

Explaining School-Area Parking Rules

Why These Parking Rules Exist

School zones are high-risk areas with heavy pedestrian traffic, especially children who are smaller, unpredictable, and often hidden behind vehicles. Parking restrictions are in place to ensure **visibility, safety, and smooth traffic flow**.

Key Rules Parents/Guardians Must Follow

1. No Parking Within 5 Metres of a Crosswalk

- Alberta legislation requires drivers to keep at least **5 metres** away from marked or unmarked crosswalks.
- Parking too close blocks sight lines for children crossing and for drivers approaching the intersection.
- Even “quick drop-offs” create blind spots where a child can suddenly step out and be struck.

2. No Parking Within 1.5 Metres of a Private Driveway

- This keeps access open for residents and emergency vehicles.
- Vehicles parked too close force drivers to enter the roadway blindly.
- This is also enforceable under municipal bylaws and traffic safety act.

3. No Parking on Sidewalks

- Sidewalks must remain clear for:
 - Children walking to school
 - Strollers and mobility-assistance devices
 - Anyone with limited mobility
- When a vehicle blocks a sidewalk, pedestrians are pushed onto the roadway, which is extremely unsafe—especially in winter.

4. No Jaywalking

- Jaywalking is unsafe around schools due to heavy morning/afternoon traffic.
 - Children often copy the actions of adults; when adults jaywalk, kids assume it’s allowed.
 - Parents should always walk to the **nearest marked crosswalk** to model safe behaviour.
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What the Town Has Provided

To support safe routes to school, the Town has installed **marked crosswalks** at key locations. These areas:

- Have better visibility
- Are located where drivers expect pedestrians
- Signage, flashing beacons

Parents and children should **always use the marked crosswalks** instead of crossing mid-block or between parked cars.

Enforcement Message:

Our goal is not to ticket, but to keep children safe. Parking restrictions around the school are enforced because vehicles parked too close to crosswalks or driveways, or vehicles stopped on sidewalks, create dangerous blind spots, and force pedestrians into the roadway.

The Town has provided clearly marked crosswalks in several locations to give students a safe and predictable place to cross. We ask all parents to use these crosswalks and to follow the posted parking restrictions.

Thank you for helping us keep the school zone safe for all children.