

Moving from Primary to Secondary School

Road safety advice for parents/carers



Moving from primary to secondary school can be an exciting time but the new school journey also presents increased road safety risks.

Research shows that Year 7 to 9 pupils are twice as likely to be hurt on the roads compared to Year 4 to 6 pupils.

This may be the first time your child is travelling on the school journey without you. Help to prepare them by practising the journey together.



www.durham.gov.uk/roadsafety



Some helpful hints:

Walking

- ✓ Plan their walking route with them plus alternatives too. Remember the safest route may not be the quickest. Plan a route to avoid busy roads and find the safest places to cross.
- ✓ Practise the route during the school holidays.
- ✓ Discuss any changes to their routine.
- ✓ Discuss the dangers of being distracted – such as using mobile phones, wearing ear pods or hoods when walking or crossing roads.



Cycling

If your child is cycling:



- ✓ Practice the route before the first day at school.
- ✓ Ensure they have a cycle helmet and bright clothing or accessories.
- ✓ Is the bike in good working order, particularly the brakes, tyres and steering?
- ✓ Does the bike have lights, reflectors and a lock?



Some helpful hints:

Buses

If the new journey to school involves a bus journey:

- ✓ Talk about bus times, where to catch the bus and if any roads need to be crossed.
- ✓ Looking after their bus pass.
- ✓ If they miss the bus what is their plan of action?
- ✓ Discuss any changes to their routine and how this might affect their journey.
- ✓ Remind them to wait for the bus to completely stop before approaching it: **STAND BACK**
- ✓ Discuss behaviour on the bus.
- ✓ Explain why it is important to wait until the bus has moved off before crossing the road.



Driving



If you have to drive on the school journey. Please ensure:

- ✓ Everyone wears a seatbelt.
- ✓ Car doors are opened onto the pavement side.

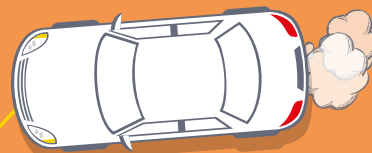
As a driver you have a responsibility to park in a safe and considerate manner.

- ✓ Keep the school yellow zig zags clear of traffic, please don't stop, drop or park here.
- ✓ Please don't park on single or double yellow lines.
- ✓ Avoid double parking, pavement parking, parking across dropped kerbs, near junctions and on corners.
- ✓ Be considerate to local residents by keeping their driveways clear.
- ✓ Avoid idling your engine as it pollutes the air we breathe.
- ✓ Don't stop in the middle of the road to drop your child off.



Consider:

Parking away from school and walking the rest of the way. This helps to alleviate traffic congestion outside of the school entrances and the local area, it also helps the environment too.



Sharing the school run with other drivers with similar routes.



For more details contact the Road Safety Team at road.safety@durham.gov.uk

Visit Road Safety - Durham County Council