

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are school crossings important?

Young children do not have a well developed sense of danger, peripheral vision or spacial sense. This makes it difficult for them to judge the safe time to cross a road. Supervised crossings were formally introduced in the 1970s to help protect children.

Why do we need parking and traffic control around school crossings?

Crossing supervisors need to have a clear field of vision in all directions around their crossing, so that they can spot approaching children and vehicles as soon as possible. Cars parked or stopped too close to crossings can obscure the view of supervisors and drivers - traffic controls help to minimise risk.

What sort of controls can I find around school crossings?

A range of restrictions may apply according to the needs of a particular area. The following rules are consistent at all school crossings:

- No stopping within 20 metres on the approach side of a crossing.
- No stopping within 10 metres on the departure side of a school crossing.
- No stopping within 10 metres of an intersection (unless signs say you can).

What does 'No Stopping' actually mean?

It means just that. You cannot stop your vehicle for any purpose, no matter how short the time, unless to avoid a collision or to obey a traffic control device. Dropping off a child in a No Stopping zone is classed as stopping.

Why road safety around schools is important

- Young children have narrow vision and are often unable to see cars as easily as adults.



- Distance and speed are difficult for children to judge - they might think a car is further away or moving slower than it actually is.

- Children can have limited concentration and may dart into traffic.

- Children often can't see over parked cars or small trees and bushes. This means they also often can't be seen easily by drivers.

Please encourage your children to follow road rules at all times.

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South Gippsland Shire Council

School Crossings & Safe Driving



Information

To ensure children have a safe road environment around our local schools, we must all commit to safe road practises around school zones and crossings.

This brochure contains information that will help make the journey to and from school safer for all.

RULES

of the Crossing

- 1 blast of the Supervisor’s whistle means STOP!
- 2 blasts of the Supervisor’s whistle means it is safe to cross.

Did you know?

It is an offence to cross a road within 20 metres of a Children’s crossing and not use that crossing when flags are displayed.



Parking near a Children’s Crossing

Public parking areas around public schools are the responsibility of State Government, however, Council works to manage parking for the safety of all children.



Road rules exist for you and your children’s safety and the safety of other road users. The most common parking and traffic offences around schools are:

- Stopping on a children’s crossing.
- Stopping in a No Stopping area.
- Double parking.
- Stopping within 10 metres of an intersection.
- Stopping in a bus zone.
- Driving through a children’s crossing while a pedestrian is on it.
- Failing to obey ‘No U Turn’ signs.

Signs are often used to clearly define parking restrictions. These must be obeyed. If there are no signs, vehicles must not park:

20 metres of approach side of a school crossing; or 10 metres of departure side of a school crossing

Parking and traffic offences incur an ‘on-the-spot’ fine and are enforced by Council’s Local Law Officers and the Victorian Police. Some traffic offences can result in Court prosecution and can lead to a loss of licence.

Driving near a Children’s Crossing

If you drive near a Children’s Crossing and the flags are displayed, these are rules you must obey:

Most Children’s Crossings are now 40km p/h from 8.00am - 9.30am and 2.30pm - 4.00pm. You must approach the crossing at a reasonable speed to ensure you can stop.

You must stop in front of the first white line and not allow any part of your vehicle to enter the crossing when it is in use or when the STOP sign is displayed by the supervisor or someone has entered the crossing when flags are displayed.

When the pedestrians or Supervisor are on the crossing (including stepping on, in the middle or stepping off) you must wait until they are completely off the crossing before proceeding.

