

Code of Conduct for Parking around Schools

In partnership with
Hampton Park Primary School



Casey's Demographics

Over the last few years the City of Casey has experienced an increase in student numbers. This is due to the number of families moving into Casey. Casey's population is nearing 237,000 people, making it one of the most populous municipalities in Victoria. This number grows by about 8,000 residents each year or around 50 families each week.

Casey has one of the highest numbers of children of any municipality in Australia, with 16,800 children aged 0-4 years. Around 38,000 students attend primary and secondary schools in Casey. Young people make up more than 19.3 per cent of Casey's population, with approximately 41,440 aged 12-24 years.

Identified Congestion and Road Safety Issues around Schools

This has created greater competition for parking spaces outside school boundaries. Because curb side parking spaces are finite and immovable, drivers seek out alternative parking solutions. In doing so, they are taking more risks when dropping off and picking up their children from school. The following issues are regularly occurring around schools during peak times;

- Double parking
- Parking contrary to signage
- Parking over school crossings
- Parking over residential driveways
- Parking on residential nature strips
- Parking in school staff car parks
- Parking in narrow side roads blocking residential access into and out of the street.

These factors can increase the risk of a child being harmed and at the very least they inconvenience other motorists, students, and local residents.

The City of Casey is actively working with community groups and government agencies to find solutions to these road safety issues and is being guided by the City of Casey's Vision:

A place where people can enjoy:

- a secure and quality lifestyle
- cultural and economic opportunities
- being part of a vibrant, active and diverse community in an attractive, healthy and sustainable environment."

Interested Parties

There are seven interested parties that are affected by these traffic congestion and road safety issues around schools. They are;

- School Children
- Parents/Carers
- School Staff
- School Crossing Supervisors
- Local residents
- Victoria Police
- Casey City Council

The traffic congestion and road safety issues have reached such a level of concern that it is timely to organise a working party of interested people that can come together to discuss these issues and formulate a Code of Conduct for Parking around Schools that will have a collective benefit to all road users.

Expectations

Children are entitled to expect that;

- They have a safe environment to get to and from school.
 - (Injury risk is minimised in the road environment around schools).
 - (School crossings are supervised where installed).
 - (Parking of vehicles will be in accordance with the Victoria Road Rules outside schools).
- Parents, carers and other adults will look after the physical and emotional wellbeing of the children in a road safety context around the school environment.
 - (All adults will place the welfare of children as the main priority around school environments).

Parents and Care Providers are entitled to expect that;

- Their children will arrive at and depart from school in a safe environment.
- They will be able to drop off and pick up their children without unnecessary delays.
- Other road users will adhere to the road signage, school crossing flags and other road rules on roads around schools.
- They will be able to contact the Casey City Council and discuss road safety concerns around school environs.

Teachers and school staff are entitled to expect that;

- They are able to access and leave allocated staff parking areas without undue delay.
- Parents will be prompt in dropping off and collecting their children to and from school.
- Positive behaviours are maintained by parents, carers and children at these times.

School Crossing Supervisors are entitled to expect that;

- Parents and children will obey their directions while the school crossing is in use.
- Parents will encourage their children to use the school crossings and train them to do this.
- Parents will obey the road rules and be extra vigilant around 'school crossing designated' areas.

Local Residents are entitled to expect that;

- Their privacy will be respected.
- Their access to and from their property will not be impeded.
- The nature strips they maintain will not be damaged or parked on.

The Casey City Council is entitled to expect that;

- Parents and Carers will contribute to a safer road environment at peak school times by parking legally and adhering to the law regarding road signage, school crossing flags and road rules around the school environment.
- The Department of Education and Training will work with council to develop car parking spaces in and around schools that allows for more efficient and safer parking.
- Open discussion from residents, parents, carers and teachers pertaining to issues on road safety around school environs will occur.

Council values young children growing up and learning in the City of Casey and will enforce any breaches to the Road Rules Victoria around school environs to ensure they are kept safe, active and healthy.



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