

Friday 17 November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Some of you have probably noticed an increased police presence around our school over the last few days. I am sending you this letter in order to explain the reasons behind this but also reassure you that Priory remains a safe school for all children and staff.

Firstly, I would like to confirm that the police presence is unrelated to recent events with the conviction of a man planning an attack on the school. This matter is now closed with the man being convicted on all charges and awaiting sentencing in December.

Unfortunately, the last few weeks we have had some anti-social behaviour by three teenage boys outside and around our school. I can confirm that none of them are our students and they are not part of the school community.

In my relentless pursuit for excellence for our students and staff, I find such behaviour unacceptable and below the standards that I set for our school community and I have asked the police to take a robust approach on this matter. I believe that it is of the utmost importance that students and staff can travel to and from school without witnessing such deplorable behaviour by a very insignificant minority.

Furthermore, I know that the same people have caused significant disruption in and around our community with their behaviour, at times abusive and threatening. Many local residents have emailed me about them and I know that the local businesses also face similar issues. I believe that schools should be a beacon of support and collaboration with the overall community and try everything they can to resolve such matters. I engage with residents at all times for such matters, I take a robust approach to anti-social behaviour and I meet the local businesses regularly to offer my support, listen to their issues but also plan with them collaboratively as to how we can improve our community.

In order to resolve the issue of unacceptable behaviour outside the school gates, I have taken the following steps to raise the issue and try to resolve it. I have spoken with the Police Commissioner for Avon and Somerset explaining the situation and asking for her intervention. Equally, I have engaged with the Chief Inspector for North Somerset and two inspectors responsible for coordinating anti-social behaviour strategy for Weston-super-Mare.

In addition to this, I have asked for an appointment with our local MP, John Penrose, to explain face to face the issues that this kind of behaviour are causing on a daily basis for the local residents of this great community. I am very grateful to the police and their intervention, support and help over the last few days.

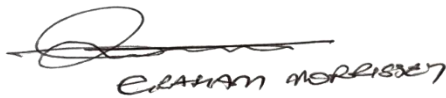
Ultimately, the actions of these few individuals outside our school gates does not reflect the fantastic culture and ethos on the inside. I want you to feel reassured about the police presence that as a school we take such matters very seriously and we will do the best we can to resolve them.

Yours sincerely,



Mr A Markoutsas  
Principal

On behalf of the PCSA Academy Council Members



Mr G Morrissey  
Chair



Mrs M Cox  
Vice Chair & Parent Governor