

Traffic management around schools



All school communities are encouraged to adopt active travel as part of the school run. Active travel, which includes riding, walking, scooting and public transport, provides health and environmental benefits. Active travel also helps to reduce school traffic and parking congestion.

A barrier to active travel is the perceived safety risks. Reducing the volume of cars is an easy way to create a safer environment. It is important to remember that road safety is a matter for everyone in the community.

What the Government is doing

Safe journeys to school require well maintained infrastructure and good behaviours by all road users. The ACT government is working with schools to promote active travel opportunities:

- **Ride or Walk to School program** – a free initiative available to all schools to drive a culture change within the school community and encourage more walking and riding to and from school
- **Active Streets for Schools program** – an educational campaign that is supported by infrastructure improvements to support active travel to and from school
- **School Crossing Supervisor program** – provides a crossing supervisor at children’s or pedestrian crossings during the peak times at a selection of the busiest crossings in the ACT

ACT Policing and Parking Operations also support schools by scheduling periodic visits to enforce safe driving behaviours, which includes mobile speed vans and Licence Plate Recognition parking vehicles.

What can school communities do?

Poor driver behaviours increase the risk to children around ACT schools. Some parents contribute to this increased risk by driving to school and not obeying the road rules. Road safety is a shared responsibility, drive safely and follow the road rules to ensure the entire school community feels safe. This will increase safety around schools, allowing more children to use active travel.

Road rules

Children are more at risk than adults because they are smaller and less visible to drivers. They are also less predictable and less experienced, which makes them more likely to make errors of judgement.

Failing to follow simple road rules increases the risk to children around schools. While schools can become congested during the peak times, illegal driving behaviours will not be tolerated in the ACT as it increases the risk of injury for children.



Active travel is the safe, fun and healthy alternative for children in Canberra.



Parking or stopping on verges, across driveways, over access ramps and on footpaths is dangerous and illegal. It prevents access for children and reduces visibility. Fines for breaching these road rules start at \$114 and can exceed \$2000, depending on the severity of the offence.

The road rule	What the rule means	Why the rule matters
	<p>Bus zone signage indicates the area within the zone is reserved for use by buses. These areas are reserved for buses at all times, unless signposted otherwise.</p>	<p>Bus zones are used to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide easy, quick and safe access for buses and users • provide safe access for children • help ease congestion around schools, by encouraging more people to use public transport.
	<p>A children's crossing is a part-time crossing that operates when one or more crossing flags are displayed. The children's crossing gives <u>all pedestrians</u> priority over vehicles.</p>	<p>Children's crossings are used to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide priority to all pedestrians and cyclists (including adults) across roads on school days • highlight to motorists where a pedestrian desire line is on school days.
	<p>No left or right hand turn signage is used to prevent left or right turns onto a road. School carparks often use this type of signage to increase traffic flow and safety.</p>	<p>No left/right turn signage is used to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prevent cars from turning one direction to increase traffic flow and reduce congestion • protect child safety, particularly if there is a children's crossing in the vicinity.
	<p>Vehicles are not permitted to stop or park in a 'No Stopping' zone for any purpose.</p>	<p>No Stopping zones are used to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prevent stopping in locations where it is not safe or reduces visibility • improve the visibility of children on the side of and entering the road.
	<p>40km/h zones operate at ACT schools between 8am and 4pm Monday to Friday during school term. This type of sign is a regulation sign that highlights the maximum permissible speed. Failure to comply is an offence.</p>	<p>The 40km/h speed limits are used to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce the potential risk to a pedestrian • provide more time to observe the road environment, which can be complex around schools • provide drivers with more time to observe, react and stop if required.
	<p>Vehicles are permitted to stop in a 'No Parking' zone. A vehicle may stop to pick up or set down passengers but must drive on within two minutes of stopping. The driver must remain within three metres of the vehicle.</p>	<p>No Parking zones are used to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prevent parking in locations where it is not safe for a driver to leave the vehicle • improve the visibility of children on the side of and entering the road.
	<p>Pedestrian crossings (zebras) are full-time crossings which give priority to pedestrians and cyclists over vehicles. Drivers are required to give way to pedestrians and cyclists.</p>	<p>Pedestrian crossings are used to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide priority and amenity to all pedestrians across busy roads • highlight to motorists a frequently used pedestrian desire line.
	<p>Car parking spaces are reserved for vehicles correctly displaying the required parking permit and complying with the conditions of the permit.</p>	<p>Mobility car parking spaces are used to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide safe and easy access for people with mobility issues.

More information

The Active Travel for Schools section on the Transport Canberra website provides information about alternative forms of transport.
transport.act.gov.au

The Traffic Management Around Schools section on the Transport Canberra and City Service website has a selection of useful information sheets.
tccs.act.gov.au

The Traffic and Parking Infringements page on the Access Canberra website has a copy of the ACT Road Rules Handbook.
accesscanberra.act.gov.au