



London Borough of Haringey

St. MICHAEL'S C. of E. PRIMARY SCHOOL
North Road, Highgate, London N6 4BG

Headteacher - Amanda Szewczyk - Radley
Deputy Head - Lorna Ross

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to share with you our plans for improving security of the school site.

St Michael's enjoys very spacious grounds, which the entire school community is able to enjoy throughout the year. These grounds are currently unsecured, meaning that anyone, including our children, can walk onto or off the site at anytime. We are in the minority of primary schools in the country where this is the case.

Over the years there have been a number incidences of unwanted visitors coming onto the school premises and also of children walking off site unaccompanied.

Following discussions with Haringey, the London Diocesan Board of Schools (LDBS), the Head and her staff, the Governors have decided to make the site more secure. To help make this possible the LDBS is giving us a grant of approximately £45,000, which will largely pay for the first phase of this project.

We intend to put up a new fence and gates to secure the perimeter on the North Road side. The fence will be approximately 6ft high. We intend to do some extensive planting alongside the fence so that it will blend in with the rest of the site. The lane running along the side of the school from North Rd will have larger, electronically controlled gates to replace the existing barrier.

The improvements will be made in two phases. We have just submitted planning permission for the fence in the top playground and hope to start work on installation in the Spring term.

The gate to secure access from the lane will happen in phase two, which we will be seeking planning permission for later this term. We are in discussion with Highgate School who use the lane and also the residents of North Rd, whose garages back on to the school car park, to agree the best solution.

Drawings showing the plans will be displayed shortly on one of the notice boards in the top playground and also in the school office.

The intention is to make the site more secure for pupils and staff during school hours. The gates will be open at the beginning and end of the day. The school will be accessible for clubs before & after school and provision will be made for lunchtime pick up and drop off of children in Nursery.

Parents and carers wishing to come on to the site during school hours will just need to buzz at the gate and come to the school office to sign-in as usual.

These improvements are also part of a much bigger plan to completely re-develop the foundation stage play area in the near future.

I hope you will agree that it is in the best interests of the children at the school that we progress in this way. If you would like to discuss this with the Governors, please use the Governors section of the school website to contact us directly in confidence.

Karen Revel-Chion,
Chair of Governors.