

IMPORTANT

School Drop-Off and Pick-Up Safety Notice

The Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead Council have had an increased number of complaints regarding traffic issues around the school pick up and drop off across our Borough schools.

Officers from our Transport and Road Safety teams have been out assessing and observing the issues and have reported two common factors at all our school sites;

1. poor driver behaviour
2. lack of pedestrian road safety skills.

During their visits to schools they have witnessed drivers stopping on the School Keep Clear Markings, letting pupils get out of the car onto the middle of the carriageway, parking on the pavement and blocking the footway for pedestrians, parking on double yellow lines, parking on white zigzags at a pedestrian crossing, pupils rushing across the road without looking, crossing roads without paying attention and looking at their phone.

All pupils deserve a safe environment to enter and exit school. Taking personal responsibility for behaviour around the school gates creates a safe and secure environment.

How to create a safe environment for pick up and drop off at school;

Road traffic laws are not optional they are legal requirements to keep all road users safe.

Drivers

1. **School Keep Clear** markings – You **MUST NOT STOP** on the yellow zig zags, not even for one second. The markings are placed outside school entrances to keep a clear space for pedestrians to cross the road without obstruction.
2. **Letting pupils out of the car** – Do not let pupils out of the car onto the carriageway. This is extremely dangerous. Always ensure pupils alight onto the pavement and in a suitable space that does not block pavements, driveways or contravene the road traffic laws.

3. **Pavement parking** – Driving along pavements and obstructing the pavement is against the road traffic law. Parking on the pavement obstructs the only safe space that pedestrians can walk. Park with all 4 wheels on the road. If there is insufficient space on the road to park then you must move until you find an appropriate space.
4. **White zig zags** – It is against the road traffic law to stop on the white zig zag markings even for a second. Stopping here carries an immediate 3 points on your licence and a £100 fine. These markings are found at controlled crossing places to ensure clear unobstructed view of the crossing for the safety of pedestrians.
5. **Dangerous manoeuvres** – carrying out three point turns and reversing into spaces where pupils are trying to cross the road puts everyone in danger and creates frustrations for other road users.
6. **Double yellow lines** – double yellow lines are put along the carriageway to stop vehicles obstructing the road. Parking on the double yellow lines obstructs the flow of traffic and causes frustrations for other road users.
7. **Park further away from the school gates** – Pupils of secondary school age should not need to be picked up or dropped off directly outside the school gates. It is reasonable to ask them to walk a short distance away from the school to avoid congestion directly outside the school.

Pedestrians

1. **Road Safety Skills** – Using the basic Green Cross Code every time you cross the road and finding a safe place to cross the road is essential. Crossing with good observations will keep you safe.
2. **Crossing places** – Find the safest place to cross a road. The safest route may not always be the fastest route. Use crossing facilities where possible; zebra crossing, refuge islands, traffic light controlled crossings. Where no crossing point is available find a spot where you have an unobstructed view up and down the road and stay patient until there is a clear gap in the traffic before stepping onto the road. The School Keep Clear markings are in place to provide a clear space to cross into school.

By complying to the road traffic laws and the highway code, a safer, calmer environment is created for everyone.