

APPENDIX 3

MONKTON PREP SCHOOL

FOOTPATH DIVERSION APPLICATION: SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

At Monkton Prep, we seek to ensure that we are always doing as much as we can to safeguard our pupils, as part of our duty of care and compliance framework. This however remains particularly challenging for the School due to the public footpath which runs alongside the School's access road down the Church Road junction to the top of the Former Mount Pleasant Quarry.

Over the last 12 months, we have called the police due to a threatening visitor on site, had youths jump the fences onto our AstroTurf pitches and had a significant number of people wandering off the current footpath onto the School site, attempting to get in or make use of our play areas and open spaces.

This unrestricted flow of public pedestrian traffic down towards the School entrance leaves us vulnerable to people attempting to make chance visits onto site, whereas if the footpath were placed on the other side of the allotment wall it would provide a natural barrier to the School, preventing people from attempting to gain access on foot.

As a boarding school we prioritise the safety of our pupils 24 hours a day and it is imperative that we keep children safe while they are in our care. A change to the footpath route would significantly improve the safeguarding of our children, as this currently remains an urgent concern to us.

Our most recent Security Report & Review (November 2021) states:

"Given the sensitivity of protecting children and particularly boarders outside of normal school hours the school needs to do everything within their powers to separate the public from access to the children, particularly as they have a regulatory duty in the form of national minimum standards for boarding schools to prevent that sort of avoidable contact."

Catherine Winchcombe, Head

James Kempton, Bursar