

For more information contact Council's Road Safety Officer on 8757 9000

By now, you should be familiar with 'Go 40 For Me' road signs around schools.

Many drivers are doing the right thing and travelling at or below 40 kmph in school zones. As a result, our children are safer when getting to and from school.

Why is 40 kph the speed limit?

Tests by professional drivers and researchers have proven that the faster you go, the more damage occurs in a crash.

When struck by a vehicle at 60 kmph, only 15% of children survive. If struck at 50 kmph, 55% survive. At 40kmph, 75% of children survive.

The slower you go, the less likely you are to kill a child if they run, walk or stumble in front of your vehicle.

Speed also has a big effect on how long it takes to stop. If a child runs towards the road or steps from in front of a parked car, from the time you see them, it will take you a minimum of:

- 18 metres to stop from 40 kmph
- 27 metres to stop from 50 kmph
- 39 metres to stop from 60 kmph

It doesn't matter how good your brakes are - these distances apply to all cars and motorbikes on normal roads. If you skid or your tyres and brakes are worn it will take even longer to stop. Remember, the slower you go the faster you'll be able to stop.

Pay attention to what children are doing on the footpath. If you are distracted by something in the car, you may not even see the child before you hit them.

To avoid or reduce the chances of hitting a child within a school zone:

- Be alert.
- Drive at or below the 40kmph limit.
- Remain calm and don't skid.
- Ensure your tyres and brakes are in good working condition.
- Expect children to do the unexpected.

By driving slowly and carefully as well as keeping your foot over the brakes you give yourself more time to see what children are doing and can slow down or stop without causing anyone an injury.

