



Transportation Safety Messages 2025-26

The purpose of this document is to provide safety messages for our schools that can be included in newsletters and emails to provide important information to keep our students safe.

Safe Streets

- Keeping streets safe is a shared responsibility.

Drivers:

- Be patient, even when you are running late. Take time to make safe and smart decisions.
- Obey the posted speed limit and drive cautiously when children are present.
- Watch for school buses. They have big blind spots, poor manoeuvrability and need lots of space to move.
- Scan for pedestrians between parked vehicles as pedestrians may step out unexpectedly.
- Do not enter school bus loading zones, stop or park in designated zones only so buses can safely pull into their designated space.
- Avoid making U-turns in a playground zone or near crosswalks.
- Always obey school safety patrols.
- Pedestrians have the right of way at all intersections and crosswalks (unless controlled by traffic signal/device or as directed by a police officer).
- Watch for pedestrian activated signals (flashers), a pedestrian may be using the crosswalk.
- Do not double park to drop-off/pick-up students. This puts the students at risk as they get in and out of the vehicle in the traffic lane.
- Stop for pedestrians crossing at all marked and unmarked crosswalks and intersections.
- Stay alert and focused. Do not drive distracted, that means no talking/texting on a phone.

- Never pass a vehicle at a crosswalk or in a playground zone.
- Never stop or park within 5 m (one car length) of a crosswalk, intersection or stop sign. This will allow pedestrians to be seen as they step off the curb.
- Turn with caution and always watch out for people crossing the street.
- If possible, drive with students on the passenger side in the vehicle. This will allow passengers to get out of the vehicle on the sidewalk rather than into traffic.
- Ways to avoid the congestion around the school:
 - drop-off/pick-up further away and walk to school
 - take advantage of early drop-off
 - carpool with friends and neighbours
 - walk, ride a bicycle or scooter/skateboard to school
 - use the school bus transportation service.
(According to the National Collision Database, school buses are the safest means of transporting to and from school. As of 2018, students are about 80 times more likely to get to school safely on a school bus than by car.)

Pedestrians:

- Do not jaywalk or cross the street from between parked vehicles, especially buses.
- Only cross the street at a safe spot, such as a corner or intersection.
- Watch for turning vehicles and traffic that may not see you.
- Look all directions before crossing.
- Make eye contact with drivers before you begin crossing the street.
- Stay alert and focused (do not text/talk on your phone, listen to headphones) while crossing the street.
- Be visible, walk as a group and wear brighter clothing.