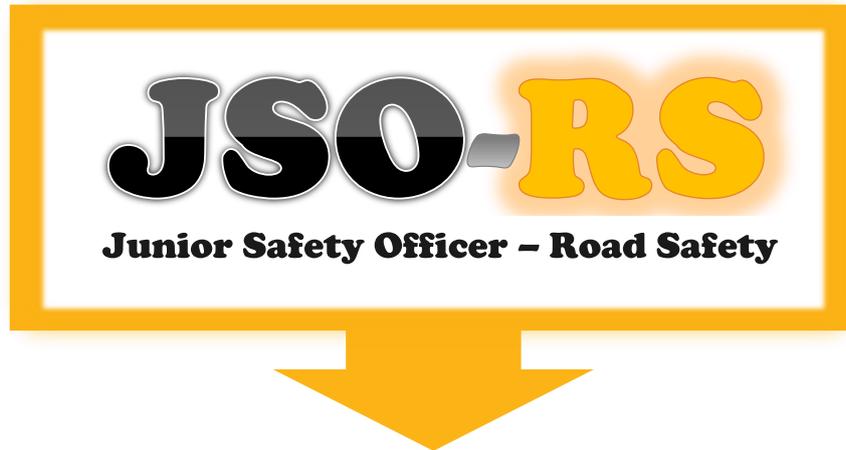




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# Cornwall Fire, Rescue and Community Safety Service

Schools Parking Project





## Background

Schools across Cornwall experience inappropriate parking on the Keep Clear, Zig-Zag, and Yellow Line road markings outside their premises. This is particularly bad at the start and end of the school day, and is mainly the fault of parents delivering and collecting children.

This pack offers a step-by-step guide to help Junior Safety Officers to run a roadside event which will raise awareness of this problematic issue.

Additional follow-on activities are also included to prolong the effect of the roadside awareness-raising event and effect a cultural and behavioural change whereby parking on school road markings becomes unacceptable.

This project offers a range of learning opportunities for children, including teamwork, research, and communication as well as providing them with the opportunity to take ownership and contribute to the organisation of activities.

## Why take part?

- ❖ To involve and empower primary school pupils by creating opportunities for them to take responsibility.
- ❖ To raise awareness in parents of the reasons for not parking on zig-zags and other road markings and to alter behaviour so that these lines are not obstructed.
- ❖ To reduce unnecessary car journeys to school.
- ❖ To reduce carbon footprint and improve air quality around schools.
- ❖ To increase walking / cycling journeys to school, thus helping to combat obesity, in support of the NHS 'Change for life' initiative.
- ❖ To provide opportunities for parents to be more involved in their children's road safety education.



# Schools Parking Project

## Contents

- ❖ Establishing the Issue
- ❖ Notifying Parents
- ❖ PCSO contact and visit
- ❖ Communication
- ❖ Risk Assessment and Planning
- ❖ Road Side Event / Post Event
- ❖ Repeating the event
- ❖ Conclusion

## Establishing the Issue

### *Stage One*

- ❖ Appoint or elect Junior Safety Officers for your school.
- ❖ With the JRSOs undertake a School Travel and Road Safety site audit to determine the current road safety and travel situation at your school.
- ❖ Establish with pupils that there is a parking problem.
- ❖ Identify if yellow road markings need (re-)painting. If they do, contact 0300 1234 222 [roadtransportandparking@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:roadtransportandparking@cornwall.gov.uk)
- ❖ Undertake a "before" survey of how many cars are parked on the Keep Clear, Zig-Zag, and Yellow Line road markings on a typical morning and afternoon. This information combined with "after" survey information will give an indication of whether the activity has been a success or whether further intervention should be considered. This information can also be used at welcome meetings, in Governors meetings and in newsletters etc.



## Notifying parents of the issue

### *Stage Two*

Notify parents of the parking issue(s) at your school, and suggest alternatives to driving to school. Inform them by letter or holding an assembly and inviting the parents/carers.

