



Rawmarsh Ashwood Primary School  
Ashwood Road,  
Parkgate,  
Rotherham  
S62 6HT

Wednesday 23rd November 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Rawmarsh Ashwood, we are very proud of the partnership we build with our children and their families. We understand that you know your children best and that we have the privilege to teach them for a relatively short period of time each day. This means we take any concerns you have seriously and will always endeavour to take steps to alleviate them as quickly as possible.

Recently, a group of parents expressed concerns over the 'open nature' of our site; in particular, the ease of access onto our playground. Although the letter was anonymous, the concerns within it may well be shared by more of our families, so I felt that I should respond to everyone.

Our school has always been a caring and supportive one, where parents and carers are warmly welcomed. The school has three points of access onto the site: the playground gate, the gate from the staff car park and the rear deliveries gate. At present, only the rear gate has a secure magnetic lock, controlled from the kitchen. Clear signs around the staff car park make it clear that the gate is to be kept closed at all times and is not accessible to parents. The playground gate is kept closed, but access is required in the morning, at lunchtime for the F1 parents and at the end of the school day.

Children are never allowed on the playground unsupervised and staff are trained to check the gate is closed at the beginning of each playtime. Signs also prompt visitors to close it securely behind them. At lunchtime, our SMSA staff follow a routine whereby they patrol the area around the gates and the grassed area, ensuring that children are playing safely. There are always at least 2 members of staff at any one time. We believe that staff vigilance is key to the safety of our children and I will ensure that this message is understood by every member of staff.

It is important to note that the safeguarding of our pupils has passed two Ofsted inspections without any concerns raised, as well as a local authority health and safety inspection last year. However, to ensure we are not putting your children unnecessarily at risk, I have requested an additional health and safety site audit from an independent adviser working on behalf of the Wickersley Partnership Trust. Whilst I don't want our school to look like a 'prison' with an ugly security fence, I have requested a quote for a magnetic lock and intercom system on the main gate, for consideration by school leaders.

I hope that that alleviates any concerns and reassures everyone that the safety of your children is our highest priority.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs K Levesley  
Head of School

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