

General advice to parents

Tips to improve children's safety around your school

If your child walks or cycles to school

- Child pedestrians and cyclists are at greater risk of injury than adults.
- Teach your child the 'STOP! LOOK! LISTEN! THINK!' routine every time you cross the road together:
 - STOP! One step back from the kerb.
 - LOOK! For traffic to your right, left and right again.
 - LISTEN! For the sounds of approaching traffic.
 - THINK! Whether it is safe to cross.
- Always look and listen for traffic as you cross the road.
- After school, meet your child at the school gate. If riding, park your bicycle safely and legally, and walk to the school gate.
- If you are unable to meet your child, arrange for another trusted adult to meet them.
- Until they are at least eight years old, hold your child's hand on the footpath and when crossing the road. Until they are at least ten years old, hold your child's hand when crossing the road.
- Reward your children with lots of attention and praise for good road safety behaviour.

If your child travels to school by bus

Until they are at least ten years old, children have not developed the maturity required to cross the road safely without holding an adult's hand.

- Hold your child's hand and walk together to the bus stop in the morning. If you cannot be with your child, organise for another trusted adult to accompany them.
- If your child comes home on the school bus, meet your child **at** the bus stop, before choosing the safest place to cross.
- Meet your child **at** the bus stop after school. **Never** wait on the opposite side of the road.
- Talk with your child about what they should do if you are delayed and cannot meet them as usual.
- Discuss what they should do if they accidentally get on the wrong bus or miss their regular bus stop.

If you drive your child to school

- Child pedestrians around cars are at greater risk of injury than adults.
- Children aged four years to under seven years must be secured in a forward facing restraint or booster seat.
- Children aged four years to under 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 restraint or booster seat.

- Children should always get in and out of the car through the rear kerb side or 'safety door'.
- Always drop your children on the school side of the road.
- Meet your children on the school side of the road, preferably at the school gate – particularly in wet weather.
- NEVER call to your children from across the road. Teach them to wait until you come to them. Talk with them about what they should do if you are not there on time.
- Children up to at least eight years old should hold an adult's hand in the car park, on the footpath and when crossing the road. Children between eight and at least ten years old should be closely supervised by an adult in the traffic environment and should hold an adult's hand when crossing the road.
- Always slow to less than 40km/h when travelling in an operating school zone. Children cannot survive collisions with fast moving vehicles. You may not be able to stop in time at speeds above 30 km/h.
- Always obey parking signs as these signs help save children's lives.
- NEVER leave a child of any age in a vehicle without adult supervision. A small child may rapidly suffer dehydration, heat exhaustion and consequent organ failure. Older children could play games that may lead to tragedy.
- Always drop-off and pick-up your children from your school's designated area, following your school's road safety procedures with care and courtesy.
- Some schools in other parts of Australia have adopted a school 'Drop-off and Pick-up' zone – a facility that is convenient for drivers while enhancing the safety of children.

