

# Safe school crossings

Teach children to cross roads  
safely and follow the road rules  
to keep children safe





**NOTE:**



**Everyone in the community has an important role to play to manage road safety around ACT schools.**

Children are more at risk than adults because they are smaller and less visible to drivers. Their behaviour can also be less predictable and they may lack the cognitive skills to judge speed.

Poor driver behaviours can increase the potential safety risks for children around schools. School communities can decrease this risk by obeying the road rules, which are in place to protect safety.



## FOUR WAYS TO CROSS THE ROAD

There are a number of road crossings used near schools to assist children to cross safely. It is important to remember each of these crossings have slightly different rules.

While motorists are required to give way to students on crossings, children need to remain vigilant and should not step onto the road until cars have completely stopped.

# CHILDREN CROSSING

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### Children's crossing

A children's crossing is a part-time crossing that operates only when one or more children crossing flags are displayed. Children's crossings are marked by white lines on the roadway and by red and white striped posts on each kerb.

Children's crossings give all pedestrians and cyclists (including adults) priority over motorists. Vehicles MUST stop at the white hold lines and remain stationary until the crossing is completely clear of all pedestrians.

### Pedestrian crossing

Pedestrian crossings, commonly referred to as zebra crossings, are marked by white stripes on the road.

Motorists must give way to pedestrians and cyclists at pedestrian crossings.

Pedestrian crossings are full-time facilities that give priority to pedestrians over vehicles. Motorists approaching a pedestrian crossing must drive at a speed at which the driver can, if necessary, stop safely before the crossing.



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### Refuge island

A refuge island is not a formal crossing. It provides crossing assistance to pedestrians and cyclists by splitting the crossing distance into two shorter crossing segments.

A two-stage crossing allows pedestrians and cyclists to scan each opposing traffic flow in turn and to make their crossing with minimal delay.



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### School crossing supervisor

School crossing supervisors 'lollipop people' patrol a selection of busy crossings (pedestrian or children's) adjacent to schools in the ACT. At these crossings motorists and pedestrians should follow the supervisor's instructions.



Supervisors manage the flow of pedestrians and traffic with a hand-held stop sign. When a supervisor displays the stop sign, motorists should stop prior to the crossing. Pedestrians should then follow the instructions of the supervisor to cross the road safely (including two whistle blows indicating it is safe to cross).

Motorists should only proceed through the crossing once the supervisor has left the road and the stop sign is no longer visible.

### TIPS:



Teaching children to travel safely to school is an important part of a child's development. Remind them to STOP, LOOK, LISTEN and THINK prior to crossing any road.



## TIPS:



Road safety is a shared responsibility. Keep children safe by following the road rules, particularly in school environments.

## Important things to remember

### Pedestrians

- Identify safe routes to school with limited road crossings
- Teach children to cross roads safely
- Never expect a car to stop, wait until they have completely stopped prior to crossing
- STOP, LOOK, LISTEN and THINK prior to crossing

### Motorists

- Drive at an appropriate speed in school zones (which may be less than 40km/h)
- Never pass queuing cars at crossings
- Always stop for pedestrians at crossings
- Never park or stop adjacent to a crossing, it obscures the view of children

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