

Safety around schools

A Randwick City Council
road safety initiative



Keeping our children safe

School opening and closing hours are very busy times for pedestrian and vehicular traffic outside the school.

Always take extra care in 40km/h school zones, which operate on official school days, available at boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au

Children are small, hard to see and behave unpredictably, so please take extra care when driving and parking in and around school zones.

This brochure has been developed to inform drivers and parents how to drive and park legally and safely. Please read it and make safety a priority by observing speed limits and parking signs at all times; especially around schools.

Things to do

- **Always obey the parking signs around schools.** They have been designed to keep your children safe.
- **Try not to be in a hurry around school zones.** Allow enough time to get your children to the school gate safely without rushing. If you're parking the car, make sure you're well away from the school gate to avoid congestion.
- **Try to find a parking spot a few streets away and walk your child the rest of the way to school.** This also provides a good opportunity to teach your children road safety skills, especially to **STOP, LOOK, LISTEN, THINK.**
- **Your child should always use the safety door to get in and out of the car.** The safety door is the rear passenger side door that opens on to the kerb side.
- **You should always hold a child's hand when crossing the road, in the car park and on the footpath, until they are at least 8 years old.**



Signs and fines

NO STOPPING

A No Stopping sign means you cannot stop for any reason on the length of road to which the sign applies. A yellow unbroken line painted on the kerb side of the road also indicates a No Stopping zone.

Sometimes there is space close to a corner which might seem like a good spot to park. It's NOT. It is illegal to park less than 10 metres from the corner. Parking on the corner blocks sight lines and creates a hazard for all pedestrians and motorists.

The fine for disobeying a No Stopping sign in a school zone exceeds \$344 and 2 licence demerit points apply.

NO PARKING

You can stop in a No Parking zone for a maximum of 2 minutes to drop off or pick up passengers or goods. You must stay within 3 metres of your car at all times. Even if you stay in your car, you are limited to the maximum 2 minutes in the zone.

The fine for disobeying a No Parking sign in a school zone exceeds \$190 and 2 licence demerit points apply.

BUS ZONE

You must not stop or park in a bus zone.

Buses are large vehicles with limited ability to manoeuvre. The bus zone is designated to allow access and improve lines of sight for drivers. If you block this access by stopping in a bus zone, this puts lives at risk.

The fine for stopping or parking in a bus zone within a school zone exceeds \$344 and 2 licence demerit points apply.

DOUBLE PARKING

Double parking at any time is illegal and is particularly dangerous around schools. It reduces visibility and blocks the road for other motorists. Children stepping on to the road to get into a double parked car are not visible to other motorists, they are very vulnerable in this environment

The fine for double parking in a school zone exceeds \$344 and 2 licence demerit points apply.

MOBILE PHONES

Do not use your mobile phone in a school zone, it is a dangerous distraction and compromises the safety of your children.

The fine for using a mobile phone (even if your car is idling) in a school zone exceeds \$457 and 5 demerit points apply.

Kiss and Go zones – How they work

When using the designated pick-up and drop-off zones around schools, never leave your car unattended.

The zones are designed for quick entry and exit, to minimise congestion and confusion. There is a two minute limit in the zone from when you stop your vehicle. **Do not arrive early and wait in the zone for Kiss and Go to operate, this is a time when many people receive parking fines.**

If the zone is a supervised zone, the top few cars will be loaded and then the queue moves up, this allows constant movement and limited opportunity to queue jump. Please be considerate and thoughtful to the people staffing the zone.

If you have been waiting in this zone for two minutes and your child has not arrived, please drive a lap around the block. This improves flow and allows other parents to access the zone, collect their children and move on.

Randwick City Council Rangers and Parking Officers, as well as Police Officers, enforce these rules and can issue penalties. Parking penalties in School zones can result in drivers licence demerit points so always use the zones correctly to avoid fines.

If you would like more information, please contact Randwick City Council's Community Road Safety Officer on 9093 6786.

TIP: If you arrive in the Kiss and Go zone after it has commenced, it's usually flowing by then and your child is likely to be waiting for you.