

ADDRESSING TRAFFIC CONTROL ISSUES AROUND SCHOOLS

Dangerous parking and speeding around schools are two major issues that many P&Cs face each year. Addressing them requires whole-of-community collaboration, with key stakeholders including the P&C, the school, local council and local policing teams. It can be difficult to know where to turn for assistance first, this guideline aims to provide points of contact and suggestions on how to address any traffic control issues your school might be experiencing.

SPEEDING

Motorists exceeding the 40km/hr limit in school zones during designated times and exceeding the speed limit on other surrounding roads surrounding when children are travelling to and from school causes ongoing safety issues for many WA schools. Speeding can be carried out by members of the school community and also those in the wider community, so a multi-pronged approach to addressing the issue is recommended.

Here are some suggestions on how to tackle speeding around schools:

- The P&C President can speak up at assemblies and include speeding reminders in P&C correspondence. They can also liaise with the school principal to put out regular communication to all parents through school channels.
- The P&C can resolve to approach the local newspaper (or radio station) for an awareness raising article to be published. (See WACSSO's President's Guide for tips on dealing with the media)
- Make contact with your local police. Under WA's new Policing Model, Local Policing Teams, falling under particular districts, carry out day to day community policing duties. You can find and contact your local policing team using the Frontline 2020 resource: www.police.wa.gov.au/Contact-Us/LPT. Police will often conduct a speeding 'blitz' in a particular area of concern in the community.
- The P&C could even coordinate the above three suggestions by resolving to start its own 'slow down' campaign. Ramp it up by producing bumper stickers, or bin stickers etc. that community members can display. The local council may even be interested in partnering with the P&C in an initiative.

PARKING

Parking is an issue at most schools and it is a challenge for the school community to provide various options to ensure all students get to and from school safely. Schools have a limited amount of parking bays to cater for school staff and for parent pick-up and drop-off. If left unaddressed, parking issues can lead to double parking, illegal verge and footpath parking and other dangerous stopping habits. *Here are some suggestions on how to improve parking around your school:*

Discuss

Put parking on the agenda for an upcoming P&C Meeting, when the Principal can be present to aid the discussion. Work through any ways the P&C can partner with the school to remediate parking issues – eg. frequent communication with parents, implementation of a Kiss and Ride program, erecting signage, joining the Department of Transport's TravelSmart to School Program.

Communicate

The P&C President can speak at assemblies and include safe parking and drop-off/pick-up information in P&C correspondence. They can also liaise with the school principal to put out regular communication to all parents through school channels.

Year 12 Drivers

Starting in 2015, around half of Year 12 students at secondary schools will be turning 18 years, so it is predicted more students will be gaining drivers licenses and some will want to drive to school. Each school deals with this issue differently, so it is important to clarify any concerns with the school principal.

Kiss and Ride Zones

These are 'no-parking' areas where parents can drop-off and pick-up their child without disturbing the flow of traffic on the road. They are implemented for student safety, parent convenience and to minimise congestion and confusion during the busiest times of the day – drop-off and pick up. Often, P&Cs supply volunteer/s to supervise the zone, ensuring safety and smooth traffic flow.

Work with your local council

Where there is an acute or ongoing problem, Councils will often supply parking inspectors (rangers) to monitor problem areas and ticket if necessary. Many Councils produce publications addressing school parking issues. For instance, the City of Stirling has a 'Safe Parking at Schools' brochure and the City of Mandurah has a 'Parking Around Schools' brochure. Councils will usually work with schools to address parking issues – find out how your Council can help you.

PROGRAMS & RESOURCES

WALGA Roadwise Program

This WA Local Government Association initiative supports Local Governments, community groups, businesses and individuals to become involved in the road safety network around the state. The program provides access to resources and training.

Visit www.roadwise.asn.au for more information.

Dept. Transport TravelSmart to School Program

The State Government run TravelSmart to School program works with primary schools to promote safe and active ways to travel to school.

The program works by:

- Helping students be healthy and active by increasing walking and riding to school.
- Tackling traffic issues and boosting school spirit.
- Creating student-centred teams to foster leadership skills and achieve change.
- Providing practical ways to teach and develop sustainability at your school.
- Hosting an Online Community to provide examples and discuss solutions to parking congestion, road safety and physical activity issues.

Schools that partake in the program can be eligible for reward packs, competitions with student prizes, signage and badge machines for loan, how-to guides, planning support, eNewsletters, and professional development and networking opportunities.

Visit tsts.com.au for more information.

Traffic Wardens & School Crossings

WA Police administer the Children's Crossing and Road Safety Committee, which consults and decides on applications requesting children's crossings around schools. WACSSO is an advisory member of this committee. Their webpage includes information on how to apply for a crossing guard, the criteria, who makes the decision and the appeals process. There are also downloadable application and other forms. It also contains school resources including colouring sheets and road safety fact sheets.

View the page here: www.police.wa.gov.au/Traffic/Road%20safety/Childrens%20crossings

For further information please contact:

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