

## PARKING OFFENCES AROUND SCHOOLS.

Our community wants children to be safe around schools and the management of parking plays a significant role in achieving that safety goal.

To help create a safe environment for children North Sydney Council officers will patrol all school zones as often as possible and will take enforcement action against any driver who is seen not complying with the rules applicable to parking.

In 2018, North Sydney Council Rangers and Parking Officers issued more than 1,130 penalty notices to vehicles that were illegally parked in school zones. In 2017 this figure was 700.

The four main parking offences seen around schools in the North Sydney area by Council Rangers and Parking Officers are:

### **(1) Stop on or near a pedestrian crossing in a school zone.**

***Penalty: \$448.00 PLUS 2 demerit points.***

A vehicle must not stop on or near a pedestrian crossing unless there is a person about to cross or on the crossing or the moving traffic ahead prevents the vehicle from moving forward.

It is not an excuse to be waiting for a place at a kerb as this can cause drivers behind to overtake.

This practice is extremely dangerous to pedestrians using the crossing as they are hidden by the illegally parked car and other drivers cannot see them.

### **(2) Double Park in a school zone.**

***Penalty: \$337.00 PLUS 2 demerit points.***

A vehicle must not stop on a road beside another vehicle parked on that road unless prevented by traffic ahead.

If there is no available parking, a driver must not stop beside other parked cars to let people get in or out of their vehicle.

This action may provide shelter for the person getting in or out of the vehicle but significantly increases the risk to other drivers who need to overtake the double parked car and to pedestrians trying to cross a road with their line of sight blocked by the illegally parked vehicle.

### **(3) Disobey “No Stopping” sign in a school zone**

***Penalty: \$337.00 PLUS 2 demerit points.***

A driver must not stop in a No Stopping zone for any reason. No Stopping zones are in place to allow lines of sights for drivers and pedestrians and stopping in these places around schools can hide children from driver's view and also hide moving vehicles from the view of children crossing the road.

It is extremely dangerous to stop in a No Stopping zone.

### **(4) Disobey “No Parking” sign in a school zone.**

***Penalty: \$187.00 PLUS 2 demerit points.***

A driver must not stop their vehicle in a “No Parking” zone unless they are dropping off or picking up passengers or goods within the “required time” and must not leave their vehicle unattended.

A vehicle is unattended if the driver is more than three (3) metres from the vehicles.

The “required time” is two (2) minutes. If a driver holds and displays a mobility parking scheme permit, then the “required time” is extended to five minutes (5).

After the expiry of the required time the vehicle must leave the zone or risk being infringed.

These zones are usually in place to allow fast pick up and drop off of passengers – particularly in school zones. Vehicles that exceed the “No Parking” restrictions have a significant knock-on effect of causing other vehicles arriving to double park and stop on crossings whilst trying to pick up their child because they have to queue behind illegally parked cars.

The action of parking for longer than permitted in these pick up and set down zones is the root cause of all other issues that place significant risk on the safety of children around schools.

If a driver does not see the child waiting on the footpath they wish to pick up they should consider other drivers and not park at the kerb until their child is seen to be ready to be picked up.

### **Other offences to be aware of around school zones are:**

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| Stop in a bus zone in a school zone:            | <b>Penalty \$337.00 PLUS 2 demerit points</b>  |
| Stop on the footpath or strip in a school zone: | <b>Penalty \$337.00 PLUS 2 demerit points</b>  |
| Stop on or across driveway in a school zone:    | <b>Penalty \$337.00 PLUS 2 demerit points.</b> |

These penalties are imposed by the NSW Government.

A driver committing just two offences in a school zone each term for the first three terms may lose their licence before the start of the fourth term.

**When parking in school zones please remember,**

**“Safety for everyone before convenience for you”.**