

# General Points of Information for Parents

Friday, February 07, 2025

To follow are a few general points of information for parents:

## School Access

### **Entering the school**

There are several entry gates to the school grounds. Children, upon arrival at school, should come in one of those gates and remain inside the fences until it is time to enter class. Please **DO NOT** bring children through the car park gates but **ONLY USE PEDESTRIAN GATES**. The car park gates are dangerous, and this sets a very poor example for children.

### **Entering the building**

With over 700 families in the school now, we must reduce congestion in the main building and around the office. We are asking that no parents enter the main building through the office door before school or at pick-up time unless they have specific business at the office. We are also asking that parents drop off children to the external classrooms doors and pick them up from the same place. There should be no parents waiting inside the main building. We thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

### **Early morning and after school supervision**

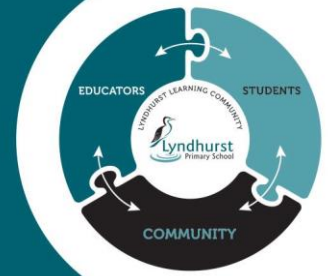
Children should not be in the school grounds prior to 8.45am each morning. The school grounds are supervised from 8.45am and we have a well-staffed and closely supervised Before School Care program that opens at 6.45am. Beyond this, we cannot take responsibility for children left in the playground in the morning unsupervised. This applies equally after 3.45pm in the afternoon. Drop off and pick up for children in before or after school care is through the side door of the Cormorant room near the staff car park.

### **Parking and traffic**

Please be patient and considerate when picking up and dropping off at school, especially at this time of the year. We understand that it is a difficult situation, especially after school, as it is at most schools. There is plenty of parking around the school grounds. **NO PARENTS** are to use the staff car park at any time, unless you are legally accessing the disabled parking space. The risk to children with traffic in that car park is high. There should be **NO** children in that car park at any time. We will be speaking to the children regarding safe practices when travelling home on foot or on bicycles. There are some simple messages about parking and pickup.

- Be patient and courteous
- Please consider our school neighbours and park in designated spaces
- **NEVER** double-park to pick up children!
- **NEVER** call children across the road to your car. Ensure they always use a crossing.

*“Take flight”*



## Using the school crossings

The school has two supervised crossings but many parents put themselves, their children and the children of others' in danger by not using the crossings properly or not using them at all. You **MUST** use a crossing if one is provided within a reasonable distance and you **MUST** follow the instructions of the crossing supervisor. Road safety becomes such a critical issue in such a large community and we rely on **EVERY PARENT** to consider the safety of our children.

## “Kiss and Drop zone” in Brookwater Parade

Casey Council have placed special signs outside of our school, indicating a “No Parking” area from 8am-9.30am and from 2.30pm – 4pm. The “No Parking” area will be what is commonly known as a “Kiss and Drop” zone. According to the road rules, **a motorist is allowed to stop in a No Parking area for a period of up to two minutes to drop off or pick up passengers, so long as they do not leave the vehicle unattended.** A vehicle is unattended if the driver is over 3m from the vehicle. This will improve traffic flow and student safety if everyone follows the simple rules.

- In the morning, stop, drop off your children and move on.
- In the afternoon, stop, pick up your children and move on.
- Whenever you can, move to the front of the parking area to leave room for others.

## Helmets and riding to school

Only students from Year 4 or above are permitted to ride to school unaccompanied. Students from Year 3 and below may ride to school in the company of a responsible adult. This includes bicycles and scooters. It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that children riding to school are capable and that they understand road rules and road sense. Parents should also ensure that **all riders wear helmets at all times** and that bikes and scooters are safe and in good repair. Riders should follow all relevant road rules and should be particularly careful when riding close to the school where pedestrian traffic is heavy.

Vic Roads (<https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/licences/health-and-driving/exemptions-from-wearing-a-seatbelt-or-bicycle-helmet>) states the following:

### Religious exemptions

The road rules state that a person may also be exempted from wearing a bicycle helmet for religious reasons, if religious headdress makes wearing a helmet impractical. You don't need a certificate for a religious exemption.

This applies if you meet **ALL** of the following requirements:

- you're a member of a religious group
- you're wearing a headdress customarily worn by members of that group
- the wearing of your headdress makes it impracticable to wear a bicycle helmet.

*“Take flight”*