



**Teddington
School**

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Dear Families

Message from the Metropolitan Police

On Friday 15 March 2019 a Student Climate Protest is being advertised to take place in Parliament Square. A similar protest in February 2019 saw approximately 4-5000 young people take part. These young people ranged in age from pre-school to University students. The protest on Friday is expected to attract similar numbers. The Metropolitan Police Service has a plan in place to provide a proportionate policing response to protest activity, balancing the needs and rights of the protestors with those affected by this event. We want to work with all of our partners to keep young people safe, including those parents and educational establishments who will be accompanying younger children. We would remind parents, guardians, teachers and other carers that:

- 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. 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 protest groups may seek to interact, positively or negatively, with other protest groups, including young people and those attending should be mindful of this;
- Where educational establishments believe that young people are attending the protests but don't require an escort we would ask that advice around their safety and well-being is considered and communicated to them. For example:
- Climbing street furniture or bus shelters can be dangerous and should be avoided. In February's protest 15-20 protestors at a time were climbing and jumping on bus shelters which looked as though they would collapse, causing considerable danger to those on the bus shelters and beneath them;
- Marching in roads or sitting down in roads where traffic is running could be dangerous for protestors and other road users;
- In February's protest a small number of arrests were made where roads were blocked for protracted periods and a small number of protestors lay under the wheels of a bus refusing to move. The Police are reluctant to make arrests during peaceful protest, especially where young people are concerned but we have a duty to minimise the disruption to the wider community in London.

Yours faithfully

Chris Green

Chris Green | Chief Inspector - Operations | MO6 - Public Order Planning & Resources

