

## School Zones

The school zone signs warn motorists that they are approaching a school area where children may be near to or crossing the road.



Traffic congestion in a school zone can be a significant safety hazard for school children. It occurs during arrival and dismissal times, when parents are dropping off or picking up their children.

As congestion increases, it becomes more difficult for drivers and school children to see one another. If you are a pedestrian crossing the road, always cross at an intersection and make eye contact with the approaching driver so you know that they have seen you. Walk to the nearest traffic signal or stop controlled intersection, if possible.

## Speed Limit within School Zone

Flashing 40 km/h signs are used to designate a day and time-specific reduced speed limit.



When the lights are flashing, the speed limit is reduced to 40 km/h. When they are not flashing, the speed limit returns to the regular speed limit of 50 km/h.

Elementary schools in Whitby have a speed reduction to 40 km/h. Depending on the road, this may be by time of day and day of week only.

## Stop for the Bus

Passing a stopped school bus with its upper lights flashing is both dangerous and against the law.



When the overhead red lights are flashing on a stopped school bus, all traffic travelling in both directions must stop.

There may be children crossing the road to or from the school bus. The bus will not start to move until students finish crossing safely.

When the red lights have stopped flashing and the bus has started moving again, drivers are free to continue.

The penalties for passing a stopped school bus with the red flashing lights include a fine of up to \$2,000 and six demerit points.

## School Crossings

These signs let you know where there is a school crosswalk.



During school arrival and dismissal times, a Crossing Guard will stop traffic to allow pedestrians to cross the road. Crossing Guards need to be able to see traffic and use the crosswalk at all times. Drivers who stop within a school crossing create a serious hazard for children and the Crossing Guard.

You cannot stop or park within 10 m of a crosswalk.

## Crossing Guards

Crossing Guards are Town of Whitby staff who are responsible for safely assisting elementary school aged children cross the road.



When a Crossing Guard is not on duty a school crossing is the same as any other intersection.

Pedestrians must wait for a safe gap in traffic to complete their crossing.

## Understanding the Crossing Guard Three-Whistle System



Please understand and discuss the three-whistle system with your children:

1. The Crossing Guard blows the first whistle to enter the roadway. All traffic must stop and wait outside the crosswalk.
2. The Guard blows the second whistle once all vehicles have stopped. It is now safe for school children and parents to cross with caution.
3. The Guard blows the third whistle once the school children have crossed safely, and the Guard has returned to the sidewalk. Drivers may now continue on their way.

## No Parking Zones

Parking means the stopping of a vehicle for more than a very short period of time, whether it is occupied or not.



For example, if you see this sign, you may stop temporarily to quickly drop someone off or pick someone up (if it is safe!), but you may not park your car in order to walk to the school yourself. The penalty for parking in a No Parking zone is \$40.

Sometimes, these signs are only in effect during certain school hours, so check the sign. If there are times listed, that is when the sign applies.

## No Stopping Zones

Stopping means that the vehicle, whether occupied or not, is not moving for a reason other than to avoid a collision, to make way for an emergency vehicle or to obey a stop sign or traffic light. Students cannot be dropped off within a No Stopping zone. The penalty for stopping in a No Stopping zone is \$60.



## Active Transportation

Walking or cycling to and from school is an excellent way to get exercise, avoid vehicle congestion and reduce pollution.

It is a fun and healthy way for parents and children to spend time together. Be a walking role model!

## Making School Zones Safer

Follow these simple suggestions to make school zones safer for everyone:

- Look for traffic at every driveway and intersection. Be aware of drivers in parked cars who may be getting ready to move.
- Children can be unpredictable. Don't speed so you have more time to react.
- Traffic congestion may increase the risk of collision and prevents the free flow of cars. Park away from the school and walk with your child to avoid contributing to the congestion.
- Never use a cell phone while driving. The penalty for texting or talking while driving is \$490 and 3 demerit points.

## Choose Safety over Convenience

School times can be very busy. To help things move smoothly, park only where it is legal and safe to do so. Drivers are not permitted to park:

- Within 10 m of a crosswalk;
- Within 10 m of an intersection;
- Within 1 m of either side of a driveway;
- Within 3 m of a fire hydrant;
- In a position which leaves less than 3 m of road width to drive on or unduly restricts the flow of traffic.

These by-laws are always enforceable, even if there is not a sign posted.

Town of Whitby

# Transportation and Parking Services

Public Works Department

## Keeping Children Safe in School Zones



**WHITBY** ONTARIO • CANADA [parking@whitby.ca](mailto:parking@whitby.ca)  
[whitby.ca/parking](http://whitby.ca/parking)