

**Dorset Elementary**  
**SAFETY FIRST Drop off and Pickup Policy for Parents**

Please take the time to review our policy AND REMEMBER it is not only the safety of your child but ALL children we are asking you to think about.

In previous generations most children walked to and from school and we realize that this no longer reflects the majority. This new reality has different challenges of keeping your children safe and we are constantly keeping this at the forefront of our decisions. We will continue to monitor the safety of our students and adjust as needed BUT it also requires conscientious parents, thinking of ALL our students when dropping and picking up.

At the end of the day while our staff is busy behind the doors helping with backpacks, mittens and guiding students to either, buses, daycare and drop offs, we ask that you monitor and follow these guidelines on the outside to ensure no child is ever in a dangerous situation. SAFETY FIRST must at all times be our priority.

**MAIN ENTRANCE U PARKING**

Except for 2 reserved Staff parking spots, parents have lots of room to park their cars along the sides of the main U. Please note that we highly recommend leaving space at the entrance and exit of this U as it is a bit narrow if cars were to park along both the inner and outer edges.

Please be sure to leave the pedestrian walkways clear and DO not block them with a parked car.

**MORNING and AFTERNOON:** Parents using parking should drop off their child(ren) at the gate **and** pickup in front of the gate, entering and exiting using the pedestrian walkways.

**WALKING PARENTS**

**MORNING:** Parents walking their child should use the pedestrian walkway and drop off at the gate.

**AFTERNOON:** Parents walking to greet their child should wait in front of the gate exit using the pedestrian walkways.

**DROP OFF & PICKUP U**

Parents using this option should cue up in the circle, making use of the full circle and **NOT** stopping in front of the entrance gate if the U is not full. Parents who do this are creating traffic congestion on the road. As per the diagram, cars should cue up in single file in the middle, leaving both sides free for pedestrian traffic. Many parents have been pulling up along the edges, blocking a path for children to walk safely. If you choose the

DROP OFF & PICKUP U, please be courteous and patient for those cars ahead of you as they may be waiting for their child. Within 5-10 minutes all our students have been released and we ask that you follow the traffic flow. Some parents have reversed out of the U which is highly dangerous for ALL. If you don't have the 10 minutes to spare, then kindly choose another parking area. SAFETY FOR ALL, must come first.

### **RECOMMENDED STREET PARKING ZONES**

We cannot stress enough the importance of finding a safe spot to park your car. The less circulation of cars, the safer we will be. When parking along Dorset, we would appreciate that parents park along the west side (school side) only, leaving the east side (private houses) free so traffic can circulate along the road.

MORNING and AFTERNOON:

We are asking that all parents parking use the pedestrian paths and gate 1 ONLY. PEDESTRIANS must not use the car drop zone for a walking path, this is UNSAFE. Students are not permitted to play in the yard until all of the students have been dismissed and the teacher on duty has closed the door. You are responsible to watch your children at this point/

### **NON RECOMMENDED STREET PARKING ZONES**

We strongly discourage cars from parking along the **east** side of Dorset road, even though the signs permit it in some areas. With the winter snow, the road becomes too narrow if we use both sides of the street for parked cars, again resulting in traffic congestion and an UNSAFE scenario for our students.

### **ILLEGAL STREET STOPPING ZONES**

There are **NO STOPPING ZONES** along our street and we ask all parents to respect these. It IS a SAFETY FIRST issue and we do not want any risks taken, with yours or any student. Each day, we see parents using these areas and sadly this means each day a child is being put at risk. PLEASE take the extra time to find a safe spot!

### **PEDESTRIAN WALKWAYS**

It is paramount that we maintain the entrances of these walkways free for pedestrians, some parents do not seem aware that by blocking them, they are putting our students in an UNSAFE SITUATION.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Dorset Elementary School