

A letter to parents from the Goulburn Local Area Command



As a parent or carer, your child's safety is paramount. Whether they are riding their bike, walking to a playground, travelling in the car or simply in and around the home, it is your responsibility to ensure your children are safe.

Sadly, some behaviour around schools throughout the area begs us to ask the question - is child safety around schools important to ALL of us? With children now part way through the second school term, we have noticed a significant increase in the number of children in dangerous situations around schools.

The New South Wales Police Force is conscious of the hectic pace of life in 2010, but there is no room for complacency with the safety of children. Unfortunately, concern about the unsafe behaviour of some parents and carers when dropping off or picking up children from schools has caused us to write to you.

Imagine for a moment, the devastation you would feel if your child was seriously injured, or worse, killed, by someone who felt they could not afford two extra minutes to park legally and walk their child to school. Instead they parked illegally and dangerously which resulted in the injury or death of your child.

Now imagine the devastation and guilt you would feel if you were the person who parked illegally and as a result your actions you caused the injury or death of a child. There are no words to describe what it would be like to live with that guilt for the rest of your life.

What we are asking is not onerous. We are simply asking all parents and carers to be considerate of others and more diligent with child safety around schools.

One suggestion is to use technology to help you. Consider setting a reminder alarm in your mobile phone or PDA to allow time to park away from school and walk with your child if parking spaces close by are unavailable. You never know, a difficult or stressful day may recede while you walk with your child from your car to the school and back.

The Goulburn Local Area Command is committed to ensuring that children are safe in, around and en-route to and from schools and we ask parents and carers to reconfirm their commitment. If we work together, children will be safer around our schools.

Yours Sincerely,

Senior Sergeant John Kane
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