



## Keeping your children safe when dropping off and picking up at school

Here are a few things you can do to help keep your children and others safer during drop-off and pick-up times during the school week:

- Make sure your children are fastened in the correct child car seat for their age and size and that it is fitted correctly.
- Stick to the 40km/h speed limit in a school zone and look out for children who may be about.
- Watch for flashing lights on buses. They let you know that there may be children crossing or about to cross the road. A 40km/h limit applies when school bus lights flash.
- Always give way to pedestrians particularly when entering and leaving driveways.
- Always park and turn legally around schools. Manoeuvres such as U-turns and three-point turns are dangerous during busy school drop-off and pick-up times.
- Drop your children off and pick them up on the school side of the road in your school's designated drop-off and pick-up area. Never call out to them from across the road – they may run to you without checking for traffic.
- It's safest for children to get out of the car through the Safety Door, away from passing traffic. This is the rear footpath side door of the car.

For more information on keeping our kids safe around schools visit the parents section on [safetytown.com.au](https://www.safetytown.com.au)

## Walking together safely to and from school

Walking to school and back home again is a great way to spend time with your children and encourage safe and healthy behaviours.

Here are a few things you can do to help keep your children safer as a pedestrian:

- Talk with your children about being alert in the road environment.
- Plan and practice your trip to school so you use pedestrian crossings where possible.
- Always hold your child's hand. Children need your help to spot dangers such as vehicles coming out of driveways. They can also be easily distracted and wander into traffic.
- Meet your child near the school gate and don't call them from across the road.
- Explain why the place you have chosen is the safest place to cross.
- Remind your child to **STOP! LOOK! LISTEN! THINK!** every time they cross the road and keep checking until safely across.
- Talk to them about why they should stop, look, listen, think before crossing a driveway, road or carpark.

Young children can learn and practice these safe pedestrian behaviours with you. This will help them to be safer pedestrians when they are old enough to travel alone.

For more information on keeping our kids safe around schools visit the parents section on [safetytown.com.au](http://safetytown.com.au)



### Messages to share with your children in Kindergarten to Year 2

- Hold a grown up's hand when:
  - you cross the road
  - you're on the footpath
  - you're in a car park

### Messages to share with children in Years 3 to 6

- Use a safe place to cross the road
- **Stop! Look! Listen! Think!** every time you cross the road and keep checking until safely across

#### **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

## Keeping children safe in and out of the car

A child who is properly secured in an approved child car seat is less likely to be killed or injured in a crash than one who is not.

Children aged between four and seven years cannot travel in the front seat of a vehicle with two or more rows, unless all other back seats are occupied by children younger than seven years in a child car seat.

National child restraint laws require your child to be restrained in the car as follows:

### 0 – 6 months

Approved rear-facing child car seat.

### 6 months – 4 years

Approved rear or forward-facing child car seat.

### 4+ years

Approved forward-facing child car seat or booster seat.

### 145cm or taller

Suggested minimum height to use adult lap-sash belt.

For more information and to find and compare a range of child car seats, visit

[childcarseats.com.au](http://childcarseats.com.au)

Here are a few things you can do to help keep your children safe in and out of the car:

- Children should remain in the car until an adult opens the 'Safety Door'. This is the rear footpath side door of the car.
- A sleeping child must remain firmly buckled up while in the car.
- Assist your children to buckle up – always check the seatbelt is buckled up firmly and not twisted.

- Make it a rule that every passenger must be securely buckled into a seatbelt or child car seat before you start the car.
- Always help your child get in and out of the car through the 'Safety Door'.

Never leave a child of any age in a vehicle without adult supervision. Children may rapidly suffer from dehydration, heat exhaustion and organ failure if left unattended, especially on hot days.

