



FACT SHEET

School Zones and Parking

Parking is enforced by police and Council Local Laws officers in accordance with Rockhampton Regional Council Local Law No 5 (Parking) 2011 and the Transport Operations (Road Use Management – Road Rules) Regulation 2009 (TORUM). **Unlawful parking should be reported to the Queensland Police Service (QPS) through their Policelink line on 131 444, or to Council's Local Laws officers through the Customer Service Centre on 1300 22 55 77.**

The roads around schools are a hub of activity in the morning and afternoon, and it's important to provide a safe environment for pedestrians while also minimising the impacts on traffic flow. School zones generally have a lower speed limit enforced during the busy school drop-off and pick-up times, and have a number of parking rules which exist to maintain safety and minimise traffic congestion.

Speed Zones

In the Rockhampton region, most school zones have a speed limit of 40 km/h and

apply on school days between 7:30-9am and 2:30-4pm (always check the times stated on the school zone signs as they may vary). Slowing down and remaining vigilant when driving in school zones will not have a major impact on your travel time, but it will contribute to ensuring the safety of children in the area.

Stop, Drop and Go (Loading) Zones

Many schools use loading zones or 'Stop, Drop and Go' areas to help with the safe and efficient transportation of school children. **The correct utilisation of these zones helps minimise local traffic impacts and helps ease congestion and wait times.** It is important to always follow the directions and time limits imposed by road signs near schools, and to remain courteous to your fellow motorists. **Most 'Stop, Drop and Go' zones allow two minutes to drop off or pick up passengers, but you must not leave your vehicle** other than to open the doors for passengers. In these areas, a driver may stay for five minutes to drop off or pick up passengers with a disability.

For 'Stop, Drop and Go' zones to work safely and efficiently, it is important to stick to a number of rules including:

- **If your child is not waiting for you** and you have exceeded the posted wait time, **leave the area** to allow other parents to access the zone
- **Never remain in the zone for longer than specified**, and stay with your vehicle
- Ensure your child exits the vehicle on the kerb side, not into the traffic lane
- **Do not block intersections or driveway accesses.**
- **Do not stop in a traffic lane** impeding the flow of traffic trying to travel through the area
- Move forward in the queue as space becomes available to eliminate the need to perform more difficult parking manoeuvres
- Ensure your child watches for your vehicle and moves promptly when you arrive, and
- Remain courteous to other motorists.

Parking Near Schools and Crossings

Parking or stopping your vehicle too close to an intersection or pedestrian crossing reduces visibility and can endanger pedestrians and other drivers.

A driver **must not park within 20m before or 10m after a pedestrian or children's**

crossing, and must not block pedestrian ramps or footpath access. When parking near an intersection, a driver must not stop on a road within 20m of an intersection with traffic lights or within 10m of an intersection without traffic lights, unless signed otherwise. These distances apply to both parking and stopping, meaning **you are not allowed to use these areas to drop off or pick up passengers.**

You must also ensure you leave marked bus zones clear, and do not use them for parking or drop-off/pick-up. In order to allow buses to manoeuvre into and out of the bus stop, you should **not stop within 20m before or 10m after a bus stop sign.**

Reducing Congestion and Parking Demand

It can be frustrating trying to find a spot in the school car park, which may lead to drivers overstaying their allowed time limit in set-down areas. To alleviate this, you may consider parking a few hundred metres from the school and walking to the gate – this saves the traffic issues, and provides an opportunity for exercise.



Common Signs Near Schools

There are a number of traffic signs installed near schools to serve as warnings and to display parking regulations. Here are a few common examples:

No Stopping



A driver **must not stop in a no stopping zone**, meaning you may not stop in this area even if only to drop off or collect passengers.

No stopping areas may be delineated using the regulatory sign shown and/or with a **continuous yellow line** marked on the road.

No Parking



You may stop in a no parking zone as long as you are **dropping off or picking up passengers or goods**. You must not leave your vehicle unattended (i.e. move more than 3 metres away), and you must not stay for longer than **2 minutes**.

Passenger Loading Zone



The passenger loading zone sign indicates an area designated **for picking up or dropping off passengers**. You must not remain in the zone for longer than signed (generally **2 minutes**).

This sign often displays times during which the loading zone applies.

Bus Zone



You **must not stop in a bus zone** unless you are in a bus, and you must also leave a gap of 20m before and 10m after a bus stop, unless signed otherwise. This gives room for the bus to enter and exit safely.

Also **be aware of the possibility of children running out from behind buses**. Always leave plenty of room around bus zones to allow good visibility for drivers and pedestrians.

Pedestrian/Children Crossing



Pedestrian Crossing

The pedestrian crossing sign warns drivers of the presence of a pedestrian (zebra) crossing on the road. **Remain vigilant** when approaching the crossing, and remember you must **give way to pedestrians** crossing the road.



Children Crossing

Children crossing flags are displayed on crossings near schools where children cross the road. A children's crossing may also be supervised.

School Zone



School zones feature reduced speed limits during times of increased pedestrian activity to increase the safety on roads around schools. In the Rockhampton region, most school zones have a speed limit of **40 km/h** and apply on school days **between 7:30-9am and 2:30-4pm**. You should always check the times specified on school zone signs in case they differ.