



# Heathcote School & Science College

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Headteacher: Sonia Close NPQH, B.ed, MA



Dear Parents/Carers,



We have become aware from our duties on Station Road and the presence of the ASB team that Station Road E4 is becoming a place frequented by young people from the local area and surrounding schools, some of whom are older and are engaging in anti-social behaviours.

The numbers of young people gathering by the library has escalated in recent months whereby many local people such as shopkeepers, primary school children and parents, elderly residents and passers-by are being intimidated by this group.



We have seen groups of youths gathering outside of the library from different areas and some have known gang affiliations where grooming is occurring. The presence of this group of young people has resulted in incidents of physical altercations, verbal abuse, bottles being thrown, fireworks being set off, buses being forcibly accessed and some of incidents of smoking and distributing cannabis to school children.



In order to ensure that Heathcote pupils are safe we expect **all Heathcote pupils to have vacated this area by 3.45pm and preferably active avoidance of the area is advised.**



We are reiterating the need for all parents/carers to actively insist that their children only attend Station Road if this is a necessity for access or onward travel. We have seen some Heathcote pupils loitering with no intention of leaving the area as numerous buses come and go. The excuse regarding buses not running is simply untrue, all buses frequently run up and down Station Road. It is for their safety that they need to leave the area and head home.



As a staff body we can only inform parent/carers of our concerns and factual knowledge of what is occurring in this area and of our significant safeguarding concerns. We are in constant contact with the Anti-Social Behaviour team at Waltham Forest, the Metropolitan Police and social services regarding the conduct of young people in this area. These agencies do what they can but ultimately we, as Heathcote staff, cannot guarantee your child's safety and wellbeing in the community, especially this far away from the school site and after school hours. **We are therefore reliant on your parental control to set boundaries and expectations regarding the location, and behaviour of your child after school.**



We will endeavour to be active in the community as much as we can but I am sure parents/carers appreciate that teachers are not duty bound to remain on community duty until late afternoon, after all we are simply teachers wanting to educate young people and keep them safe but we need to work together on this.



If you choose to allow your child to be at Station Road after this time we politely request that they return home and get changed.



If pupils are persistently seen in this area in uniform after 3.45pm we will request that you collect your child from school at 3pm until further notice.

May we thank you all for your assistance and support in this safeguarding matter.



Sonia Close  
Headteacher