# Supporting school issues through a whole-school approach

Travelling safely

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| Police district | School name | School demographics | Submitted by |
| Eastern | Unnamed | Full primary school Rural  Decile band 1–3 | Const P. Wong School Community Officer |
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| Summary | Increasing students’ safety when being picked up from school. | | |
| Issue | Vehicles picking students up after school were often parked illegally, either on yellow lines or blocking driveways. Other road users often could not see students who were entering the illegally parked vehicles.  The illegally parked vehicles obscured students’ view of other road users and the view of the School Patrol.  All the illegally parked vehicles belonged to members of the school community. These drivers were disregarding the safety of the students and other pedestrians around the school. | | |
| Identification and prioritisation | The school identified the issue after several incidents were reported in which vehicles barely avoided hitting students or other cars. Discussions were held between the Principal, senior school management, Police and local council staff. | | |
| Short-term goal | * Police and local council staff will enforce parking rules and provide a highly visible presence around the school to emphasise the issue of student safety. | | |
| Long-term goal | * All parents will follow the parking rules. | | |
| Prevention activities | Activities that occurred within a whole-school approach included:  School ethos and environment   * All school staff taught safety procedures and encouraged safe behaviour on or near roads. * The school consulted the local roading authority consulted about marking clearly the areas where parking is or is not permitted, and to educate drivers about traffic safety around the school. * Police regularly patrol the area outside school to targeting illegal parking.   Community connections   * Newsletters to families made it clear that drivers who parked illegally around the school would be held accountable. The newsletters included repeated reminders that the students’ safety was of utmost importance, and that illegal parking jeopardised this. * Relationships between the local council and the school were strengthened. * Police increased their presence around the school, issuing warnings and infringement notices to educate parents about their responsibilities as drivers.   Curriculum teaching and learning   * Students were constantly reminded about road safety and how to be safe pedestrians. * Students encouraged family and friends to be safe pedestrians and drivers. | | |
| Impact | Many warnings and infringement notices have been issued as a result of this intervention. This highlights the need to improve traffic safety around the school. | | |
| Next steps | * The school will continue education for families about its expectations about the way parents drop off and pick up students. * Enforcement of illegal parking at school times will continue. * Road markings in and around the school’s drop off and pick up areas will be improved. | | |
| Obstacles | The main obstacle was the continuing reluctance of some parents to park legally. | | |