

19 July 2016

Dear PLC Sydney Community

This letter pertains to the Junior School pick-up. It is not relevant to Senior School families. I include you in the address list in order that you are aware of the current situation - just in case you need to collect a Junior School girl at some point.

Many Junior School parents would have seen representatives from Burwood Council and our school leadership team, including myself, talking on the footpath at the close of the school day today.

The meeting was arranged in order to find a solution to the decision of Burwood Council to take action against drivers queuing to enter the roundabout at PLC Sydney.

Firstly, to recap the history: in 2013, after an extensive traffic survey and report, which we initiated, PLC Sydney presented a proposal to Burwood Council to make a section of Boundary Street a 'one way traffic' street. This proposal:

- Increased substantially the number of pick-up bays (from four to eleven) thus speeding up the whole collection process
- Did not increase the number of cars turning into Young Street

Disappointingly, Burwood Councillors did not support the proposal. Our traffic management was complimented and our current system remained in place.

Secondly, on the penultimate day of Term 2, 2016, with only half an hour's warning, Burwood rangers booked drivers waiting in the queue to turn into the College grounds. This was an unwelcome surprise.

I thus arranged a meeting as soon as possible with the General Manager and with other Council delegates. This occurred today.

I have to report that the short-term news is frustrating. Burwood Council will continue to have a ranger booking drivers that queue on Boundary Street. Their expectation is that drivers should go around the block if there is no space on the driveway to enter the College grounds.

The two possible routes are:

1. Turn left on Young Street and travel with the senior school and Croydon Public traffic around past the station then back via Edwin Street, or
2. Turn right onto Young Street, then right into Gibbs Street and left into Robinson Street, where cars can queue as they wait to turn right onto Boundary Street and left into the College.

Alternatively, they suggest that parents park their cars and walk to pick up their children.

Burwood Council representatives have no power other than to enforce road rules.

I have thus called our local member, Ms Jodi McKay. She received our concerns warmly when I spoke with her during the holiday break. Today she promised to speak directly with the Mayor of Burwood Council to seek to find a workable solution.

She will call me back as soon as she can to tell me how her discussions have progressed. I will keep you informed.

We will be pursuing again our earlier proposal. We will listen to any proposals put by Burwood Council.

In order to try to bring immediate relief to a situation that is frustrating for so many people, I called a meeting of our leadership team today to look at alternatives that we could pursue whilst we await political deliberations to occur. We considered a number of ideas that, sadly, won't assist the issue. I report them to you to indicate our thinking processes:

1. Staggered finishing times: We did not put this in place because many families have more than one child in different year groups. It doesn't solve the problem.
2. Alphabetical staggered finishing times: Whilst this would take students from the one family together to the roundabout, it would be logistically impossible. We couldn't organise the cars to be in the same order as the children and it would almost certainly lengthen the pick-up period
3. An alternative pick-up spot: We considered asking year 3-6 children who have no Evandale sibling to be picked up on Young Street with the senior students. The number of senior students being collected is too large to make us think this would work. We considered the Evandale pick-up ramp and College Street. Neither was suitable.

Thus, much as it is not a good outcome at this point, I do need to ask you to not queue along Boundary Street. You are welcome to park and to walk to collect your daughter.

Transparency and accountability in such matters are very important principles. I expect a reply from Ms Jodi McKay within a week. Whatever the outcome is, I warmly welcome parents to contribute to this conversation. When I receive further information I may call a meeting of interested parents.

Warm regards,

**Dr Paul Burgis**  
Principal