Parking near schools

Parking at intersections and school crossings

Parking your vehicle too close to an intersection can endanger pedestrians and other drivers by blocking the view of each other. Unless otherwise signed, a driver must not stop or park on a road within 20 metres of the approach to an intersection with traffic lights or a marked school crossing. To protect the view on the other side, no parking is also allowed within 10 metres on the departure side of the crossing or intersection. Where there are no traffic signals at an intersection, you must not park within 10 metres of the adjoining road but preferably park as far away as possible.

Some basic tips:

- Do not stop or park near an intersection or pedestrian crossing - this includes parking on the footpath, nature strip or verge.
- Be respectful of residential driveways and allow at least a metre gap to ensure access for residents is maintained.
- Use ‘STOP DROP & GO’ zones where provided. These are to be used for immediate pick up and drop off only and are generally restricted to 2 minutes waiting.
- Designated parking bays may have time limits. If a time limit applies there will be a sign to indicate the duration allowed. Generally, longer term parking is available further away from the school.
- Unless signed or marked otherwise, you must park parallel to the kerb and with the flow of traffic and of course never ‘double park’. It is illegal to reverse out of any parking bays located in the centre of the street.
- Do not park near pedestrian ramps to allow people to cross the road freely and not have to look around parked cars.

LOOK OUT, LOOK OUT, THERE ARE CHILDREN ABOUT!

When parking near schools be cautious of children in car parks and crossing roads. Research suggests that young children cannot judge speed and the time needed to cross a road safely and therefore might not allow a margin of safety. When pulling into and leaving a parking bay, ensure that there are no children in harms way. It is a great idea to collect your children from the school gate and escort them to the vehicle, especially if you have parked across the road. Never encourage your children to cross the road alone where there is no crossing or supervisor.

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. Or contact Council’s investigations team on imenquiries@cairns.qld.gov.au or (07) 4044 3529.