



**PEREGIAN SPRINGS
STATE SCHOOL**

Learning for today and for tomorrow

Information Statement for Parents and Community Members Road Safety, Parking and Road Crossings

This Information Statement is provided to assist parents and community members to understand the school's responsibilities with regards to road safety around the school, parking and road crossings.

Parking

In 2011 Education Queensland in response to parent complaints engaged Cardno Eppell Olsen, an independent company, to review our car park and provide advice on its design and use. Their findings were as follows:

- When the school reaches a capacity at 800 students there will be a ratio of 9 students to each car space. This is well in excess of that required by Queensland Transport and the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) guidelines.
- There is an adequate supply of spaces for disabled parking
- Within a 20km radius of Peregian Springs State School only 4 out of 20 schools have an internal drop off/pick up facility. These four schools have a rate of 150 students per space. Our drop off zone is in line with this average. Cardno noted that our drop off facility is provided as an additional service beyond the recommended number of spaces and concluded that there are adequate provisions for drop off/pick up for current and projected enrolments.

Cardno also surveyed issues such as the car park layout, entries and exits to the car park, car park operation, sight distance check and pedestrian movement. As a result, they made a number of suggested improvements. These included

- Improved signage
- Installation of yellow 'No Standing' line marking
- Relocation of current 'No Pedestrian Crossing' signs
- Promoting active (walking and riding) and public transport

Education Queensland, the Department of Transport and the Sunshine Coast Regional Council have attended to all recommended modifications. All organisations have concluded on the basis of this extensive report and the modifications carried out that our car park is generous in its capacity and well designed to encourage flowing traffic.

It is up to us as a school community to use the area in accordance with recommended guidelines and road legislation and to encourage children to walk or ride to school as often as possible.

A copy of Cardno's report is available for loan from the school office.

The school's boundaries stop at the fence that runs along the front of the school. The car park, drop off zone and bus and delivery way are zoned a road reserve and are the concern of the Council and not the school or Department of Education and Training.

When possible staff provide supervision in the Drop Off/Pick Up Zone. We ask parents to follow the instructions of the staff in order to facilitate efficient movement through the area. A gate keeps children together for the purpose of supervision and not all staff are comfortable with opening it and allowing children to spread out. Parents wishing to volunteer for this supervisory role are asked to make themselves known to the office.

Road Crossings

The Department of Transport is responsible for road crossing and the employment of crossing supervisors

for schools.

The school in conjunction with the P&C Association and the SafeST Committee applied for crossing supervisors in 2010, 2012, 2013 and again in 2014. A crossing was installed in 2015 and a ramp between the car park and the road has been constructed.

The SafeST Committee has also investigated the proposal that a zebra crossing be installed across The Avenue. The Department of Transport deemed this to be an inappropriate action as such crossings are for high traffic areas on a continuous basis and not for areas where there is high traffic for only two 30 minute periods each day. As such, it poses a risk to pedestrians from drivers who infrequently use the area.

The Department of Transport have advised that the most appropriate and safest crossing place for all school and community members are the traffic lights on The Avenue.

Road Safety Around the School

The school office receives almost daily complaints about road users around our school. These complaints relate to

- Speeding
- Inappropriate use of roundabouts
- Not waiting for children to finish crossing the road at the lights
- Children (not always our students) speeding on bikes and skateboards on footpaths
- Parking on nature strips, across driveways and in private roads
- Adults using bikes on footpaths (and in our school car park) with no regard for pedestrians or generally accepted school rules, i.e. walk your bike/skateboard through the car park
- Swearing and yelling at other road users and staff members

While school personnel are sympathetic to these complaints there is no action we can take. School personnel are not road rule enforcers and cannot be put in this position.

The Queensland Police Service and the Sunshine Coast Regional Council have asked us to advise parents and community members to take license plate numbers and photos of offending vehicles and report inappropriate behaviour on our roads directly to them, and not to the school.

Contact details

Coolum Police – (07) 5440 2777

Sunshine Coast Regional Council - (07) 5475 7272 mail@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

SafeST

SafeST is a plan to improve travel safety for school students. SafeST is part of council's commitment to improve road safety by working with Sunshine Coast schools, and the Department of Transport and Main Roads. Our SafeST Committee meets once per term and includes representatives from these organisations as well as the P&C Association and personnel from Central Office and the Queensland Police Service.

Since 2010 the SafeST Committee have been active in the following areas

- Improving line marking, signage and plantings around the school
- Changing the frequency of the traffic lights for walking across the roads
- Raising awareness of safety issues around the school with the appropriate authorities
- Preparing applications for crossings
- Seeking permission for multiple entrances to the school
- Responding to community complaints about road safety and the car park
- Implementing TravelSmart as a priority community awareness program

Correspondence, complaints and suggestions from parents and community members about the issues addressed in this Information Statement are also tabled at these meetings.