

STARTING SCHOOL

A simple road safety guide for families

Simple habits for safer school journeys.

1

HOLD HANDS

Stay together near roads and in car parks.

2

STOP • LOOK • LISTEN

Use the same routine every time you cross.

3

BELT UP

Use the correct child restraint on every journey.

The journey begins

Starting school is a good time to practise safe habits near roads, crossings, cars and the school gate.

PARENTS AND CARERS SET THE EXAMPLE

Before you set off

- Choose the safest route, allow enough time and hold hands near roads.
- If driving, park away from the school entrance where possible.

WALKING TO SCHOOL

Practise this simple crossing routine

THE ROUTINE

STOP at the kerb. **LOOK** all around. **LISTEN** for traffic. Keep looking and listening until you are safely across.

Keep close

- Hold hands and keep your child on the side away from traffic where possible.
- Do not let them run ahead, fall behind or cross car parks alone.

Spot the dangers

- Look for vehicles moving from driveways, junctions or parked spaces.
- Take extra care where drivers may have a limited view.

The Green Cross Code

1. Find a safe place to cross, then stop.
2. Stand on the pavement near the kerb.
3. Look all around for traffic and listen.

4. If traffic is coming, let it pass, then look and listen again.
5. When there is no traffic near, walk straight across the road.
6. Keep looking and listening while you cross.

Choose a safer crossing place

Use a pedestrian crossing or school crossing patrol where available, and stop, look and listen every time.

ASK AS YOU WALK

Ask: “Where should we stop?” • “What can you hear?” • “Is it safe to cross?”

Parent tip: Ask one question at each crossing so your child learns to think before stepping out.

IN AND OUT OF CARS

Quick safety checks for every car journey

BELT UP	Use the correct child restraint every journey and check the belt is not slack or twisted.
SET THE EXAMPLE	Fasten your own seat belt first so your child sees it as routine.
USE CHILD LOCKS	Use child locks where needed to prevent doors being opened while the vehicle is moving.
PAVEMENT SIDE	Help your child get in and out on the pavement side whenever possible.

Around the school gate

Parking close to the entrance increases congestion and reduces visibility.

- Keep speed low and watch for children crossing between vehicles.
- Do not stop on or opposite School Keep Clear zig-zag markings; they keep crossing areas visible and safer for children.
- Keep school entrances clear by parking further away and walking the final part of the journey.
- Switch off your engine while waiting to reduce pollution.
- Make sure children get out on the pavement side, everyone wears a seat belt, and the correct child car seat or booster is used.

Quick reminder: hold hands, stop-look-listen, belt up, and park-and-stride where possible.