



Winnipeg Police Service | Service de police de Winnipeg
"A Culture of Safety for All" « Cultiver la sécurité pour tous »

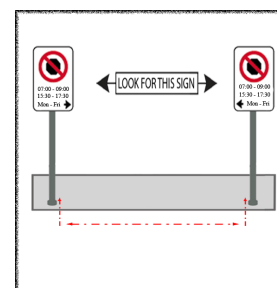
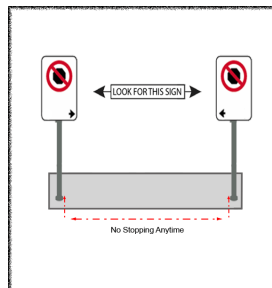
"SAFETY OVER CONVENIENCE"

Good Afternoon Hedges Middle School Families,

The Winnipeg Police Service is often apprised of traffic and parking concerns related to schools and their immediate surroundings. Issues are brought to our attention when there is an increase in driving complaints and traffic violations. Fortunately, most drivers exercise safety & caution when travelling to and from schools. The School Engagement Section of the Winnipeg Police Service strives to ensure road safety through education and communication.

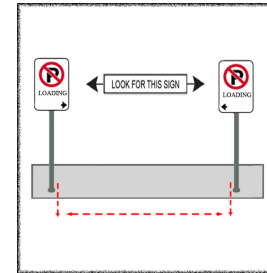
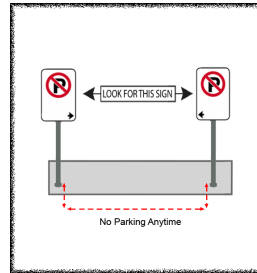
Please take time to review the following 9 points which have been identified as common traffic related concerns:

1. **"Loading/Unloading while in roadway"**: It is unsafe and illegal to stop your vehicle while in the roadway in non-designated safe loading zones for loading/unloading purposes. This has been identified as one of the most dangerous practices and is considered a serious safety concern.
2. **"No Stopping" zones**: In these areas, stopping or parking is strictly prohibited. They are not considered loading zones and must remain clear at all times. (If there are no specifics such as dates and in-between times then the zone is enforceable 24hrs a day - 7 days a week).



3. **"Bus Loops"**: These loops, whether located at the front, side or back of schools are primarily intended for buses. Drivers should be not utilizing the loop during the posted in-between times unless permission has been granted by the school.
4. **"Drop off/Pick up loops"**: These loops (if applicable) are in place to allow drivers to safely and conveniently drop off/pick up children. It is not recommended to leave your vehicle unattended as this hinders traffic flow as well as potentially creating unnecessary frustration for other drivers.
5. **"Pedestrian Crossing"**: Utilizing marked and posted pedestrian crossings are the safest way for children and adults to cross the street. Crossing in the middle of the street or at uncontrolled areas are considered high risk and dangerous. Pedestrian Crossings are often serviced by school patrols (students) or crossing guards (Adults) to assist with safe passage. Please be patient and give them a "brake".

6. **"No Parking" zones**: No vehicle may be parked in these areas however you are allowed to stop (pick up/drop off passengers). The vehicle is considered parked when the driver's seat is unoccupied, or the vehicle is stationary beyond the loading or unloading process. "No Parking" zones are not Loading Zones.
- If parents/guardians chose to park and walk, the preferred and recommended option is to park legally in the vicinity of the school.
 - The consideration of a Loading area is to pick up / drop off and is intended for a very brief stop & go (this gives equal access to all parties and promotes safe traffic flow).



7. **"U-turns"**: U-Turns on a two-way street continue to be a safety hazard for all. These risky and ill-advised turns also negatively affect the flow of traffic. It is imperative that you find alternate means such as: going around the block, conducting a safe three-point turn or proceeding to the next intersection.
8. **"Distance Ruling"**: Adhering to the following parking distances ensures a better line of sight and ensures overall safety for all those who share the roadway and sidewalks. The distance ruling are as follows:
- 3 Meters from any intersection, crosswalk and fire hydrants
 - 9 Meters from any posted traffic control device (i.e. stop signs/traffic signal)
9. **"Respecting Community Residents"**: If you feel the need to accompany your child(ren) to school, we encourage parents/guardians to locate a safe and legal parking zone. Please be mindful not to block back lanes, driveways and roadways as it's all of our responsibility to be mindful and respectful. Staff member parking lots, unless advised otherwise are not alternate means to safe and legal parking.

It is the responsibility of all drivers and pedestrians to ensure a safe and respectful environment which sets a good example for our children and our communities. The aforementioned points are all subject to enforcement by both Winnipeg Parking Authority and Winnipeg Police Service. Please refer to the Winnipeg Parking Authority website for additional information.

On behalf of the Community Relations Division - School Engagement Section, I respectfully appreciate your attention and courtesy.

Kind Regards,

Cst. Diana Cross #2361
School Engagement Officer
Community Relations Division
Winnipeg Police Service