



It's the first full week back and the school run can be hectic. Staffordshire Police and our partners are urging parents and carers to park safely, considerately and legally around schools.

Over the next two weeks we are highlighting the need to be aware of pedestrians, other roads users and local residents when dropping your children off or picking them up from school. Most schools have a parking policy which needs to be followed. One way to ease congestion is that if you can't walk to school from your home consider parking further away from the school and walking the last five or 10 minutes.

There are rules on parking, make sure you aren't parking dangerously or causing issues for others. It's important that you do NOT park:

- on zig zags and double yellow lines
- in a way that blocks access for emergency vehicles
- opposite to or near to a junction
- on a bend
- near the brow of a hill
- near a school entrance, bus or tram stop
- over or on the driveway of a property
- over a dropped kerb
- on the pavement - this can cause problems for parents with prams, wheelchair or mobility scooter users and the elderly.
- on or near crossing points where a school crossing patrol operates, this can impede their view, making the crossing unsafe

Another common issue is drivers leaving their engine running when waiting for their children. Idling increases the amount of exhaust fumes in the air and therefore reduces the air quality around the school where children are walking. Consider the environment and the health of the local community and turn the engine off when you're parked up.

This new school year make a resolution to be a #ParkingStar and think before you park.

Residents living near to schools who have concerns or issues regarding parking can find further information on the Staffordshire County Council website:

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Highways/Parking-and-enforcement/On-Street-Parking/Problem-parking/No-traffic-regulation-orders/Parking-near-to-schools.aspx>