

School road safety guide



Research suggests children develop their road safety behaviour and attitudes as young as three years of age

Most parents know that children are very keen to learn at this age, but may not consider how driving habits may influence their child's future attitudes and behaviour to road safety.



What can you do to help?

There are a number of things that parents and guardians can do to ensure the safety of children within school zones. These include:

- Always be aware of children - both yours and others
- Encourage walking or cycling to school to drop off or collect children
- Plan your trip so you arrive with time to spare in case you have to walk a distance
- Use pick up/set down areas where possible
- Be aware of any speed and/or parking restrictions and adhere to them
- Use crosswalks at all times
- Drive, park and behave responsibly - saving a couple of minutes is not worth the risk



What are the restrictions around schools?

School zones 40km/h

Main Roads WA has speed zones applicable to roads located around schools. The 40km/h school zones contribute to reduce risks for school aged children.



School zones are applicable from 7.30-9am and 2.30-4pm during terms and speeding penalties may apply.

WA Police are responsible for enforcement of these restrictions and requests for attendance can be made via **131 444**.

Sign restrictions

Vehicles should not stop, park, drop off or pick up children at all where sign restrictions are in place.



No Stopping signs consist of a red 'S' in a circle with a line through it.



No Parking signs consist of a red 'P' in a circle with a line through it.



Bus Zones prohibit vehicles stopping within 20m of the approach side and 10m of the departure side of a bus stop.



Traffic Warden crossings

Children's crossings provide the highest level of protection of all crossing types. Trained and equipped traffic wardens operate the crossing and traffic is controlled by stop banners held by the warden.

When using this type of crossing you should:

- Stop back from the edge of the kerb
- Wait for the Traffic Warden to blow the whistle for you to cross

- Keep your eyes on the traffic and Warden while crossing
- If you are on a bike, skateboard or scooter, wheel or carry it across the roads

Enquiries for Traffic Warden crossings should be directed to the school in the first instance.



Footpaths

Footpaths are considered any area which is intended to be used for the safe passage of pedestrians, including those requiring wheelchairs or parents with prams. Parking is not permitted at any time on a footpath. Additionally, vehicles are not permitted to obstruct a carriageway, intersection, crossing or a private drive, crossover, passage or right of way.

Safe drop off and pick up

Always endeavour to park a vehicle so children can enter or exit at the kerb and ensure your vehicle is facing the same way as the direction of traffic flow.

Verge parking

Verge parking within the City is generally regulated with signage. Where no signage is in place, permission from the adjacent land owner/occupier is required in order to park on their verge.

Crossings

A pedestrian crossing is a regulatory device that requires the Commissioner of Main Roads approval to install or modify. They are broken lines painted on the road together with a

walking legs sign on each side of the road on the approach side of the crossing. These crossings impose a mandatory *No Stopping* prohibition of 20m on the approach side and 10m on the leaving side of the crossing.

- Always use crossings when available
- Walk up to the crossing
- Stop, look and listen
- Think
- Keep looking and listening while crossing
- Do not run, ride or skate across

School buses

Studies of children commuting to school in Western Australia have consistently shown that children are most at risk when they are entering and exiting buses. When in close proximity to buses in school areas please ensure you:

- Stand back until the bus has stopped within its desired parking area
- Wait until the bus has moved away before you attempt to make a crossing within close proximity



Fines and penalties

The City of Swan enforces parking restrictions around schools and has a dedicated annual program.

Our School Parking program commences in Term 1 each year and the City endeavours to educate drivers prior to enforcement action.

Officers will patrol schools, take photographs of vehicles parked incorrectly and infringement notices are then issued to the registered vehicle owner.

For a current list of modified penalties, please refer to the City's website.

You may be issued an infringement if you:

- Stop or park on the footpath
- Stop or park on a verge without consent
- Park in a *No Parking* area
- Stop in a *No Stopping* area
- Park to obstruct an intersection
- Park vehicle facing the wrong way
- Park to obstruct a driveway, accessway or crossing
- Park on a median strip
- Double park
- Park in a *Bus Zone*