

Best Routes to School

City of Kelowna
City of West Kelowna
District of Lake Country
District of Peachland
Westbank First Nation
Regional District of Central Okanagan



Parents are encouraged to read this to their kids to teach them about getting to school safely!

KIDS, BE STREET S.M.A.R.T.!

SIDEWALKS:

Use sidewalks! Stay on the inside edge, and stand away from the edge when you want to cross the street. If there is no sidewalk, walk **facing traffic** so that you can see oncoming vehicles.

MUSIC:

If you are listening to music, remove one earpiece before crossing the street or walking in an unfamiliar neighbourhood.

ATTENTION:

Watch out for moving vehicles backing out of driveways, back alleys, and in parking lots.

ROAD CROSSING:

Always cross at an intersection or crosswalk. To cross safely, make eye contact with the drivers in all lanes to make sure they **are** stopped.

TEAM UP:

It's safer and more fun to walk to school with family or friends and good exercise too.

Neighbourhood Safety Tips

TRANSIT

Parents and children can take a bus route together a few times before the kids go solo. Ask the bus driver if you have questions.

SAFETY IN NUMBERS

Team up with another parent or neighbour to share the responsibilities of walking to and from school. If students are older, encourage them to walk with friends or older siblings.

AWARENESS AND INDEPENDENCE

Teach your children how to stay safe by identifying friendly neighbours or safe public places. Warn them about high traffic areas or corners that might hide hazards. Exploring and teaching kids about your community and city at a young age are lessons that will help them travel safer.



Beware of strangers!

- When you are out with your family, identify safe places where you can ask for help if needed. It might be a neighbour or a friend's house or maybe a safe place you can go.
- If your family uses a safety password, practice and remember that special word.
- Don't ever go anywhere with a stranger!

Park & Walk

Families who are unable to walk all the way to school can still contribute to improved traffic safety and healthy schools. Park at your school's designated area or, park legally on a street away from the school. Walk the last few blocks with your children, allowing them to enjoy a little extra active time outdoors.

Pearson has one park and walk station north of Franklin Road.

Students are welcome to join the Walking School Bus program, check with Pearson Elementary for more details.

S.U.P.E.R. Bike Safety

Practice these bike safety tips at all times when riding your bike!

Signs: Use your hand signals when riding your bike and obey traffic signs.

Use caution: Leave space when riding next to parked cars and watch out for doors swining open. Wear light or bright coloured clothing, bike lights and reflectors, so you can be easily seen.

Protection: Wear your helmet when riding your bike - it's the law.

Eye contact: Make eye contact with other road users (drivers and pedestrians) to improve safety for everyone.

Right hand side: Ride your bike single file and as far to the right hand side of the road as possible. Use bike lanes if they are available.



Safe Route

Use the proposed Safe Route map on the next page and get to school safely by walking cycling, in-line skating, riding a skateboard or a scooter.

Remember to always cross at a road intersection and make eye contact with drivers!

