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KID'S ART REINFORCES BACK-TO-SCHOOL ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN

A series of eye catching banners promoting road safety and Kiss and Ride zones have gone up at local schools in preparation for the new school year.

The banners, commissioned by the City of Ryde as part of the Council's ongoing road safety awareness campaign, feature the art and road safety messages of students aged 4 to 12 years from Ermington Public School.

"Using the kids to create the road safety messages and images for the banners was another way of making children and their parents understand the road rules around schools and the importance of obeying the signs", says Council's Road and Community Safety Officer, Chris Hellmundt.

City of Ryde Regulatory Services Manager, Leon Marskell says: "Our message is *'always put safety before convenience'*. If you break the traffic rules in a school zone you are putting children in danger and risk a hefty fine."

To brush up on your back to school road safety rules, here's a quick check list, or go to www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/kidsafety for details:

Safety Tips for Parents

- Always drop-off or pick-up your child from the designated area, following the school's procedures
- Drivers should remain in the vehicle at all times in the 'Drop-off/Pick-up' area
- Make sure children use the footpath-side door when getting in and out of a car
- Make sure the hand brake is applied when the vehicle is stationary
- Never double park
- Never park across a pedestrian crossing
- Never undertake a U-turn in close proximity to the school.

Safety Tips for Students

- Stay buckled up until the vehicle has stopped in the 'Drop-off/ Pick-up' area
- Make sure your school bag and other items are in a safe position eg. on the floor
- Be ready to get out of the car with your belongings when the car has stopped and you have unbuckled your seatbelt
- Always get in and out of the backseat of the vehicle through the safety door – the rear footpath-side door.

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