

Here are some of the most common transportation questions and answers – please email feedback to travel@almaprimary.org

- 1) *How long does it take to walk from Totteridge and Whetstone tube station (with a small child)?*
Google maps estimates 8 mins, but with children this is likely to be 12-15 mins.
- 2) *Can you drive into the site through the gate from either direction or only from the left?*
You may turn left or right into the site but must only turn left out of the site.
- 3) *Can we pull up right outside school just for a few seconds to drop off or collect children?*
No. Parking on yellow lines outside Alma at drop off and pick up time, or on the pavement, is not allowed. It creates danger for pedestrians and other road users, adds to congestion and gives a bad impression of the school.
- 4) *Can we use the St John's Hall next door to drop off the children even in the short term prior to when it's sold to someone else?*
No. Parking on private land without express permission is not allowed. It gives a bad impression of the school.
- 5) *How can the school help parents to find out who lives near to them so that we can put together car pooling/rotas? Can you make a map or share the class lists with addresses across years?*
For any parents requiring help with this, please email travel@almaprimary.org and we will send you contact details for up to 5 families on your route with children starting/finishing at the same time as yours.
- 6) *Can we use Drive and Drop for Breakfast Club? Or Park and Pickup for After School Clubs and After School Care?*
Unfortunately not, as whenever the gates are open we have to implement additional security and safety measures. This is not cost effective for breakfast and after school clubs.
- 7) *What part of the playground will not be car park?*
There will be no parking on site other than for drop off and collection – at which times, there will be no requirement for a playground. Conversely,

when the playground is being used by children for play, there will be no cars on site.

The half of the playground between the hall and reception will always be car-free.

8) *Will parents be able to go into the classroom to talk to teachers in the morning?*

Parents who don't use the Drive & Drop can walk their children into school and either leave them at the school doors, or take them to their class. If you want a brief chat with your child's teacher then don't use the Drive & Drop that day.

However, as per our school handbook, you may find it easier to send the class teacher an email and ask them to call you back when they have a chance.

9) *Is there a scooter or bicycle park?*

Yes, there will be scooter and bicycle parking by the end of half term (Feb 2017).

10) *Is there a plan to have a lollipop person on Friern Barnet Lane right outside the school, and/or a zebra crossing?*

Barnet will be looking at the feasibility of putting a zebra crossing on Friern Barnet Lane, near to the school. We will keep families updated on progress with this.

11) *If you're picking up a KS1 child at 3.20 and then staying to be a volunteer running Sibling Club, can you park on site?*

Yes. We have space for up to 4 helpers each afternoon to park on site. These are for the two parents/family members who are on the Park & Pick Up rota and one or two parents helping to run sibling club.

12) *If a car arrives early for a Park and Pickup slot, can it come in early?*

No – the gates will be closed (see above). In order to avoid any problems drivers will only be able to enter the site at their designated times and should not arrive early with the intention of waiting in the road outside as this will cause extra traffic, which adds to congestion and gives a bad impression of the school.

13) *What flexibility will there be if someone who is doing a rota and has permission only to come into the site on some days is ill and another parent is doing the rota that day?*

If a parent is ill and unable to collect, then whoever is collecting in their place can take their slot provided they are still collecting 3 children or more and they have an Alma Parking Badge. If not, they will need to find local parking like everyone else not collecting 3 or more children.

14) *How will the children walking in as pedestrians be safe if they're right next to cars driving in for Drive and Drop?*

This is managed through the location of the gates – separate for pedestrians and vehicles – and a barrier separating the pathway from the driveway; as well as the use of clear communication and common sense by people manning the gates (volunteers and security staff) as well as by parents accompanying children.

15) *Can you delegate your mandatory rota slots to someone else e.g. another parent or a grandparent?*

Slots on the rota are the responsibility of the family named and we are very happy to have grandparents or other family members help with the rota slots. Likewise, it is ok to swap on an ad hoc basis, though we do not encourage this other than where really necessary.

Please email travel@almaprimary.org in good time (i.e. at least the day before wherever possible) to tell us the name of anyone who is helping in place of a parent, so that we know!

16) *What are the rules for Blue (Disabled) Badge holders driving on to the school site?*

The same rules apply regarding timing for all drivers. However, there is no requirement to drop off / pick up a minimum number of children for Blue Badge holders.

Blue Badge holders needing to visit the school other than during drop off or pick up times, should contact the school office in advance to make arrangements.