



MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL

GREATER MANCHESTER
POLICE



**Ways to Stay Safe
Around Your Local School**

ROAD SAFETY

HEALTH

Healthy travel to school

The average primary school journey is only 1.5 miles, so it makes sense to encourage children to walk or cycle to school. This would ease congestion, reduce pollution and contribute towards the recommended daily hour of physical activity they need. The health benefits are great for parents and carers too!

Research has shown that children who walk to school arrive in a much calmer frame of mind and they are better equipped to cope with the school day ahead.

It's also wise to talk to your child about road safety and how to manage their journey safely. This includes understanding the potentially dangerous distractions from mobile phones when crossing roads.

If you drive your children to school because it's too far to walk, have you considered driving part of the way and walking the rest? That way, they can still get some valuable exercise and avoid the stress of school drop-off congestion.

A good idea to encourage walking is to create a Walk Together scheme. This is where groups of parents who know each other share responsibility for walking their children to school. You could arrange to meet up on the way to school.



Cycling

Cycling to school is a good starting point to get children out and about and on their bikes. Cycling not only encourages independence and builds confidence, but can also provide an active start to the day by helping children to be more alert in lessons. Speak to your school about Cycling Proficiency training, or contact Bikeability for more information and adult training: www.bikeability.org.uk

SAFETY

Road safety outside schools is a high priority for us all, and by working together we have the chance to ensure that children can travel to and from school safely without the risk of being involved in an accident. Unfortunately, across Manchester we still have a number of pupils who are involved in road accidents every year, and child accident figures generally are still at an unacceptable level as shown by recent figures. Between 2014 and 2017 there were 351 reported road-injury collisions involving a child casualty in Manchester.

Mobile phones when driving

You are four times more likely to be in a crash if you use your mobile phone when driving. Penalties of up to six points on your licence and a £200 fine are standard, and you could even lose your driving licence.

If you see a driver using a phone illegally, you can report this anonymously – call Crimestoppers on **0800 555111**.

Seat belts

In the UK it is the law to wear a seatbelt, both as a passenger and as a driver. However, there is evidence that some drivers still do not wear seatbelts on what they regard as short or familiar journeys, putting themselves at serious risk of injury in a crash.

In a crash you're twice as likely to die if you don't wear a seatbelt. If a crash occurs, an unbelted passenger will continue to travel at the same speed the car was travelling at before impact – would you want to be responsible for that?

Child seats

Child seats are a legal requirement. They must be installed correctly and meet the required legal standards. Find out more at **www.gov.uk** and search 'child car seats' for the facts.

20mph speed limit around schools

An accident while driving at 20mph has a 1.5% chance of a fatality; driving at 30mph increases this to 8%. Driving at 20mph instead of 30mph on a typical short journey will add no more than two minutes to your journey time.

ROAD SAFETY

Overcrowded cars

It is illegal to carry more people in your car than you have seats for. Never overcrowd your car and always politely refuse if you are asked to give a lift home to another child or adult when your car is full.

No matter how short the journey, never allow passengers to sit on each other's laps, and don't have more people than belts or seats.

Parking outside schools

The rules about parking outside schools are there to protect your children and to keep the school gates clear. Imagine what it's like for a child trying to cross the road where cars are parked on zigzag markings, double yellow lines or over the pavement. Parking like this could force vulnerable people into walking in the road.

It is illegal and you can receive a £70 fine.

Parking further away and walking is better than risking your child's safety and getting fined.

If your school has a safe drop-off zone or 'Park and Stride' facility, use it.

Road safety resources for schools and parents can be found at:

www.think.gov.uk

www.brake.org.uk

www.gmp.police.uk

