

# School's back

SLOW DOWN FOR SCHOOL ZONES

## Road safety reminders - 2021



The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) Road Safety team is committed to road safety around schools. The safety of children travelling to and from school, by walking or cycling, by school bus or in a private vehicle, and the provision of safe crossings are a key priority for the Department. We all have a role to play in keeping students safe and traffic flowing around schools. We need to co-operate, be patient and abide by the road rules.

All drivers have a responsibility to abide by the road rules  
<https://www.qld.gov.au/transport/safety/rules>

### Slow down around school zones

With the return of Queensland State schools back on Wednesday 27 January, motorists need to remember to slow down in school zones and be mindful of children in and around school areas from the start of the school term. School zones will be back in action with 40km/hr speed limits in place around most school areas, so drivers should be vigilant to look out for signage to make sure they're travelling the right speed and watch out for children crossing the road.

Slowing down in school zones won't make much difference to the trip time, but it could save a child's life.

Here's some **5 tips** for you to keep young children safe:

- Remember children don't have 'StreetSmarts' yet, so slow down for unpredictable and distracted children who will be out and about before and after school.
- Pay close attention to children on bikes, crossing roads, getting on and off buses, and out of cars.
- Use designated drop-off zones where available, don't risk your child's safety (or a fine) by stopping in no-parking areas, and exercise patience during times of congestion.
- Teach your child the safest route to and from school, to only cross at pedestrian crossings, crossing when the green 'walk' sign is showing, or at supervised school crossings when the supervisor has signalled it is safe to cross.



For more information, visit: <https://streetsmarts.initiatives.qld.gov.au/tools-and-resources/tagged/parents#items>

*Always observe speed limits – they are designed to keep children safe*

### Children's crossings and School Crossing Supervisors



A familiar sight around schools is the School Crossing Supervisor. They ensure students and pedestrians who cross the road at the school crossing do so in a safe manner. They use a hand-held 'stop' sign to stop traffic and allow pedestrians to cross the road safely. Motorists must stop and wait until all pedestrians are no longer on the road and the School Crossing Supervisor has safely returned to the footpath. When children's crossing flags are displayed, you must stop and give way to any pedestrians on or entering the crossing (regardless of whether a school crossing supervisor is present or not).

**KEEP OUR SCHOOL CROSSING SUPERVISORS SAFE**

## Don't be hasty, think of your child's safety

Parents are being encouraged to use stop, drop and go (kiss and go) zones or similar facilities when dropping their children at school. The daily drop off and pick up can be stressful, but it should always be safe. Ensuring children's safety in and around school zones and educating them on safe street practices, is a top priority. These zones are in place so a vehicle can stop for a short period of time to drop off or to collect children, moving on immediately to allow other drivers to use the zone. When used correctly, the drop and go zones are very safe and effective, helping reduce traffic congestion around schools. **Remember:**

- **Queue** and stay in your car
- **Wait** until your children arrive - **ensure** seat belts are secure, then leave the zone safely
- It is a **2-minute loading zone** – if your children are not able to be loaded within two minutes, drive out of the zone and re-join the queue.
- **Move** out of the zone if you do not wish to re-join the queue and find a park elsewhere
- Be **considerate** and do not **overstay** your time in the zone.

## Walking together to and from school

Plan your trip to school so you are using pedestrian crossing areas where possible. Always hold your child's hand up until the age of eight. Young children need your help to spot danger, like vehicles coming out of driveways. They can be easily distracted and wander into traffic. Calling your children from across the road for them to come to you is an unsafe practice. Talk to your children about **Stop, Look, Listen and Think** every time they cross the road:

- **Stop** one step back from the footpath or shoulder of the road if there is no footpath
- **Look** continuously both ways
- **Listen** for the sounds of approaching traffic
- **Think** whether it is safe to cross and keep checking until safely across

Remember to **use your elbow** when activating pedestrian crossing buttons at signalised intersections

## Offences in School Zones

Stop on/near pedestrian or children's crossing

Stop at/near bus stop

Disobey no parking sign/ Disobey no stopping sign

Stop on/across a driveway/other access to & from land

Stop on a yellow painted line

Stop on path/strip in built-up area

Double Park

*City Council parking inspectors enforce a variety of parking rules at and around schools to achieve a safer environment for students*

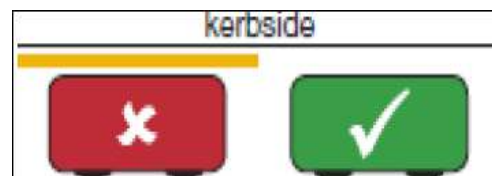
## Bus stops/Bus zones

Unless you are driving a bus (seating more than 12 adults including the driver) you must not stop a vehicle in a bus stop or bus zone. A driver must not stop within 20m before and 10m after a bus stop, to ensure buses have enough room to enter and exit the bus stop.



## Yellow lines

A driver must not stop a vehicle at the side of a road marked with a continuous yellow line. Usually these lines are placed in areas where safety is paramount, such as near marked crossings, on road corners or to ensure safe visibility for vehicles entering or exiting a property.



## Disability Parking Signs



Only vehicles correctly displaying a current disability parking permit can legally park in a disability parking bay. Disability parking permits are granted to persons when their ability to walk is severely restricted by a medical condition or disability.

## REMEMBER – SAFE PARKING MAY SAVE A LIFE

For more information, contact your local TMR Road Safety Officer