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## **A message from PCSO Julie Lewis**

### **Cheltenham Neighbourhood Policing Team**

It saddens me to hear that the standard of driving and parking around the school seems to have seriously declined.

We are in a time of change around the area, with the local community growing, your lovely primary school expanding and the new Leckhampton High School opening back in September.

With this comes the need to be ever more cautious, careful and observant whilst using the roads, whether that be driving, cycling or walking.

I am hearing that there have been near misses and other incidents endangering the children and pedestrians outside the school, and in Church Road.

With driving comes great responsibility and I would ask that each and every one of you using the roads around the school thinks and acts very carefully.

- Could you park further away from the school?

- Take note of the road markings in front of the school. They have been carefully considered and are there to allow maximum safety and vision directly outside of the school.

-The children are excited when they come out of school and full of excitement at seeing you and pent up energy after a day at school. Please think on behalf of the children, they've been concentrating all day and may not notice you reversing, or turning into the road, or leaving a parking space.

- Do not mount the pavement. Very RARELY there may be an obstruction or road works such that you have no alternative, but the highest degree of caution should be taken at all times. Stop first to take proper stock of the situation. Make no manoeuvres without checking for pedestrians and that it is safe.

- Please keep a close eye on the children you are picking up from school. Get them to walk on the inside of the pavement rather than the road side of the pavement and in single file if the path is narrow.

-Please remember not to cross the road behind or just in front of parked vehicles. If there is no choice then check whether the engine is running - is the driver likely to be pulling out?

Choose the safest places to cross and go back to the basics of looking and listening until safely across the road.

If you witness a traffic incident or near miss outside the school, please report this to the Police via 101 or online at [gloucestershire.police.uk](http://gloucestershire.police.uk) and also to the County Council including as much detail as you can about the incident such as the date, time and the number plates of vehicles involved if possible and what happened.

**PLEASE TAKE CARE AND EXERCISE CAUTION.**