ROAD & PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

for PARENTS & GUARDIANS

General Information:

Glen Katherine PS is no different to any other school when it comes to the ‘chaos factor’ that often exists in surrounding streets both directly before and after school. Before 8.40am and after 3pm, we have over 500 students starting or finishing school. Like all schools, we have a huge increase in pedestrians with parents and carers accompanying students to or from school. There is also a huge spike in vehicle traffic with many children being driven to or from school so cars are picking up or dropping off.

Unlike most other schools though, GK has a pickup and drop-off zone in the carpark which operates before and after school. This zone certainly assists with safe arrivals and departures and frees up street parking for parents who do need to park and accompany their children to school.

Thankfully, most drivers and pedestrians do the safest and right thing so congratulations and thank you to all of those parents, carers and children who never compromise road safety rules, parking regulations etc. Good on you for setting such a positive, safe and excellent example to everyone else who does notice.

What also gets noticed however are those people who for whatever reason, at times ignore road rules, parking restriction signs, crossing supervisor requests etc. They also get noticed but regrettably, for the wrong reasons. There is no excuse for compromising other road users and pedestrian safety. If you are running late and in a hurry, then that’s a problem certainly, however, it is no reason or excuse for taking a shortcut or breaking rules. As adults, the example we set for others, including children, should be the right example. There is too much at stake and the last thing anyone needs is to be involved in and/or cause an accident.

When people do the wrong thing, it’s only fair and natural for others to complain. Beyond the school gate, the Principal has no jurisdiction over local traffic, pedestrian and driving conditions. Local government however does have the responsibility to enforce regulations. We get terrific support from Banyule Council and on a regular basis, a Bylaws Officer will be on hand observing our local streets either before or after school. Drivers do get booked if they have done the wrong thing. Parents are encouraged to contact Traffic Management at Banyule Council when you notice rule breaking occurring. By doing this, the Bylaws Office gets a firsthand and accurate account of what has been observed.

Local residents’ rights:

We need to be mindful of the local residents who have every right to enter and leave their properties at any time of the day. Occasionally, we receive a call letting us know that a car has stopped across a driveway blocking access to/from the driveway. It’s hard to believe that anyone would do this however, sometimes it does happen. If a local resident has concerns, they too are encouraged to direct any concerns to Traffic Management at Banyule Council.

Notice the signs:

In this highly visual era, there are signs everywhere we look and roads and school zones are no different. Please take notice of the signs as they are there to guide drivers whether it’s looking for an area to park or advise about the speed restrictions in force. Soon we will be placing some new signs in the school’s pickup and drop-off zone area. As the carpark area is a shared car and pedestrian zone, the speed restriction will become 15kph so start to practise and slow down please.

Calendonia School Crossing reminders ...

- Drivers must not park across the school crossing whilst the flags are in place. If waiting to enter the school’s drop-off zone, the crossing must remain clear for pedestrian traffic.

- The school crossing supervisors do a fantastic job in ensuring safe road crossing for pedestrians. Look after their safety too by being observant and under no circumstances drive across the crossing whilst the supervisor is still on the crossing.

- The local By-laws Officer (Banyule Council) visits regularly and does book people breaking road rules like double parking, stopping on a crossing, parking in a no
Staff carpark / pick-up & drop-off zone:

We are very fortunate to have this zone and are very appreciative of driver and pedestrian cooperation ensuring that traffic and pedestrian hassles are kept to a minimum. This zone works extremely efficiently when drivers do the right thing. When cars pull up directly behind each other and alongside the double yellow lines and when children get in or out of the car quickly, then we move a lot of people efficiently and safely over a 15-20 minute period. Parents are also advised that at no stage should a child actually step onto the driveway e.g. to get a bag out of the boot or exit from the driver’s side of the car. As happened recently, a child was almost run over when getting a bag from the boot, then dropping something and bending down to pick it up. The driver in the car behind who was watching her own children get out of the car, was not able to see the child on the road, still bending down looking for the fallen item. The driver, looking into the sun and about to drive on, then got a shock when all of a sudden, a little person bobbed up from in front of her car. On this occasion, had the child still be down on the roadway looking for her dropped item, the driver could easily have run over her. What a shocking thought! Please, at all times, children must remain on the footpath area and not be permitted by a parent to walk on the driveway or retrieve anything from the boot.

Some further reminders about use of this zone:-

Dropping off children: The drop-off zone is for quick drop-offs only. Goodbyes/hugs need to have happened at home so that on arrival at school, the child just needs to grab hold of their bag and get out of their car once it has stopped along side the double yellow lines. A parent shouldn’t get out of the car. If a child needs assistance with getting out of the car, then please park on the street where extra time can be taken. Of a morning, when cars stop and start and creep towards the pedestrian crossing before letting their child/ren out, this slows the traffic down considerably as does stopping for longer than the expected 60-120 seconds it takes for children to get in or out of the car.

Picking up children: Once the cars begin moving after school, if your child hasn’t turned up for some reason, then it’s not ok to stay parked blocking traffic until your child arrives. Cars need to exit the zone into the street and then come back in for a second time. The zone works efficiently when cars keep on moving. Once a car stays longer than it should, then congestion and frustration begins to occur. Of an afternoon, please remind your children about getting to the pick-up zone quickly, NOT PLAYING and instead, waiting in the designated area keeping an eye out for your car when it pulls in.

Further info about the pick-up & drop-off zone can be found on our website (About Us / Facilities & Grounds / Pick-up & Drop-off Zone).

Please note also: Parking spots in the staff car park are only to be used by staff and official school visitors before, during or after school. The same applies for St Helena Secondary College staff/student car park. It is not a car park for parents. Both schools have a number of staff who work part-time and can come in at different times of the day. St Helena SC also has a number of their senior students who are also drivers so they also require parking places on the college grounds.

At the end of the school day:

After school, all students are encouraged to head off home if they are walking, wait in the pickup zone if they are being picked up there or wait at other designated pickup spots. The playground and playground equipment is not considered to be a suitable place to wait however. During the 15 minute after school supervision period, staff have to ensure everyone leaves the grounds safely and that connections have been made. This is made so much more difficult when children stop to play on play equipment. Please help us out with this by discouraging your children from playing on the equipment. Thanks!