

9th February 2019

Dear Parents\Carers

YOUTH STRIKE FOR CLIMATE

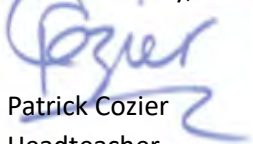
You may be aware that another Youth Strike for Climate is being organised for Friday 14th February. Whilst we do have considerable sympathy for the cause, we are unable to approve any absences for this demonstration. We firmly believe that education, more than protest, is the key driver for social change and every day at school counts.

We do nevertheless recognise that Climate Change is a significant worry and many young people are deeply concerned that not enough is being done. At HWS we remain keen to raise the profile of the cause not only by bringing the discussion into the class rooms but also practically by making adaptations within the school site. You should be aware that we are holding a meeting in school, open to parents and students, on Monday 10th February at 6:00pm, when Mark Harber, our joint chair of governors will be exploring some of the ways in which the school can respond to the environmental crisis and the issues presented by climate change. You may also know that students from several other schools as well as our own, will be taking part in our Model UN Conference on 29th February. The theme of the conference is the Climate Emergency and students will be exploring the issues and possible solutions to the global challenge.

We do understand that some families will still believe that there is an imperative to take part in the Friday strike. If this is the case we would be grateful if you would inform our attendance officer on dki@hws.haringey.sch.uk so we have been notified of, though unable to approve, the absence. Please be aware that we will not authorise absence or give permission to students to leave the site during the school day to attend the strike.

The Metropolitan Police have written to all Headteachers with some information about the proposed strike, asking schools to circulate this to their parents\carers. We attach that letter here.

Yours faithfully,



Patrick Cozier
Headteacher

Highgate Wood School Student Council supports individual action to address the issues of Climate Change and promotes the United Nations top 10 recommendations.





To all Head Teachers

Inspector Kelvin Jackson-Robbins
New Scotland Yard
Victoria Embankment
London SW1A

Email: engagement@met.police.uk

www.met.police.uk

4th February 2020

Dear Sir or Ma'am

Re: Youth Strike for Climate, 14th February 2020

I am Inspector Kelvin Jackson-Robbins from the Metropolitan Police Service. I am part of the command team planning the policing response to the Youth or School Strike for Climate that is being organised for the 14th February 2020. You may recall I wrote a similar letter for the previous event at the end of 2019. I am again taking this opportunity to write to all schools in the London area to explain the role of the police in this protest and provide advice in case any of your parents or their children are planning on attending. I would be grateful if this letter could be distributed to your parents.

The primary role of the Metropolitan Police is the safety and security of all Londoners, and this is especially the case when several thousand young people are congregating in central London. We want to work with all of our partners to keep young people safe, including parents and educational establishments who will be accompanying younger children.

All measures should be taken by parents, guardians, teachers and carers to ensure the safety and well-being of children engaged in the protest. Central London is a busy urban area, and the area around Parliament Square has been the focus of protest for a wide range of issues. There may be other protestors present during the time of this advertised protest. There is always a possibility that some members of these other groups, or other members of the public, may seek to interact positively or negatively with other protest groups, and those attending should be mindful of this.

I would ask attendees to consider the following to maximise safety:

- Travel in groups, and agree beforehand where you will meet up in the event of being separated
- Ensure your phones are fully charged and have credit. At large busy events communication by text message may be more reliable than social media.
- If you lose your phone do you know essential friend and family phone numbers?
- Look at the weather forecast for the day and make sure you are dressed appropriately and have means to have a drink.
- **If you are lost, concerned for another's welfare or are uncomfortable with the behaviour of anyone please approach any police officer.**

I understand climate change is an issue people are passionate about and freedom of assembly and expression, or protest, are rights protected by law. However, whilst protest is legal, please remember any behaviour or activity that would be illegal in normal circumstances remains illegal at a protest.

I also understand there may be concern about the use of conditions following the Extinction Rebellion Autumn Uprising in 2019. The judgement in relation to use of conditions for that event does not mean we are unable to impose conditions and as such it does remain a possibility that the Metropolitan Police will impose conditions on the event. We must balance the rights of everyone to protest against the disruption it causes to the rest of London. Any conditions will only be authorised when the command team are satisfied the protest is causing *serious* disruption to the community, or the (less likely) scenario that serious disorder or serious damage to property is likely to result. Imposing conditions on an assembly is a step taken very seriously by the Metropolitan Police and is only considered when proportionate and necessary. Should conditions be authorised, we will ensure they are well publicised through our news and social media channels.

Some websites that offer advice about how to protest often refer to “kettling” which is not a term used by the Police Service. Containment, as “kettling” is properly known, is a tactic the police use only when there has been serious criminality, or we fear an immediate threat of harm to people or property. It cannot be used as a tool to dissuade people from protesting.

At any event, Officers may put in cordons to close streets, to allow us to respond to an incident or to ensure safety of public or officers. If you’re not sure if you can go down a particular way, please ask an officer.

For further information, please visit our website www.met.police.uk/advice. On the day, our twitter feed @MetPoliceEvents will be posting information relating to the event.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kelvin Jackson-Robbins', with a horizontal line underneath.

Inspector Kelvin Jackson-Robbins

On behalf of MO6 Public Order and Resources Command

Useful websites: Please note the MPS is not responsible for external websites

For more information about the role of police in protests, see the House of Commons Library briefing paper “Policing Protests”:

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN05013/SN05013.pdf>

To plan your journey: www.tfl.gov.uk/journeyplanner or follow Twitter @TflTravelAlerts