For more information on keeping our kids safe around schools visit the parents section on [safetytown.com.au](http://safetytown.com.au)



### Messages to share with your children

- Click, clack, front and back
- Always buckle up
- Get in and out of the car on the footpath side

## Hold your child's hand

As pedestrians, children can be easily distracted and are often too small to be seen by drivers. They may be unable to predict or identify dangers and tend to act impulsively.

Talk with your child about safe behaviour on the footpath – it's not a safe place to play as it is near the road and vehicles may be entering or exiting driveways.

Until your child is at least eight years old, hold their hand:

- on the footpath
- in the car park
- when crossing the road.

Up until at least 10 years old, supervise your child very closely, holding their hand when crossing the road.

If you can't be with your child, organise for another trusted adult to accompany them.

After school, meet your child at the school gate. At the end of the school day children may be excited, distracted or tired and often not concentrating on their own safety.

For more information on keeping our kids safe around schools visit the parents section on [safetytown.com.au](https://www.safetytown.com.au)



### Messages to share with your children in Kindergarten to Year 2

- Hold a grown up's hand when:
  - you cross the road
  - you're on the footpath
  - you're in a car park
- Hold an adult's hand when you cross the road

### Messages to share with children in Years 3 to 6

- Use a safe place to cross the road
- **Stop! Look! Listen! Think!** every time you cross the road and keep checking until safely across



## Wearing helmets and riding safely

### Wearing helmets

Your child must wear a helmet when riding a bike in any public place – it's the law. The helmet must comply with the Australian and New Zealand standards and needs to be securely fitted and fastened on your child's head. It should be buckled firmly so it fits without wobbling or slipping to the sides.

Always remember to check that your child is wearing a helmet whenever they're playing or riding on wheels –

- Bikes
- Foot scooters
- Rollerskates
- Skateboards
- Rollerblades.

### Riding safely

Although children quickly learn to pedal, steer and brake, they aren't ready to cycle near traffic or on the road. Until they are at least 10 years old, your child should ride off-road away from vehicles and driveways.

The safest places to ride bikes, scooters and skateboards are within fenced areas. This helps your child from riding or falling onto the footpath or the road. Children under 16 and their

accompanying supervising adult riders may ride on the footpath, unless there are signs specifically prohibiting cycling. Riders need to take special care at driveways where vehicles may be driving in or out.

At intersections, riders must dismount and wheel the bicycle across the road as a pedestrian, following the **STOP! LOOK! LISTEN! THINK!** procedure.

For more information on keeping our kids safe around schools visit the parents section on [safetytown.com.au](http://safetytown.com.au)

### Messages to share with your children in Kindergarten to Year 4

- Always wear a helmet when you ride or skate
- Ride your bike away from the roads

### Messages to share with your children in Years 5 and 6

- Always wear a helmet when you ride or skate
- Ride your bike away from busy roads



## Your guide to driving and parking safely near schools

The beginning and end of the school day are busy times for pedestrians and vehicles outside the school. That's why you need to take extra care in 40km/h school zones.

- Park safely and legally, even if it means walking further to the school gate. Parking signs are planned with children's safety in mind.
- Slow down to 40km/h in the school zone and stay aware of crossings.
- Always park and turn legally around the school.
- Never double park as it puts children at risk.
- Manoeuvres such as U-turns and three-point turns are dangerous.
- Never park in a bus zone or in the school bus bay.
- Make sure your children use the Safety Door (rear footpath side door) to get in and out of the car.
- At a supervised crossing, observe the directions of the school crossing supervisor.
- Model safe and considerate behaviour for your child – they will learn from you.

Remember to always give way to pedestrians particularly when entering and leaving driveways. Don't park across the school driveway or the entrance to the school car park. It's always a good idea to use the drop off and pick up area suggested by your school. This will help keep all children as safe as possible during the busiest times of the school day.

For more information on keeping our kids safe around schools visit the parents section on [safetytown.com.au](https://www.safetytown.com.au)



## Keeping safe around school crossings

For your child's safety, it's very important to ensure they use the school crossing.

