

Dear parents,

A new phase in your child's life has begun. He or she is now going to school and thus on the road to more independence. In future, your child will walk to school on his/her own and will consequently be increasingly exposed to dangers associated with traffic. Due to their young age, children often behave less prudent and tend to act impulsively. Moreover, in the morning, there are special traffic conditions children cannot easily cope with.

As adults, parents have to encourage their children when it comes to affronting these new challenges. However, assuring safety on their way to school is not only the parents' job. The school, the city and parents have to co-operate in this matter.

In order to find the most secure way to school, we elaborated school routes maps, taking into consideration the following principles:

- Where possible, there should only be few street crossings on the children's way.
- However, if the children do have to cross the street, they should cross at intersections and junctions and not in the sections in-between.
- Streets with a relatively dense or fast traffic flow are to be crossed at appropriate locations with traffic lights for pedestrians or at a pedestrian crossing.

The recommended school routes are not always the shortest, but the most secure ways.

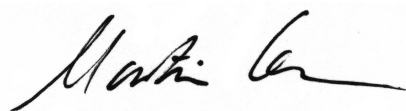
As parents, you should support the City of Karlsruhe's efforts and accompany your child several times on the selected way to school – start if possible at the weekend when there is less traffic. It is also important to draw their attention to dangers. In addition, once your child walks the way to school on his/her own, you should make sure he/she stays on the selected way.

You should always be a role model for your child by crossing the street yourself at secure crossings. Explain the incorrect behaviour of other road users who for example cross the street during a red light or walk into the street from in between parked vehicles.

You can find and download the school routes map for your elementary school from the Internet at

karlsruhe.de/schulwegplan

We wish you and your children a successful start into school life.



Martin Lenz
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