

# Keeping school zones safe: A guide for parents and schools

School zones are busy areas, especially during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up times. Following safe and legal parking practices help protect children and keeps traffic flowing smoothly.

This guide outlines actions for **parents and carers**, and **school communities**, to help make school zones safer for everyone.

## For parents and carers

Your actions during school drop-off and pick-up times play a key role in keeping children safe and reducing congestion. Please follow these guidelines to help school zones run smoothly:

- **Only use designated loading zones** marked with signs such as “Passenger loading zone” or “2-minute parking”. These areas are intended for quick drop-offs and pick-ups to keep traffic moving.
- **Do not stand or park** in areas marked ‘No stopping’, ‘No parking’, ‘No standing’, bus zones, staff parking areas, or block traffic by double parking. These behaviours are illegal and can create serious safety risks.
- **Never leave your car unattended** in a loading zone – you must remain in the vehicle and move within two minutes.
- **Arrive shortly after the bell**, rather than waiting in the zone from 2pm onwards. If your child is not ready to be picked up, circle the block and re-enter the zone.
- **Use the kerbside car door** to let children in and out of the vehicle safely.
- **Ensure children are ready** to enter or exit the car quickly and independently to avoid delays.
- **Move forward in the queue** as space becomes available, similar to how a taxi rank works.
- **Avoid queuing** if the loading zone is full. Instead, find alternative parking or return a few minutes later.
- **Drive safely and respectfully**, including towards staff or volunteers assisting in the zone. Inappropriate behaviour is not acceptable.

By following these practices, you’ll help keep children safe and traffic flowing during busy school times.



# For schools and communities

Schools play a vital role in promoting safe and efficient drop-off and pick-up routines. Here's how your school can support families and contribute to a safer environment.

- **Support safe loading zone behaviour** by assigning staff or trusted volunteers to supervise busy areas during peak times. These helpers can guide traffic, assist children into vehicles and encourage drivers to follow the rules.
- **Encourage clear communication** with parents by promoting the use of visor signs that display children's surnames, making pick-up smoother and faster.
- **Promote positive behaviours** through regular messages in school newsletters, announcements or signage, reminding families of safe driving and parking practices.
- **Encourage active travel options** where practical, such as walking, cycling or scooting to school. These alternatives ease congestion and support student health and wellbeing.
- **Support "park and walk" strategies**, where families park slightly away from school and walk the rest of the way. This reduces pressure on loading zones and increases safety.
- **Coordinate a Walking School Bus or Bike Bus**, where a group of students travels together on foot or bike under the supervision of adult volunteers along a set route.

## See how Queensland schools are supporting active travel:

- [Trinity Beach State School Bike Bus](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FlmNgP9S4gM)  
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FlmNgP9S4gM>)
- [Norfolk Village State School – Active School Travel](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ee4G2tumLrg)  
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ee4G2tumLrg>)

By promoting safe driving habits and encouraging active travel, schools can help reduce congestion, improve safety and create a more supportive environment for students and families alike.

## Everyone plays a part

Creating a safe and efficient environment around schools is a shared responsibilities. By following the road rules, using loading zones correctly and supporting active travel options, parents, carers and schools all play an important role in protecting our children.