

To Whom It May Concern,

**Welcome back!**

Children's safety is an important priority for the City of Markham. We are reaching out to all Markham schools to bring their attention to the significant number of complaints the City receives each year regarding parking and unsafe vehicular traffic in school zones throughout our municipality.

In October 2015, the City implemented the Administrative Monetary Penalty System (AMPS). Under AMPS, the City's Parking Enforcement Officer are permitted to issue a Penalty Notice for failing to comply with the **Parking Control Bylaw 2005-188**, and can serve it using a variety of methods. **Please note**, officers may conduct enforcement at school zones by recording license plates, without stepping out of their vehicle and mail Penalty Notices to the registered owners of improperly parked vehicles.

To start, we would like to ask for your assistance this year, as in past years, to share the information provided in this document with the parents of your students, as well as students and staff, who drive to school and to remind them of the requirement to **park in the permitted areas of your school only**.

Enclosed you will find a list of common parking violations and general parking information, which is intended to ensure that Markham's school zones are safe for all students, staff and residents.

We kindly remind you that complaints regarding "moving violations" i.e. U-turns, speeding, aggressive driving etc. should be directed to the police.

**School staff** who are interested in feedback regarding signage, education, school parking lot and the Amps Parking Bylaw please contact Trudy Jay at 905 477 7000 ext. 4262 or [tjay@markham.ca](mailto:tjay@markham.ca) directly.

If your school requires additional parking for **special events** (i.e. graduation, fun fair) please contact the City of Markham administration office at [parkingadmin@markham.ca](mailto:parkingadmin@markham.ca) .

General inquiries and parking complaints, including on street parking, from concerned **residents/parents** should be directed to the Contact Centre at 905 477 7000 ext. 2050.

For all, general information regarding parking please feel free to visit the City of Markham website at [www.markham.ca](http://www.markham.ca).

Sincerely,

Trudy Jay  
Parking Coordinator  
City of Markham

## Common Parking Violation Education

Many schools send out parking regulation reminders to parents/caregivers/students via email or school newsletters. In addition, students who drive to school may benefit from reminders during school announcements and assemblies. For primary and elementary schools, teachers can plan a "field trip" to show students the signs and explain their associated meaning. Students that are made aware of parking signage at an early age are more likely to relay this information to their parents, grandparents and caregivers.

Drivers should be reminded park in **permitted** areas only, which may include:

1. The school parking lot in accordance with signs posted; or,
2. Streets that do not have **prohibited parking** or **prohibited stopping** signs posted.

In addition to the most common parking violations listed below, drivers should ensure that they are not stopped or parked so as to block a fire hydrant, intersection, bus stop, private driveway or sidewalk.

### Fire Route



These signs are posted to alert drivers that the area is a **Fire Route**. Fire Routes are the roads, laneways, or driveways that provide access to a building and may also include areas within a parking lot. A driver is **in violation** of this parking regulation if he/she is stopped or parked in a Fire Route even if their engine is running, hazard lights are flashing, or there is someone in the car.

When this sign is displayed, drivers are permitted to immediately drop off/pick up individuals – **there cannot be a delay**. For example, when a parent is dropping off their child to school, the child should get out of the vehicle and the parent should immediately drive away. Similarly, when a parent is engaged in picking up their child, the child should already be waiting at the curb for their parent. After the child gets into the vehicle, the parent must then immediately drive away.

When this sign is displayed, drivers are not permitted to:

1. Sit and wait in the car for their child (even for a few minutes); or
2. Leave their vehicle (even to quickly drop off their child's lunch).

### Prohibited Parking



These signs are posted to alert drivers that **parking is prohibited**. A driver is **in violation** of this parking regulation if he/she has stopped the vehicle but the engine is running, hazard lights are flashing, or there is someone in the car.

When this sign is displayed, drivers are permitted to immediately drop off/pick up individuals – **there cannot be a delay**. For example, when a parent is dropping off their child to school, the child should get out of the vehicle and the parent should immediately drive away. Similarly, when a parent is engaged in picking up their child, the child should already be waiting at the curb for their parent. After the child gets into the vehicle, the parent must then immediately drive away.

When this sign is displayed, drivers are not permitted to:

1. Sit and wait in the car for their child (even for a few minutes); or,
2. Leave their vehicle (even to quickly drop off their child's lunch).

### Accessible Parking



These signs are posted to alert drivers that a **parking spot is reserved for individuals with Accessible Parking Permits only**. Drivers are not permitted to park or stop their vehicle in these spots unless the driver has a **valid** Accessible Parking Permit and it is properly displayed. The permit **must** also be used by the person it was issued to.

## Prohibited Stopping



These signs are posted to alert drivers that **stopping is prohibited**. They are often posted on surrounding streets from schools and may indicate the times of day that a driver is not permitted to stop their vehicle - drivers must continue to drive with the flow of traffic.

When this sign is displayed, drivers are not permitted to:

1. **Stop** their vehicle to let people in or out of their vehicle; or
2. **Sit and wait** for their child to get into the vehicle.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. How close to the curb should drivers park?

Drivers should park within 6 inches or 15 cm away from a curb; however, the City's Parking Enforcement Officers exercise discretion and will typically only issue a Penalty Notice to a vehicle that is parked more than 12 inches or 30 cm away from a curb.

### 2. How close to an intersection can drivers park?

Drivers shall not park a motor vehicle: on a highway within 9 m (30ft) of any intersection; on a highway within 15m (49 ft) of any signalized intersection

### 3. How far should drivers park away from a fire hydrant?

When parking their vehicle near a fire hydrant, drivers should maintain a distance of 10 feet or 3 metres away from the fire hydrant.

## Common Parking Definitions

Below you will find some of our common definitions from the City's Parking Control By-law # 2005-188. The complete [Parking Control By-law](#) can be found online at the City's website.

**"Fire Route"** means any roadway, driveway, lane, ramp or other means of vehicular access to or from a designated building which is designated as a fire access route by the City's Fire Department and shall include any part of a parking lot set aside by visible markings or markers for the purpose of vehicular movement.

**"Park"** or **"Parking"** means the halting of a vehicle, **whether occupied or not**, except when halting temporarily for the purpose of and while **actually engaged** in loading or unloading goods or passengers.

**"Stop"** or **"Stopping"** means the halting or leaving of a motor vehicle, even momentarily, **whether occupied or not**, except when necessary to avoid conflict or in compliance with the directions of a police officer or of a traffic control sign or signal.