



Aston Fields Middle School

Striving for Excellence: Learning for Life

April 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Road Safety Advice

As a school we endeavor to keep you updated about the safety of our children and how we can all work together to ensure they are safe at all times. We wrote to you recently to ask for your co-operation in using the roads local to the school safely, ensuring we are careful with where we park to enable our pupils to cross the roads safely as they arrive and leave school. We have been grateful for your support in this.

However, we are concerned about some recent incidents where our children have not been crossing the road safely around the local roads by school and have been seen by motorists or pedestrians to be putting themselves in danger. They have been fortunate that the motorists have been vigilant and have avoided contact, as pupils have run out onto the road from between parked vehicles, run across the road in front of cars without looking and walking in large groups so friends are being pushed off the pavement and on to the road. We regularly remind the children to put their mobile phones away as they are looking at these when stepping out and crossing the road.

Recently, all children have been spoken to by their form teachers and in assemblies about the importance of them maintaining vigilance and following these road safety rules when walking to and from school and in their own social time. We would appreciate your support in reiterating these points in discussion with your children at home, to avoid possible accidents in the future.

- Pupils should cross the road at designated crossing spots where possible. If none are available, they must stop, look and listen, ensuring they have a clear view of the entire road before crossing.
- Pupils must not cross the road between 2 parked vehicles. If this means they have to walk a little further to avoid doing so, this is what they must do.
- If there is traffic coming, they should wait for it to pass. It is very hard to properly judge the speed that vehicles are going. Wait for the road to be clear.
- Ensure that your full attention is on the road and your surroundings. Pupils should not be looking at their phones or have music playing through headphones, stopping them being able to hear what is going on around them.

We have attached a useful road safety factsheet and further advice can be found on the Think Road Safety website at <https://www.think.gov.uk/>

Thank you for your support in sharing in our concerns for our pupils' safety as we strive to share this important message.

Kind regards,

Mrs Mynott
Assistant Headteacher/Designated Safeguarding Lead



ACE School of
CHARACTER

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Safe around roads

“One act of bad driving robbed the world of a beautiful, intelligent and caring young person. Our lives have been turned upside down by our daughter’s death.”

Bereaved Dad whose daughter was killed in a car accident

It can be hard knowing how best to teach your child to stay safe. Here we help you to break it down and keep it simple.

Pedestrians – younger children

- Get young children into the habit of holding your hand or use walking reins
- Ask questions while you’re out to help them understand simple ideas like ‘fast’ and ‘slow’
- You can start teaching the Green Cross Code from age five, encouraging children to stop, look, listen and think
- But they won’t always remember safety rules, especially if they’re excited or spot a friend across the road
- Children will copy what you do, so try to avoid stepping into the road without checking for traffic first. If you can do the right thing, it will help them get into good habits.

Pedestrians – older children

- Children find it difficult judging the speed and distance of traffic until they’re at least eight. Accidents peak around 12, as children start making independent journeys
- Children learn by doing and practising. If they’re moving to a new school, help them practise the route over the holidays. Where are the safe places to cross? What should they do if they see their bus and they’re on the other side of the road?
- They can be mesmerised by their mobiles, so remind them not to talk or text on their phones or listen to music while crossing the road.

In the car

- Make sure your car seat is the right one for your child’s height and weight and for your car - not all seats fit all cars

Cycling

- Get your child into the habit of wearing their helmet. If you cycle as a family, remember to wear yours too
- Look out for cycle training. Many schools offer courses to help children gain practical skills.

Driving – speed is everything when it comes to a child’s chances of survival. They’re 3.5 times more likely to die if hit by a car doing between 30-40 mph.

- Keep an eye on your speed
- Keep your phone in the glove compartment so it can’t distract you.

