting to happen” also describing it as “Wacky races at times” with cars who have dropped off, pulling out in front of other cars coming around the bend.



High View Primary Learning Centre

The major problem with enforcing the Yellow Zig-Zags at this school is purely down to the length of them (not helped by the bus stop being part of it). Lots of parents were seen to park on the zig-zags to drop their children off, but quickly drove away, just as quick as they pulled up. Our officer spoke to some of them (19 in one visit alone) on his visits and handed out flyers/warned them for future reference, but for as many cars he did manage to speak to, there were twice as many who he couldn't get to in time to have a word with them. Enforcing the lines would take a number of officers to sufficiently cover the full length of the lines, but even then, due to the parents just pulling up to drop off, there would not be enough administration time to issue the ticket IAW the regulations. Again no markings on the opposite side of the road is causing problems, as this is always full of cars, which again is forcing passing cars further into the road. The school is fully aware of the problem of parents just pulling up and dropping children off, as our officer was shown a newsletter that the school had sent out to all parents, but the message doesn't seem to be getting across, as all of his visits were the same.





Upperwood Academy Darfield

Probably the worst of the four schools visited, with 23 flyers handed out in one visit to the school for those pulling up on the Zig-Zag's. The road down to the entrance to this school is quite narrow which causes lots of problems as well. Upperwood also has the added problem that it has multiple entrances. The Co-op on Barnsley road also has double yellows with blips outside it as well as a bus stop. Multiple cars also pulled up here as well to drop off, which caused problems for the buses to actually stop at the bus stop. Because of this we had to deploy the rest of the team to cover this side to move the cars on and warn them for future reference. Dartree Close, the street at the side of the school entrance is always full of cars as well. They are parking on the bend of the road and on the pavement stopping people with pushchairs being able to get by. Some of the cars parking on the bend were actually owned by the teachers. However this road is not enforceable so our officer could only offer out friendly advice to those parking there. Cars at this school would even drive into the entrance of the school and go into the staff car park or even block the entrance itself to drop the children off, even though signs ask them not to. There is a car park at the Co-op, although our officer was told by some parents that they are not allowed to park in there at school times, but the car park was always full on each occasion.



Flyers were left at the reception of each school so that they could be picked up at any time or given out by the school receptionist. At each school visited, the Head teachers and staff were really supportive of the actions being taken and praised Barnsley Council on taking the initiative in an attempt to combat the problems. The praise was also echoed by about 90% of the parents as well, with the majority of them understanding and welcoming. South Area Council have also received feedback from some parents, all of which has been passed on to the teams, virtually all of which has been praise-worthy.