

24 May 2017

Dear Parent/Carer(s)

Millom School prides itself on being a safe and welcoming place for students, parents and other visitors. We want to preserve that sense of safety and welcome but need to make some changes in the light of new guidance from the Department of Education.

You may have heard recently in the local news about site security in relation to schools. In the last eighteen months there has been a significant amount of legislation and guidance relating to safeguarding from the Department for Education. Part of this legislation and guidance relates to ensuring that each school has secure access to its site. Since September Ofsted have been including this in their inspection of schools whilst judging the safeguarding culture of that school. Schools have subsequently been put into special measures by Ofsted, at least in part, as a result of having an open site.

We have taken the decision therefore to improve site security at Millom School. This will be balanced with the movement of children around the school site during the day and access for visitors. This will be achieved partly through additional fencing and partly through magnetic locks on some external doors.

The first phase will begin after half term. This will involve the erection of a fence which runs from the back of the Ulpha building along the edge of the playing fields to the corner of the all-weather pitch. This fence has been provided by Tornado Wire and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their valuable contribution to the school.

The second phase will involve a gate across the staff car park (this is the car park on your right as you come up the school drive) and which will only be accessible by staff. A fence and gate will connect the Melvyn Bragg studio to Ulpha and magnetic locks will be placed on 2 external doors in Ulpha and one on the glass corridor on the side of the Muncaster Building. There will also be a magnetic lock on the door to Reception and visitors will need to press a buzzer to access Reception. The pedestrian access at the Station Hotel entrance will be locked from 9 am – 3 pm and again from 3.30 pm.

Visitors will enter the school site from Salthouse Road and turn left towards the visitor's car park. They will then walk between Muncaster and Ulpha Buildings and access Reception as normal. When there are school events on the school site visitors should access the building through Reception. Community lettings will be given specific information on how to access the facilities.

We wish to continue to keep all our students safe and to make parents and visitors feel welcome to the school. We do not believe that there is any additional concern related to the school site and that Millom School is a very safe place to be. However we do need to comply with the requirement to have secure access to the school.

Yours faithfully



M D Savidge
Headteacher