

# School Speed Limits and Loading Zones

FACT SHEET 1



## SLOW DOWN AROUND SCHOOLS

It's so important to teach our children about basic road safety by setting an example to them as future road users. Across the Cairns region, most schools have special school zones with a 40km/h speed limit in place during the hours of 7am—9am and 2pm—4pm. Some split-campus schools, such as Redlynch State College on Jungara Rd and St Augustine's Catholic College on Scott St, have all-day school zones from 7am—4pm. Parents can set an example to other drivers by keeping to these speed limits when dropping off and collecting their children from school. Being cautious and slowing down in school zones doesn't make a big difference to your trip time but it could save a child's life.



### Some basic tips for safe travel to schools:

- Teach your child to walk on footpaths where provided, not along the edge of the road.
- Research suggests that until children reach 10 years of age, they don't have the ability to judge speed and the time required to cross a road safely. Always supervise children and hold their hand, especially when crossing the road, taking time to 'STOP, LOOK, LISTEN & THINK' before starting to cross. Reinforce this message with your children.
- Teach your child to be alert for cars going in or out of driveways and side roads and discourage them from playing with balls or toys by the side of the road.
- Set an example by discouraging the use of personal radios / MP3 players / mobile phones, as it is just as important to hear traffic coming as it is to see it.

## 'STOP - DROP - GO' (LOADING) ZONES

In many schools, Council has provided 'Stop Drop Go' zones to improve safety when dropping off or picking up children. These areas are identified as 'Loading Zones' and most are restricted to a two-minute duration. When using this zone you are not allowed to leave the car other than to open doors. For the zone to operate efficiently, it is important to keep to these time limits. Other zones may have 5 to 10 minute restrictions where you may leave your vehicle for a short period but please stick to the time limit. When using a 'Stop Drop Go' zone, ensure your child gets out of the car on the kerb side, **away** from the traffic lane. In the afternoon if your child is not waiting for you in the 'Stop Drop Go' area and you have waited for the specified time, please move out of the zone and allow other parents to access the area.



For further information on Safe School Travel, visit the Queensland Transport and Main Roads website on [www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Safety/School-road-safety](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Safety/School-road-safety). Or contact Council's investigations team on [inquiries@cairns.qld.gov.au](mailto:inquiries@cairns.qld.gov.au) or (07) 4044 3529.