

PEPPS Polokwane Parking and Road Feedback

24-5-2021

Dear PEPPS Polokwane families

The parent survey did reflect some concerns about traffic flow and parking on our PEPPS Polokwane campus. I would like to start by clearly stating that nobody enjoys the sand road that approaches our school. It does not belong to PEPPS and the municipality has not prioritised tarring it for various reasons. We are in the midst of a re-zoning process and hope that ultimately this road will be tarred.

For PEPPS to tar this stretch of sand/dirt/gravel is prohibitively expensive. It would need to be strong enough to withstand the regular truck traffic on it and this requires a deep bed and significant engineering. PEPPS is committed to not charging excessive fees and to date, we have prioritised building classroom and extra-curricular facilities over building roads. Our mandate is to educate the pupils and this is where the majority of our money is invested. Estimates on the construction of the road are of a similar value to 4 classrooms.

That said three years ago, when we acquired Plot 2, we more than doubled the available parking and road infrastructure on the campus. The school can be accessed on a paved road if car-damage is a concern for a family.

The nature of schools around the world is that they become congested at the opening and closing times. We have staggered these opening and closing times to try and relieve some of the pressure. We have tried to assist with the traffic movement during these times by asking cars not to park in traffic-flow areas. We ask that all parents adhere to the signage on campus and are respectful of our ground team who try to assist in ensuring proper road behaviour during peak times.

The drop-off zone does fill up at times and we encourage parents and transport providers to park in the overflow area indicated on the map. We continue to discourage pupils from being collected and dropped off outside the school gates since this compromises our ability to safely care for them.



I take this opportunity to remind you of our operational hours:

Polokwane Prep School and College: 6h45 – 15 minutes after the last activity (academic or sport) ends.

Polokwane ECD School: 7h00 – 13h00

Please ensure that pupils are collected as punctually as possible. Children who are left to loiter have a way of finding mischief, which is why loitering on campus is discouraged. That said, the College has opened some study venues which are available for independent work to be done before school and after school on certain days. Utilising these facilities can allow some families to avoid peak traffic times on campus.

Our hope is that we can work together to allow everyone to use our road and parking infrastructure with the minimum of frustration. The funds are simply not available at this juncture to further improve our parking and road space. Should any parent be aware of a sponsor who would be willing to complete this project for PEPPS, please let the school or your Parent Forum Representative know.

I thank those families who did communicate through the survey. It helps us to understand what may need attention in the school. I trust that this letter helps to clarify our commitment to do the best that we can to make our school as effective as possible.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to a staff training opportunity on 12-7-2021, school and lessons will start for the pupils on Tuesday 13-7-2021, at all PEPPS Schools.



Yours in healthy and safe education,

Annabel Roberts

PEPPS Executive Head