



School zone road safety – advice for active travellers



Catching a bus safely

Catching a bus is a great way to active travel and reduce the number of cars on the road. It's important to be careful when you catch the bus, especially during the minutes before and after you get off when you are most likely to get distracted.

Here are some things you and your friends can do to be safe in and around buses and reduce the risk of accidents:

While you are waiting for the bus:

- Arrive at the bus stop at least 5 minutes early; you don't want to be late or miss the bus. Have your pass ready.
- Don't run, rush, or push while you are waiting. Hail the driver by waving your arm, and make sure you wait until the bus has stopped and the doors are open before you approach.
- Make sure you are at a designated stop and stand at least one step back from the edge of the road.

After you get off the bus:

- Wait until the bus has gone, then choose a safe place to cross the road. Remember to STOP, LOOK, LISTEN, and THINK before you cross.
- Arrange to have somebody you trust meet you at the bus stop. Ask for them to come to the same side of the road you are on to meet you, and not call you across from the opposite side.

More information

More information about road safety on the Gold Coast is available at www.goldcoast.qld.gov.au under > The Gold Coast > Traffic & Transport > Road Safety

More information about the City's Active School Travel is available at www.goldcoast.qld.gov.au under > The Gold Coast > Traffic & Transport > Active Travel > Active School Travel

Staying safe while you active travel

Active travel is the best way to get to and from school on the Gold Coast. Active travelling lets you be with your friends as you walk, wheel, carpool or catch public transport. It also helps the environment and is good for your health.

It's important to learn and practice road safety while you travel, to keep yourself and others safe.

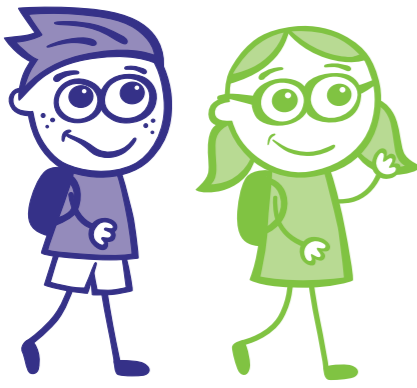
Pay attention, be careful, and have fun as you actively travel and build road safety skills.



STOP, LOOK, LISTEN and THINK

STOP, LOOK, LISTEN and THINK! is a helpful strategy that supports children to cross the road safely.

- ✓ **STOP:** one step back from the footpath or shoulder of the road if there is no footpath.
- ✓ **LOOK:** in all directions for approaching traffic.
- ✓ **LISTEN:** in all directions for approaching traffic.
- ✓ **THINK:** about whether it is safe to cross the road – when the road is clear or all traffic has stopped. When crossing, walk straight across the road. Keep LOOKING and LISTENING for traffic while crossing.



Learn and practice these safe pedestrian behaviours with your family and friends. This will help you learn to be a safer pedestrian when you are old enough to travel alone.

Walking

Walking to and from school offers a great opportunity to spend time with your friends and family and to practice road safety.

Tips for walking together safely to and from school

Here are a few things you can do to stay safer as a pedestrian:

- **Use crossings**—it's important to use the school crossing whenever possible. These are always the safest place to cross because motorists can identify them as crossing points.
- **Hold hands**—always hold hands with a grown up when crossing the road. They can support you to spot dangers such as vehicles coming out of driveways, and guide you away from traffic.
- **STOP! LOOK! LISTEN! THINK!**—remember every time you cross the road to stop, look, listen, and think, before crossing a driveway, road or carpark, and to keep checking until you are safely across.

School crossings and crossing the road safely

At all crossings you must wait on the footpath, at least one step back from the edge of the road. If there's a School Crossing Supervisor, wait until they have stopped the traffic and called you to cross.

The safest places to cross the road are at:

- **a school crossing**—only cross when the Crossing Supervisor has signalled it is safe
- **a pedestrian (zebra) crossing**—only cross when cars have stopped for them
- **pedestrian traffic lights**—only cross when you can see the 'green man' or the green WALK sign and never cross when you can see a 'red man' or the red DON'T WALK sign.

If there are no crossings available, choose a safe place where you can see traffic in all directions and where drivers can see you.

Remember to not wear headphones or listen to music when crossing roads. This can make it difficult to hear oncoming traffic.

Riding and bike safety

Riding a bike is a great way to improve fitness, confidence, and understand the importance of being safe whilst still having fun.

Here are some things you can do to stay safe while riding a bike around school zones. Remember, a bicycle is a vehicle and riders must follow all the road rules when riding on roads and paths.

Before you ride

Every time you ride, make sure:

- your bicycle has at least 1 working brake
- your bicycle has a working bell, horn, or a similar warning device
- you are wearing an approved, correctly fitted helmet. The law requires everyone to wear a helmet when riding a bike in a public place. Your helmet must comply with the Australian and New Zealand standards and needs to be securely fitted and fastened on your head.



Riding safely

- Avoid riding on busy roads where possible.
- Keep to the left of the path or road (unless making a right turn) and use bike paths or lanes when available.
- Give way to pedestrians.
- Obey all road signs.
- When riding with others, do not ride with more than 2 riders side by side unless you are overtaking another rider, and be prepared to ride in single file on narrow roads and paths
- Ride no more than 1.5m apart, if travelling beside another rider.
- Take special care at driveways where vehicles may be driving in or out.
- Avoid being a traffic hazard – do not ride into the path of a driver or pedestrian.
- Wheel bicycles across all crossings, except bicycle crossings.
- At intersections, dismount and wheel your bike across the road as a pedestrian.
- Follow the STOP! LOOK! LISTEN! THINK! procedure before crossing any road.

Riding in a bicycle lane on a road

A bicycle lane is a marked lane with either a bicycle lane sign or a road marking of a bicycle symbol and the word 'lane' painted in white. The road may be painted green.

In Queensland, if you are riding on the road you must ride in the bicycle lane if one is provided. You must not ride in a bicycle lane on the wrong side of the road (travelling towards oncoming traffic).

Riding across a road at a crossing

Crossings include:

- pedestrian crossings (zebra crossings)
- school crossings
- signalised pedestrian crossing.

While the safest option is to dismount, you can ride across pedestrian crossings at traffic lights if you:

- wait for the green 'walk' sign
- proceed slowly and safely
- give way to any pedestrian on the crossing
- keep to the left of any oncoming bicycle rider.

While the safest option is to dismount, you can ride across pedestrian crossings at traffic lights if you:

- come to a complete stop first
- proceed slowly and safely
- give way to any pedestrian on the crossing
- keep to the left of any oncoming bicycle riders.

You must give way to vehicles and other road users at uncontrolled intersections before you ride across.

Riding on a separated path

On a separated path, you can only ride on the side that is for bicycle riders. The other side is for pedestrians. The separated path sign will show you which side of the path you must ride on. You must always ride to the left of bicycle riders coming toward you.



Riding on a footpath or shared path

On footpaths and shared paths, you share the space with pedestrians.

You must:

- keep left and give way to all pedestrians
- always ride to the left of bicycle riders coming toward you
- travel at a speed that allows you to stop safely to avoid colliding with a pedestrian.



For more information about safe bike riding on the Gold Coast head to www.goldcoast.qld.gov.au under **Services > Roads, Transport & Parking > Active travel > Bike riding**