



ETONBURY  
ACADEMY

**December 5<sup>th</sup> 2016**

**RE: Recent Parent and Carer Survey - Lockers and Bike Helmets**

Dear Etonbury Parents and Carers,

Following the recent extremely positive and helpful Parents and Carers Survey, we have been working on possible solutions to a couple of key areas for improvement that a number of you highlighted.

Going forward, we are going to be using quick surveys to gain your thoughts and views on a range of school matters and initiatives, so I hope you are able to spare a few minutes to give us your thoughts.

Right now, we have some proposals for you that we would like feedback on. Please forgive the amount of detail, but I want to ensure you have all the facts to make an informed judgement.

#### **Issue One:**

##### **Lockers**

This is a substantial challenge that the senior team and I have been looking at for a while now. The growth of the school and the redevelopment of the site add a range of complications to resolving this. The current locker provision isn't adequate for a number of reasons:

- Not enough lockers (particularly given the growth in student numbers)
- Lockers are too small
- Location of lockers is not suitable given the growth and redesign of the school
- The management of the lockers is overly complicated. Replacement keys take time to source.

A key issue here is cost. The initial outlay to provide lockers for all students in the areas needed could be well in excess of £100,000. This is an amount I am not able to find within the school operating budget, and this is likely to be the case going forward. My first priority is to ensure that the school is fully staffed with excellent teachers, and that the site is well maintained and safe. My second big challenge is where to locate them so that students have easy access and we don't unduly add to the number of student movements around the site (student flow is a key consideration for any school).

Therefore I have, with the support of BEST, been looking at another option:

We can enter into an agreement (as a number of schools have very successfully) with an established independent company who provide all the lockers needed at no cost to the school. These are on a

rental basis, and they are booked and paid for directly by parents of students who want them. This is done entirely on-line and is very easy.

The benefits are:

- Every student can have a locker if they wish.
- Siblings can share a locker – simply order two keys.
- The lockers are brand new, and much larger (more than twice the size of the current ones)
- The lockers are fully maintained, regularly cleaned and replaced if needed.
- They are very secure.
- If replacement keys are required, they can be ordered online at minimal cost and are delivered very quickly.
- Any queries, questions, or additional support parents might need is handled by a dedicated team with a rapid response.
- Parents can book specific lockers in specific locations in the school.
- The school will have a master key if needed for emergency access.
- The school can concentrate resources and time on students education.

I've attached a couple of photos here to show you the exact locker we are proposing. These will be mostly inside the school buildings, but we are looking at some further options to provide some outdoor canopied areas for further lockers if required.



The cost per locker will be £25 rental per annum. There is no “profit” for the school in this.

For this to be viable, there will need to be sufficient uptake, and we will need to remove some coat pegs and hooks to make space for them. We will encourage students to store their bags, coats and PE kits in the lockers. They will be located in a number of zones around the site.

## **Issue Two:**

### **Bike Helmets**

A number of parents have raised this as an issue, and I am inclined to agree. Many of our students do wear bike helmets, but a significant number don't, or are inconsistent. I am aware, as a parent myself, that trying to get a child to wear something they don't want to can be a challenge!

We could help parents with this if we informed all students that it is compulsory to wear a protective bike helmet if they are riding a bike to and from school.

I am sure we will all agree that a serious brain injury is the last thing we would want for any of our students, so by making it compulsory this will reduce risk, especially on busy roads and cycle ways.

However, if we do this, we will also need to back this up with sanctions for those who forget or don't comply. We would need your understanding and support in this – a clear and consistent message from both school and home will have the most chance of success.

We would also need to ensure that staff are on the gate, checking and challenging students where necessary.

We will also look at holding a stock of bike helmets here for purchase if that would help.

Please take a few minutes to give us your views and responses, as this will directly inform our next steps.

Survey is here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfnrf56ezrtdOYqnExiPr9baLxtqvJhnp0cEU-0CaMFgX6gw/viewform?c=0&w=1>

Many thanks and kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Prior', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alex Prior

Principal