

Council Statement by Mark Bradley
13 February 2025
Road Safety by St Gregory's Catholic College

Good evening, I am Mark Bradley a Parent Governor at St Gregory's Catholic College in Odd Down. One of my roles is as the chair for the Finance and Premises Committee that also looks at matters related to safety.

I was recently given the opportunity to talk to all the staff about Health and Safety and shared some personal stories, including about the Lyme Bay disaster where a group of school children on a canoeing trip drowned. The reason it was personal to me was that at the time I was working at a Hampshire County Council Activity Centre at Calshot. Some of the instructors working there had worked at the Lyme Bay centre prior to the accident and had written to the centre principal, prior to the accident saying, "We think you should take a careful look at your standards of safety, otherwise you may find yourself trying to explain why someone's son or daughter is not coming home."

Following that session encouraging all staff to speak up on any safety concerns a member of staff got in contact about the safety of students once they have left the school site after school. In particular around the junction between the A367 Upper Wellsway and the Old Fosse Road and the two bus stops. Whilst the area does have a pelican crossing it has narrow pavements which get clogged to overflowing and there is no physical barrier between the students and the vehicles on the road.

As a school we recognise the risk of serious injury or death by road traffic accident and have done what we can to mitigate the risk with what the Health and Safety Executive would describe as administrative controls. Staff are asked to go on duty to seek to control students after the school day and off the school site. However, the Health and Safety Executive identify Engineering Controls should be considered before resorting to administrative controls. We have invited BANES officials to look at the risk and they have taken the view that nothing can be done.

Therefore, the purpose of this statement is to ensure that the elected members understand the risk that they own, on the record, and to invite them to re-consider if it is a risk they wish to tolerate or whether there are further mitigations they could put in place before a serious accident occurs.

If any of the members or their officials would like to see in person, the risks the students face the school would be pleased to host them at the end of a school day.