

21st January 2026

Durham Police Park Safe

Park Safe is a new initiative by Durham Police to try and address parking issues around school. You may have noticed signs that have been displayed outside of Blue Coat.

Illegal and inconsiderate parking around the school causes hazards for road users and pedestrians alike. Poor parking also creates unnecessary traffic jams and increases the likelihood of an accident occurring and someone being hurt. We don't want this to happen.

Park Safe allows the public to identify a vehicle parked dangerously or inconsiderately and film it on their mobile phone ensuring they capture the registration number. Signage around the school includes a QR code. Using the phone camera on the QR code will link to a website where the footage can be uploaded. The footage will be reviewed by Police and a decision made on how to deal with the issue. The incident will be processed by the Police or the County Council and the outcome could be education or enforcement. Videos are preferable to photographs as still images could be argued they show a vehicle actually moving (and not actually parked).



The scheme has been funded by Police and Crime Commissioner, Joy Allen, who following success at three other schools around the county wants to extend the scheme to more schools. Inspector Andrew Howarth of Durham Roads & Armed Policing department said, "Police, Council and School all receive regular complaints about dangerous driving and inconsiderate parking around schools. This is preventable and what we are aiming to do is change behaviour. It is not about punishing people or issuing penalties. This is an opportunity to safeguard children and reduce the risk of a collision.

Police are aware that in some instances, drivers are unaware of their responsibilities around school parking. The Highway Code Rule 243 states, you should not park near a school entrance — as well as anywhere that would prevent access for emergency services, at or near a bus stop, opposite or within 10 metres of a junction, over a dropped kerb, and in front of an entrance to a property.

In addition, yellow zig-zag lines outside schools indicate the length of road where stopping or waiting is strictly prohibited. You may also find an upright sign, indicating a mandatory prohibition of stopping during the times shown. The Highway Code says: 'You MUST NOT wait or park, or stop to set down and pick up passengers, on school entrance markings when upright signs indicate a prohibition of stopping.' This means you can't stop there at all — even if the engine is still running and you are letting your children jump out quickly.

We hope this initiative creates a safer environment for both road users and pedestrians.

Yours sincerely,

Durham Roads and Armed Policing Unit



We will build trust and confidence by:

- Relentlessly Pursuing Criminals
- Being Determined to Protect Vulnerable People
- Providing a First-Class Service to Victims
- Being the Best at Preventing Crime & ASB