

PROPOSED FOOTPATH REDIRECTION:

We have become aware of some local comments that clearly misunderstand the footpath diversion proposals being promoted by Mill Hill School. We address these here:

1. 'Mill Hill School is 'closing' two footpaths on school grounds'

No paths are being closed. Mill Hill School is proposing to redirect two paths to provide the same local connections, while allowing the school to better control access to its grounds. The proposed redirection is entirely across land owned by the school. Additionally, Mill Hill School is not the deciding body. We cannot unilaterally decide to redirect footpaths across our land. We can make an application, but the final decision rests with the London Borough of Barnet or, potentially, central government.

2. 'The footpaths have existed without any safeguarding incidents'

There have been a number of footpath-related safeguarding incidents on school grounds and the school has records of these. Additionally, government guidance on school safety has recently been updated and an independent risk assessment has identified that the current paths represent a clear safeguarding issue. The school's only objective in redirecting these paths is to maintain existing links, while delivering enhanced pupil protection and safeguarding - and we want to act before any serious incident occurs.

3. 'The new footpaths start and end in different locations and rely on an existing right of way along Hammers Lane'

Both proposed redirected footpath routes share a start point with the existing paths. One will start on Hammers Lane in the same location as the current path before running parallel, but separate, to the road as a new adjacent right of way. The other footpath will begin on Wills Grove extremely close to the start point of the existing path.

4. 'The footpath redirections are related to development plans'

Mill Hill School has plans for new buildings around its Quad area. These plans are physically distant from, and completely unrelated to, the proposed footpath redirections. The school's only objective in redirecting these paths is to maintain existing links, while delivering enhanced pupil protection and safeguarding.

Our proposals summarised:

Wills Grove
(unaffected)

**Proposed new footpath
route phase 2**

**Proposed new footpath
route phase 1**

Wills Grove
(unaffected)

**Existing footpath
to be redirected**

**Unchanged footpath through
Arrandene Open Space**

Hammers Lane

Wise Lane

Wills Grove

The Ridgeway

Milespit Hill

