**Driving Near Schools and Colleges Toolbox Talk**

Driving on the streets close to a school or college requires a high level of vigilance owing to the specific and unique high risk factors, including:

* Busy drop off and collection times of the day
* School/college buses and taxis
* Children not observing the green cross code and running across roads to see their friends
* Children riding bicycles and scooters
* Parents/carers parking and driving inconsiderately

Be aware also of particular times of the year such as July and September when journeys near to schools and colleges require drivers to take particular care owing to extra school traffic for end of year concerts, sports days and beginning of year new pupils unfamiliar with the route to school.

Becoming distracted whilst driving is the foremost cause of accidents and collisions, so it is crucial that you concentrate well whilst driving past schools or colleges and avoid any of the following:

* Reading a map book
* Retuning the radio or listening to loud music
* Letting passengers distract you in conversation
* Using mobile phones or other hand held devices
* Eating, drinking or smoking

# If you are making a delivery near to a school or college remember the following:

* Never double park as this obstructs the road causing traffic to build up and prevents other drivers having a clear view of the road or pedestrians
* Never park on footpaths
* Never park illegally such as on a school/college crossing, school/college driveway or ‘keep clear’ lines at the entrance to a school/college
* Observe the parking signs outside a school or college
* Park so you can avoid reversing your vehicle
* Keep within the speed limit, many schools and colleges have 20mph speed signs around them, always observe the speed limit signs and keep your speed down so you are able to brake safely if a child runs into the road in front of you.

# Driving past a school or college safely requires you to:

* Not over take other vehicles
* Drive slowly past school buses and taxis incase a child gets out from a rear exit
* Avoid making U turns and reversing
* Stop at school crossings and patrols, observing the patrol supervisor’s sign and moving off only when you are signaled it is safe to do so
* At unsupervised crossings, stop for pedestrians and only move off once they are clear of the crossing

# Remember the essentials

Keep vigilant if your journey takes you past a school or college, plan your journey to avoid drop off and pick up times where possible. Drive slowly and leave plenty of time for your journey so you are not rushing. Be alert to pedestrians, children on bicycles and scooters that could run into the road unexpectedly.

**For discussion**

1. Were you previously aware of the specific risks associated with driving near a school or college?
2. Do you ever drive close to a school or college and have you encountered specific dangers caused by the traffic and pedestrians?

Comments:

Date:

Meeting conducted by:

# Attendees

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