



7th March, 2019

Dear Families,

Recently the school has learnt that a decision had been made by the Whitehorse City Council (in conjunction with VicRoads) to terminate subsidy funding (effective from the commencement of Term 2) of our School Crossing Supervisors on Churinga Avenue and Orient Avenue (two of our four school crossing sites).

By way of context, to be eligible for funding, VicRoads requires that certain criteria are met in relation to the number of children and vehicles that utilise a school crossing precinct within peak school periods. Based on a survey conducted on Tuesday 13th November 2018 (by Whitehorse City Council and approved by Whitehorse Councillors in January) – both crossings on Churinga Avenue and Orient Avenue failed to meet VicRoads' requirements.

I need to point out a few important facts:

- At no time was our school or school Council notified by VicRoads or Whitehorse City Council that a review of school crossings were being conducted late last year – or since;
- Neither the school or school Council were provided with visibility of the criterium (or its findings) that determines subsidy funding for School Crossing Supervisors;
- The Whitehorse Council or VicRoads never sought to engage or consult with the school or school Council in a partnership approach on this matter at any stage;

As a school community, we all appreciate the value that all our crossings bring: the importance of creating a supervised and safe environment for the well-being of our children and families and; as a school we actively encourage walking to school. The decision by the Whitehorse Council and VicRoads contradicts all of the above and will undoubtedly create an unsafe and congested environment in and around our school.

As a school, two of our values are teamwork and responsibility. As a community and society, we demand and expect trust and transparency (particularly from government and municipality leaders) – all of which has been found severely wanting in this important matter that impacts our community.

To that end, please be assured that on behalf of our school community, School Council with our principal Liz Barr will be pursuing this matter at the highest levels to understand our options and respond unequivocally to the Whitehorse City Council and VicRoads to have this decision overturned.

Best regards

Lloyd Lazaro
School Council President