## PCSO Contact and Visit

### *Stage Three*

- ❖ JSOs to contact PCSO/s and invite them into school to discuss the issue.
- ❖ JSOs to meet with PCSO (and Civil Enforcement Officers if appropriate) to discuss the issue.
- ❖ Various topics may be discussed including:
  - Why are the “Zig-Zags” and/or other markings outside the school?
  - Who do the cars belong to? (E.g. parents or local residents)
  - Why are they parked on the “Zig-Zags” or other inappropriate places?
- ❖ There is also likely to be an opportunity for the pupils to ask the PCSO about his/her job and other policing issues.
  - JRSOs to discuss the roadside approach.
  - Are there advantages/disadvantages to this approach?
  - Discussion will be held about the pupils’ role during the event, if it is decided to hold one.
  - Date, time and location of the roadside event agreed.
  -



## Communication

### *Stage Four*

- ❖ School should communicate with whole school and the wider community about the issue and the forthcoming event.
- ❖ Everybody should be made aware that the students will be standing outside the school communicating their message by holding a keep clear banner during the roadside event.
- ❖ The Prevention team can provide “Zig-Zag” and pavement parking leaflets for distribution and display. If you would like copies, please contact [prevention@fire.cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:prevention@fire.cornwall.gov.uk)

### *Extra activities*

- ❖ JRSOs to consider producing own “Zig-Zag” leaflet,
- ❖ Communicate the message directly to parents in your own words.
- ❖ The Prevention and Road Safety Team can advise on content, and provide examples if required.

## Risk Assessments and Planning

### *Stage Five*

- ❖ School to confirm staff and students for the event.
- ❖ Head teacher to seek parental permission and photo permission for students involved.
- ❖ Consider whether media attention is welcomed. Press release written (if appropriate) and sent out.
- ❖ Undertake risk assessment.
- ❖ Consider who else to invite to the event e.g. local Council member, Governors, Parish representatives etc?



## Roadside Event/ Post Event

### *Stage Six*

- ❖ Banner/s to be displayed in prominent place.
- ❖ Risk assessment checked.
- ❖ PCSO's, staff and students stand outside school for designated time (suggest no longer than 20 minutes) to highlight issue.

### *Post Event Evaluation*

Arrange a meeting with JSOs and PCSOs and discuss the success or learning points of the event and any follow on activities to be undertaken.

## Repeating the Event

### *Stage Eight*

It is important that the roadside awareness event is not a standalone activity. To ensure the considerate parking message continues to be heard it is recommended that a number of follow on activities are considered.

### *Survey of 'after' situation*

It is a good idea to undertake a survey of how many cars are parked on the "Zig-Zags" regularly so that you can tell if the issue needs re-visiting. The JRSO team could undertake these surveys and report back.

### *New starter information*

- ❖ Have you put information about the need for appropriate and sensible parking on the school's website and in the school's prospectus?
- ❖ During welcome meetings, do you mention that the school encourages parents and children to walk or cycle to school? It is important that each new set of parents is aware of the issues



concerning parking at the school before they form a routine based on car use.

- ❖ If you share a site with another facility, have you asked for their co-operation and involvement?

## Continued contact with PCSO's

PCSOs are keen to work with schools on a number of issues. Speak to the PCSO who was present at the roadside event to determine how s/he can help the school in the future. Some PCSOs and PCs will be prepared to continue to monitor the situation and keep a record of offending vehicle registration numbers, send out warning letters to the registered keepers of those vehicles and/or carry out enforcement. Liaise with your PCSO to see what s/he can offer.

### *Parent Parking Promise*

This is an agreement between parents and the school that parents, if they have to drive their children to school, will park appropriately. Parents who have signed the Parking Promise display a badge in their windscreen, which serves to further publicise the scheme.

For further information about how to set up a Parent Parking Promise scheme please call the School Travel Plan Team on 01872 224606



## Park and Stride

If this is not already established at school could it be considered? Is there a suitable car park a short distance from school where parents who have to drive could be persuaded to park? By parking a short distance from school parents ensure the school entrances and approaches are kept clear, they have an opportunity to do practical child pedestrian training with their child/children during the walk, they all accrue the health benefits associated with walking, they have an opportunity to chat to other parents, and their children are more alert in class.

## Conclusion

It is the hope that these combined activities of all the partners (School, Road Safety/Travel Plans and Devon & Cornwall Police PCSOs etc.) will make a practical difference to the issues of parking. Walking or cycling for the journey to school provides a valuable opportunity for parents to teach their children road safety skills as well as addressing health and environmental issues.





If you would like this information in another format or language, please contact:

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