

Implementing a school road safety commitment

We all play a part to ensure our children and the broader school community are safe on our roads. Schools, together with the Department of Transport and Main Roads, Queensland Police Service, local councils, and local businesses, are all working together to make road safety a priority for our school communities.

Sadly, road trauma is a leading cause of death of Queensland children and youth. As a whole community, young people need our support and guidance to keep them safe on and around roads while they are still developing the cognitive, sensory, and physical skills required to be safe road users.

Having a road safety commitment that is supported by parents/carers and students can help unite a school community to ensure they are committed to travelling safely around schools. This guide can be tailored to highlight the key areas of concern in your school to help bring about lasting safe behaviours on our roads.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads supports safe school travel with the SafeST program and resources. For more information contact your local **TMR road safety officer**.



Our School road safety commitment

Everyone has a role to play in making our school as safe as possible. As a community, we are committed to three core safety values:

Patience

School start and finish times are busy, and school traffic can be frustrating. We are committed to patience and planning to ensure our children get to and from school safely and on time.

Respect

We respect each other and follow the rules on the roads, in the carpark, and in the drop-off zone. This includes:

- only parking where it is safe and legal to park
- adhering to school zone speed limits
- obeying the school crossing supervisor teachers/volunteers.

Empowerment

While children are still developing the skills they need on the roads, they need the support of the whole community. They are watching and learning. We are committed to modelling safe behaviours on our roads.

Our school road safety expectations

Road rules for parents and carers

As adults, our behaviour on the road directly contributes to the safety of children, teachers, and the broader school community. We expect our school community to:

- Remember our children are watching and learning from us.
- Model safe behaviours on and around the road.
- Obey the signed speed limit.
- Obey the school crossing supervisor and teachers/volunteers in school zones.
- Follow the road rules (eg. not perform U-turns where not permitted, cross double lines, or illegally use a mobile phone).
- Comply with loading zone signs.
- Only park where it is safe and legal.
- NOT double park, park on yellow lines, mount the curb, or park illegally.
- Ensure children are:
 - wearing a seatbelt every time
 - wearing a helmet when riding a bike or scooter
 - using the footpath
 - watching out for cars in driveways and parking zones.

Our school road safety expectations

Road rules for students

There are things students can do to make sure they get to and from school safely. They can also be a role model and help keep other students safe if they need help. Student should:

Around roads

- Stop, look, listen, and think before they cross the road.
- Obey the school crossing supervisor and teachers/volunteers.
- Cross the road only when it is safe.
- Cross only at school crossing, pedestrian crossing, or traffic lights.
- Be careful around traffic.
- Not play around roads.
- Look out for cars around driveways and parking areas.
- Use paths entering the school and not driveways, which are for vehicles only.

When travelling

- Wear seatbelts in cars or on buses, every time.
- Only exit and enter a vehicle from the footpath side, where possible.
- Wear a helmet when riding bikes or scooters, every time.

When with parents and carers

- Watch my parents/carers (and teachers) as an example.
- Remind my parents/carers to follow the rules.

Our school road safety expectations

Road rules for student drivers

Our behaviour directly contributes to the safety of other students, teachers, parents/carers, and others travelling in the school community. Students who hold a valid Queensland driver licence and intend to drive to school have a responsibility to drive and park safely.

We expect student drivers to:

- Understand that driving to school is a privilege and that your behaviour reflects on the values of our school.
- Comply with the student driver policy, and submit agreements and consent forms required by my school before driving.
- Follow the road rules (eg. drive to the speed limit, not perform illegal U-turns, or cross double lines).
- Comply with the conditions of their licence (eg. not use a mobile phone, not drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol).
- Wear a correctly fitted seatbelt and ensure passengers do too.
- Obey the school zones signs, speed limit signs, school crossing supervisor and teachers/volunteers in school zones.
- Only park where it is safe and legal to park and where designated parking is assigned for student drivers.
- Not try to impress others with unsafe driving.
- Drive with both hands on the wheel.
- Encourage other students to do the right thing.
- Not get distracted by music, food or passengers.