At all crossings you must wait on the footpath, at least one step back from the edge of the road.

If there's a School Crossing Supervisor, wait until they have stopped the traffic and called you to cross.



If you are driving, you must not proceed until the School Crossing Supervisor's hand-held sign is no longer displayed, or until the crossing supervisor indicates that you may proceed through the crossing.

### Children's crossings

Children's crossings are usually part-time crossings that operate before and after school hours. They can also operate at other times when children use the crossing for excursions or during break times. When 'Children Crossing' flags are displayed, you must stop at the white line if pedestrians are waiting to cross. Drivers must remain stationary until the crossing is clear of pedestrians.

For more information on keeping our kids safe around schools visit the parents section on [safetytown.com.au](http://safetytown.com.au)

# Road safety



## 40km/h school zones

40km/h school zones slow traffic on the roads around schools. This is to help protect children on their way to and from schools at the times and places where they are often in high numbers. Most 40km/h school zones operate between 8.00am and 9.30am and from 2.30pm until 4.00pm. The 40km/h school zone speed limit must be observed even if school children cannot be seen.

A 40km/h school zone operates on all notified school days including staff development days (student-free days). While some schools may operate on different term dates, school zone speed limits must be followed during NSW Government determined school terms.

You can find the school term dates on the following websites:

- [roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au](https://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au)
- [educationstandards.nsw.edu.au](https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au)
- [education.nsw.gov.au](https://education.nsw.gov.au)

To increase motorists' awareness of 40km/h school zones, triangular 'dragon's teeth' road markings indicate that the vehicle is entering a school zone.

Fines and a loss of demerit points will apply if the 40km/h speed limit isn't followed. For more information on fines and demerit points, visit [rms.nsw.gov.au](https://rms.nsw.gov.au)

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## Driving safely near school buses

There is a 40km/h speed limit for traffic passing a school bus that is setting down or picking up school children. This speed limit is for all traffic travelling in the same direction as the bus, whether the bus is stationary or moving.

Lights will flash on the front and back of the bus reminding drivers that there may be children crossing or about to cross the road.

Buses can't stop quickly because they are large and heavy vehicles. So, remember:

- Reduce speed to 40km/h when bus lights are flashing
- Give way to buses
- Watch out for children crossing
- Never park in or near a bus stop or bus zone.

### Informal school bus stops

Informal bus stops are not sign posted and are usually found in rural areas. They may be at the front of a property, or on the side of the road, which may make children difficult to see.

For more information on keeping our kids safe around schools visit the parents section on [safetytown.com.au](https://www.safetytown.com.au)

## Helping children on and off the bus safely

Your children are most at risk in the minutes after getting off the bus. Here are some ways you can reduce this risk:

- Always meet your child at the bus stop. Never meet them on the opposite side of the road and call them across.
- Wait until the bus has gone, then choose a safe place to cross the road. Remember to Stop! Look! Listen! Think!
- If you cannot meet your child, organise for another trusted adult to take your place.
- Wait at the bus stop and stand at least one step back from the edge of the road.
- Always wait until the bus has gone, then use a safe place to cross.
- Buckle up if the bus has seatbelts.

Model safe pedestrian behaviour. Children learn safe road user habits from you and will continue them later on when they are old enough to travel alone.

Until your child is at least eight years old, hold their hand on the footpath, in the carpark and when crossing the road. Up until at least 10 years old, supervise your child very closely, holding their hand when crossing 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

### **Messages to share with your children in Kindergarten to Year 2**

Hold a grown up's hand when:

- you cross the road
- you're on the footpath
- you're in a car park

### **Messages to share with your children in Years 3 and 4**

- Hold an adult's hand when you cross the road
- Use a safe place to cross the road

### **Messages to share with children in Years 5 and 6**

- Stop! Look! Listen! Think! every time you cross the road and keep checking until safely across

### **Kindergarten to Year 6**

- Wait until the bus has gone and then use a safe place to cross

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