

School's back

SLOW DOWN FOR SCHOOL ZONES

Welcome back in 2022

Road safety is everyone's responsibility

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is committed to ensuring road safety around schools. The safety of children travelling to and from school and the provision of safe crossings are a key priority for the department. As all students are welcomed back to school, there will be an increase in traffic and pedestrian movement around your school, so driving safely around school zones will be even more important. Ensuring the safety of children travelling to and from school by walking or cycling, by school bus or private vehicle, is everyone's responsibility. The start of the new school year brings students and parents new to the school environment.

School Zones

School zones are installed to reduce traffic speed near schools during the times indicated in the school zone sign. They are identified by signs which are displayed on both approaches to the school and show the speed limit and the times during which it applies.

Reduced speed limits apply to school zones and areas around schools during drop off and pick-up times. There may be some unsupervised children around school zones who don't always understand or recognise the danger of roads and vehicles. Take care when travelling in and through school zones. **Don't be naughty, check you're doing 40.**

When you are entering a school zone, you will see a school zone sign. The sign will tell you:

* reduced speed limit

* times when this limit is in place



School zones are generally permitted on roads adjacent to schools where there is significant school related activity on and beside the road

Children's crossings and School Crossing Supervisors

CHILDREN
CROSSING

Today a familiar sight around schools is the School Crossing Supervisor. Their role in the school community is to ensure that the students who cross the road at the children's crossing do so in a safe manner.



Children crossing flags are displayed near crossings around schools before and after school hours when children are crossing the road. A children's crossing may be supervised.

School crossing supervisors use a hand-held stop sign to stop traffic and allow children to cross the road safely. When the children's crossing flags are on display, you must stop at the stop bars and give way to any to pedestrians on or entering the crossing (regardless of whether a crossing supervisor is present or not).



When children use the crossing, encourage them to observe the following:

- To wait behind the yellow line as instructed by the school crossing supervisor.
- When a **suitable gap** appears in the traffic from both directions and vehicles have completely stopped, the supervisor will extend the '**STOP**' sign to face the traffic and proceed to the centre of the road with the '**STOP**' sign displayed
- Watch for the School Crossing Supervisors instruction
- When the whistle is blown twice, it is safe to cross
- Walk across the crossing; please don't run
- Hold onto footballs, tennis balls and anything else that might cause a distraction while crossing
- When all pedestrians have cleared the crossing, the supervisor then returns to the footpath.
- **ONE** blast with hand raised towards pedestrians means **STOP** immediately

If you need to stop or park (picking up or dropping of passengers) your vehicle must be no closer than 20 metres on the approach side and 10 metres on the departure side of the crossing. These "NO STOPPING" areas are clearly marked with a no stopping sign or continuous yellow line on the roadway.

Remember, road safety is everybody's business. For more information, visit www.tmr.qld.gov.au

Tips for driving safely around schools

- slow down and keep to the speed limit
- pay attention to the environment, young children can be unpredictable
- comply with local school drop-off and pick-up procedures for the safety of all children accessing the school
- avoid double parking or stopping on crossing to let children out of the car as this often blocks visibility for other children and motorists
- avoid loading or unloading children at locations across the street from the school as this forces young children to unnecessarily cross busy streets – often mid-block

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. Parents are being encouraged to use these zones rather than walking their children into school. 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 and cycling to school to avoid congestion

As all children are returning to school, many people may wish to make the most of the active lifestyle we've become used and try walking or cycling to school. Motorists should continue to be extra vigilant around schools.

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:

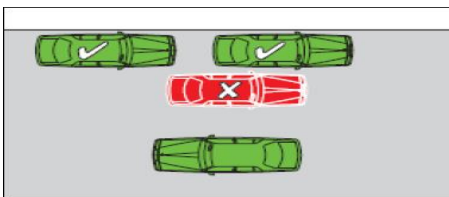
- **Stop** one step back from the kerb
- **Look** continuously both ways
- **Listen** for the sounds of approaching traffic
- **Think** whether it is safe to cross and keep checking until safely across

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.



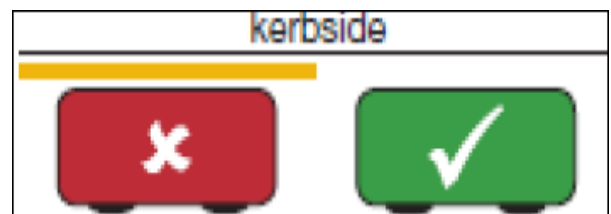
Double parking



A driver must not stop a vehicle between the centre of the road and another vehicle that is parked at the side of a road, this includes vehicles parked in marked angle parking bays. This rule helps to prevent children from crossing between vehicles where there is a high risk of a collision occurring.

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.

Parking a vehicle on a footpath/nature strip

It is an offence to park a vehicle on a footpath, dividing strip or nature strip. Parking on the footpath creates an unacceptable hazard for pedestrians. Vehicles driving across footpaths and nature strips create a higher risk of collision with pedestrians, especially smaller children who are harder to see.

REMEMBER – SAFE PARKING MAY SAVE A LIFE

For more information, contact your local TMR Road Safety Officer