

A Traffic Code for Lyncombe Vale

(incorporating a One-Way System and Policies for Stopping and Parking)

BACKGROUND

In July 2010 in response to local concerns over the impact of the activities of the Paragon School in Lyncombe Vale, a leaflet was prepared by a small group of residents and delivered to all of the 110 households in Lyncombe Vale, Lyncombe Vale Road and Rosemount Lane. The leaflet asked residents if they were concerned about traffic, parking and road safety as well as noise issues related to the activities of the school.

40% of all householders replied saying that they were concerned about one or more of the issues raised, and 26% of householders described their specific concerns in writing. Using this as a mandate to explore solutions to the problems, a small group of residents initiated a series of meetings with the school. These have resulted in better understanding communication between the school and the residents, as well as immediate improvements to the inconvenience and noise levels associated with some of the school's administrative and estate maintenance practices.

The issues that concerned residents the most were, by far, those related to traffic, parking and road safety. As a result we have now developed a local Traffic Code which we are asking all users of the roads in the vale to observe during school drop-off and pick-up times in term-time.

In preparing this Code we have sought the advice and support of the Council's Highways Department including the Safe Routes To Schools Officer and the Avon & Somerset Constabulary. Although the Code is voluntary and unofficial, we hope that all users of Lyncombe Vale - residents, Paragon parents, and all other visitors - will support it.

While we believe that voluntary observance of the Code will produce the desired improvements in the Vale - and until such time as it is proved otherwise we do not propose to press for formal changes to existing traffic and parking arrangements - we would like everyone to be aware that the police are prepared monitor the system in operation and to use their powers to discourage and, if necessary, penalise inconsiderate or dangerous driving and parking or stopping that is contrary to the law.

Thank you for reading this, and thank you in advance for your observance of the Code, and for encouraging others to do the same. While we appreciate that it may cause you some personal inconvenience - whether you are a parent, a resident or other user of the vale - we believe that if we all observe it, it will help to preserve the vale as a safe and friendly place to live in and to visit.

THE CODE

Many residents and school users already follow an informal one-way traffic system around the vale. This Code is intended to expand this helpful practice by clarifying the route, setting times of operation, and outlining parking practices which will reduce safety risks to pedestrians and other road users.

The Code will only operate at times when traffic congestion in the vale is expected to be at its worst. This will normally be during school drop-off and pick-up times in term-time, which are:

8:00am to 9:00am & 3:00pm to 4:30pm

and at other times to co-incide with occasional events at the school - for example Sports Days - which will be notified in advance to local residents by email, and published on the school's web site and that of the local residents' associations.

In respect of traffic flow, the Code requests vehicle drivers to observe a one-way system during its hours of operation, as follows:

- 1 **ALL TRAFFIC IN LYNCOMBE VALE** (from the junction of Lyncombe Vale with Ralph Allen Drive up to the gates of the Paragon school) **should travel IN A WESTERLY DIRECTION ONLY** (i.e. TOWARDS the gates of the school).
- 2 Parents dropping off or picking up children, and other visitors to the school, should observe the school's published policies for dropping off and picking up children by entering the school through the front gates, and subsequently leaving via the rear gate. Through traffic not requiring access to the school should continue along Lyncombe Vale to the junction with Lyncombe Vale Road and follow the main road as it bends sharply round to the right and up the short incline. **ONLY RESIDENTS OF, AND LEGITIMATE VISITORS TO LOWER LYNCOMBE VALE ROAD SHOULD DRIVE ON PAST THE MIDDLE AND REAR GATES OF THE SCHOOL INTO LYNCOMBE VALE ROAD** and these drivers should exercise **extreme caution** as they pass the rear gate of the school. Drivers turning right out of the rear gate are also asked to exercise **extreme caution**.
Failure to conform to this is contrary both to the school's traffic flow policy and to this local Traffic Code and is likely to compromise the safety of, and cause inconvenience to, children, road users and residents.
- 3 Vehicles exiting the school should **TURN RIGHT OUT OF THE REAR GATE AND FORK LEFT TO JOIN THE ONE-WAY TRAFFIC ALONG LYNCOMBE VALE ROAD UNTIL IT REACHES THE JUNCTION WITH LYNCOMBE HILL**. Residents and other visitors using this section of Lyncombe Vale Road are equally requested to observe this one-way traffic flow towards the top of Lyncombe Hill. On reaching the junction of Lyncombe Vale Road and Lyncombe Hill, through traffic should either turn left into Greenway Lane or right down Lyncombe Hill, **BUT NOT SHARP RIGHT INTO ROSEMOUNT LANE**.
- 4 This Code does allow traffic seeking access to the school, or legitimate access to the residences in Rosemount Lane, Lyncombe Vale and Lyncombe Vale Road, to drive down Rosemount Lane **WHICH SHOULD BE ONE-WAY ONLY GOING DOWN THE HILL, WITH ALL VEHICLES TURNING RIGHT AT THE BOTTOM**. Vehicles trying to gain access to Ralph Allen Drive by turning left at the bottom will at best defeat the objectives of this Code, and at worst ***create dangerous situations as they compete for passage with oncoming traffic on a very narrow stretch of road***, along which children also will also be walking to or from school. The only exception to the one-way flow of traffic down Rosemount Lane should be in favour of residents whose driveways make this impractical or impossible.

When parking or stopping in any of the roads connected with this scheme during the hours of its operation we ask everyone to have particular regard to:

- not obstructing the line of sight of oncoming vehicles, in the interests of safeguarding all road users and especially pedestrians
- ensuring that emergency vehicles will still be able to access all parts of the vale at all times - please remember that fire engines in particular are very large vehicles!
- not obstructing any driveways, pathways or pavements
- avoiding parking or stopping within 5 metres of any entrances or exits, especially the front, middle and rear gates of the school
- in particular, **NOT TO STOP OR PARK WITH THE WHEELS OF THE VEHICLE RESTING ON ANY PART OF THE PAVEMENT** in the area covered by this Code, **ESPECIALLY THE PAVEMENT AT THE BACK OF THE SCHOOL BETWEEN THE REAR GATE AND THE JUNCTION WHERE LYNCOMBE VALE MEETS LYNCOMBE VALE ROAD**.

Finally, Paragon parents are reminded that the school's traffic and parking policies discourage the use of the rear gate for pedestrian access on the grounds of safety - and that parking or stopping nearby in order to allow passengers to walk into this gate is likely to be obstructive to other traffic and compromise road safety for all.