

## Driving in School Zones

### SCHOOL AREAS AND ZONES

School Areas and Reduced Speed School Zones are considered for streets adjacent to school properties. School areas start as you pass a school area sign prior to the school property and end as you pass the back of the school area sign facing the opposite direction. Drivers should expect higher student pedestrian volumes and congestion within the school area, and should be alert for these potential conflicts and adjust their speed as required, even outside of school arrival and dismissal times.

Reduced speed (30 km/h) school zones are commonly used adjacent to elementary schools and are identified with a black and white speed tab placed under the school area sign. A reduced speed zone is in effect from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on school days. Travelling at the reduced speed allows the driver to stop quicker for unexpected occurrences that may happen adjacent to the school.

### OTHER TIPS

- ◆ Drive lawfully, safely and without distraction.
- ◆ Be alert for children walking or playing near the school.
- ◆ During pick up and drop off times, don't idle your vehicle. Idling contributes to poor air quality in the school zone, which negatively impacts student health.



## Parking Regulations

Signs regulating the parking and stopping of vehicles around the school are in place to minimize the interaction between student pedestrians and motor vehicles, to ensure proper visibility of pedestrians, and to provide efficient pick-up/drop-off operations. Signs often limit the regulations to 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. school days.

“No Stopping” signs are used to keep the curb clear for visibility and accessibility reasons—stopping to pick up or drop off is prohibited. Examples of use are at the approaches to crosswalks, at curves and intersections, and on the opposite side of the street from the school in order to discourage jaywalking between parked cars. It is often convenient to disregard these signs, but by doing so even for just a minute, children’s safety can be put at risk.



Conversely, “No Parking” signs do allow motorists to stop briefly to pick up or drop off passengers; however, the driver must remain in the car.

By adhering to the signs, motorists choose safety over personal convenience and improve the efficiency of the pick-up and drop-off zones. When safety is compromised enforcement often results; disobeying the “No Stopping” and “No Parking” signs can result in fines.



City of Surrey  
[www.surrey.ca/transportation](http://www.surrey.ca/transportation)

School & Pedestrian Safety  
[www.hastebc.org](http://www.hastebc.org)  
[www.saferoutestoschool.ca](http://www.saferoutestoschool.ca)

Cycling Information,  
 Education & Advocacy  
[www.vacc.bc.ca](http://www.vacc.bc.ca)

H.T. Thrift Elementary  
[www.sd36.bc.ca/htthrift](http://www.sd36.bc.ca/htthrift)

# H.T. Thrift Elementary

1739 148 St  
 Surrey, BC V4A 4M6



## Best Walking Routes to School

### Park & Walk A Block

There may be times when walking or cycling to school isn't possible, but that doesn't mean you can't encourage a healthier lifestyle. Park your vehicle legally on a street away from the school, and walk the last few blocks with your child. Exercising in the morning has shown that students are more alert and you can save time by avoiding the traffic jams outside the school.





## Safe & Active Schools

The City's Safe and Active Schools Program is aimed at enhancing safety around schools by improving signage, implementing new road crossings, and constructing traffic calming measures and sidewalks, as well as working directly with schools to encourage more walking and cycling to school. We are doing many projects, but we need your support to maximize their benefit. Activities that you can do to help improve safety include:

- ◆ Encourage students to walk or cycle to school, or get picked up or dropped off a short distance away from school.
- ◆ Create walking groups of several families, in which parents alternate the responsibility of walking the children to school.
- ◆ Determine and discuss the safest route to walk or bicycle.
- ◆ Wear brightly coloured clothing to be visible to drivers.
- ◆ Observe proper practice when crossing streets.
- ◆ Obey the "No Stopping", "No Parking", and "Drop-off & Pick-up Only" signage.
- ◆ Respect the School Areas and Reduced Speed School Zones.
- ◆ Be alert and yield the right-of-way to pedestrians at all intersections and crosswalks.

## Pedestrian Safety Tips

### SIDEWALKS

- ◆ Always use a sidewalk when it is available.
- ◆ When there's no sidewalk available, walk facing traffic.
- ◆ Be alert! Watch for vehicles backing out of driveways or coming out of lanes.

### CROSSING THE STREET

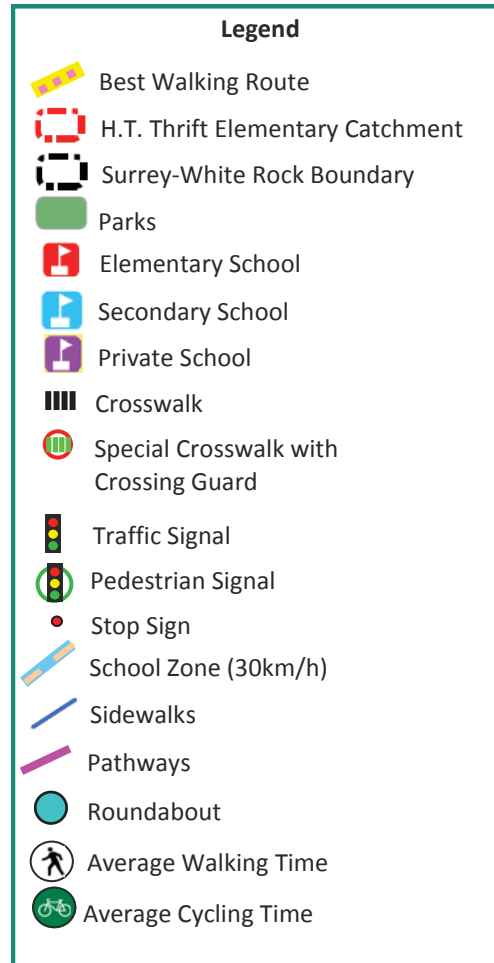
- ◆ Always cross at an intersection—crossing a street midblock is jaywalking and against the law!
- ◆ Stop and wait at the curb or road edge, and never on the road itself.
- ◆ Walk across when the street is clear, but be aware of oncoming vehicles.
- ◆ Make eye contact with the driver and make sure the vehicle is stopped before crossing the road, even at signals and lights.
- ◆ Once all vehicles have stopped, look left, right and left again before stepping into the road.

### LAST BUT NOT LEAST

- ◆ Buddy up: it's safer and more fun walking with a parent or friend.
- ◆ Keep your ears open: if you are listening to music, remove an ear piece before crossing the street.
- ◆ Parking lots and drop-off zones require special attention – vehicles often move without warning.

## Cycling Safety Tips

- ◆ Ride single file and as far to the right hand side of the road as practicable.
- ◆ Always leave one door length of space when riding next to parked cars.
- ◆ Wear your helmet when riding – it's the law and it protects your brain.
- ◆ Be aware when riding: keep your eyes and ears open.
- ◆ Make eye contact with drivers and pedestrians.
- ◆ Alert pedestrians and other cyclists when you are passing. You can use your voice, but a bell works best!
- ◆ Know and use your hand-signals when turning, slowing down or stopping.
- ◆ Follow all posted traffic signs and obey all traffic laws.
- ◆ Wear light or bright coloured clothing, and use lights and reflectors.
- ◆ When cycling, travel in the same direction as traffic.



*The Safe & Active Schools Program aims to create a safe and friendly environment for children and teenagers to walk or cycle to school, building a more lively community and healthier and more active youth. Enhancements on access to the school will also benefit the wider community living in the neighbourhood.*

