

Crocodile and Alligator Trails

Road Safety Guidance for Escorts

Please note that these are only general guidelines and it is the responsibility of the escort acting as the 'Head' of the Trail at the time to assess the current road situation.

Route

Before your Trail starts it is always a good idea for the escorts to walk the route together without children to make sure they are clear on any crossing points, where the 'stops' are located and any other issues.

Make sure that business or residents on the route, who may be affected by the Trail, have been contacted.

Clothing and Accessories

Escorts and children will be issued with high visibility safety equipment. These are to be worn at all times as mentioned in the Guidelines and all waistcoats should be done up. It is always a good idea to keep bags to a minimum.

Each child might want to have a carrier bag to store wet clothing.

The school may wish to provide a large plastic dustbin for wellingtons.

Recognise that if a hooded coat is worn or an umbrella used, caution should be taken as these items can obscure hearing and vision.

'Head' of the Trail

- The Head makes the decisions for the group on a daily basis and will lead the Trail. For example they will decide when and how to cross the group (see section on crossing)
- The Head sets the pace – it is best to walk slower children at the front as this will dictate the speed at which the Trail walks.
- Does not alter the route
- Should you not be able to use part of the pathway because of a temporary blockage e.g. road works or parked vehicles, the Trail will need to divert accordingly. The School Travel Planning Team should be informed immediately of any changes needed to the route.

'Tail' of the Trail

- The Tail walks at the back of the Trail
- Keeps the pace and encourages slow walkers
- Relay instructions from the Head
- Prevents bad behaviour or damage to property

Escorts

- Assist the Head and the Tail
- Walk near to the kerb on the outside of the Trail

All Escorts

- Be ready at your 'stop' to receive the children
- Leave promptly
- Children should walk in pairs and single file where the route is narrow for other pedestrians to pass
- Youngest children on the inside
- Encourage older children to be mentors (an older child will hold a younger child's hand, but not one of their own age)
- Watch out for driveways, business entrances etc
- Please be more cautious after half term and holidays as people get used to the Trail but they may forget after the school holidays

19 Steps to Crossing the Road

1. Establish a safe crossing place avoiding driveways/junctions/business entrances and obstructions. (Your route will have been risk assessed but there may be a time when the route has to change because of an obstruction as mentioned in the Head section)
2. Head stops at the kerb until all the Trail catches up
3. An escort (not the Head) moves forward to the kerb
4. When the road is clear the escort moves to the middle of the road whilst the Trail remains on the kerb.
5. The escort should make themselves as 'big' as possible – i.e. arms open wide
6. The Head will decide when it is safe to cross but will encourage children to take part in the decision making process in order to build on their Footsteps skills
7. The Head then leads the Trail in front of the escort (not behind)
8. If your Trail is very large it is best to split the Trail into smaller groups
9. The escort then follows on behind the Trail until safely on the opposite kerb
10. On wider roads two people will need to stand in the road to create a 'corridor' for the children to walk between
11. If using a traffic island it is recommended to cross the children in smaller groups so as not to 'overload' the island

12. Remember that escorts **do not** have the authority to stop traffic in order to cross the road and must wait for the road to be clear or for drivers to give them permission to enter the road
13. Establish that if any motorist does stop to allow the Trail to cross it is **vital** that a check for other traffic is made and all the vehicles have stopped before stepping into the road. There is always a danger of other drivers overtaking the stationary vehicle.
14. Remember that in bad weather it will take vehicles longer to stop and extra caution should be taken

Typical Stopping Distances

At 20 mph

3 car lengths which is 12m or 40 ft

At 30mph

6 car lengths which is 23m or 75 ft

At 40mph

9 car lengths which is 36m or 120 ft

At 50mph

13 car lengths which is 53m or 175 ft

15. If the following safe crossing places are available please always use them:
 - **Pelican crossing** – when using a pelican crossing, make sure that all the Trail is at the crossing before the wait button is pressed. Check that the green man shows and all the traffic has stopped before attempting to cross. Do not start to cross when the green man is flashing
 - **Puffin crossing** – similar to pelican crossing. Make sure that the Trail arrives at the crossing together before pressing the button
 - **Zebra crossing** – wait until all the traffic has stopped from both directions before crossing the road. Keep looking and listening all the time when crossing
 - **School Crossing Patrol** – If there is a school crossing patroller on the route please use this facility
16. When using all of the above it is advisable to make eye contact with the car drivers before stepping off the pavement.
17. After crossing reform the Trail
18. Transport for Buckinghamshire's Guidelines do **not** allow for dogs to walk with Trails (except guide dogs)
19. If you have a problem with a particular child we recommend that this be reported to the school for the headteacher to deal with rather than a parent

When entering the playground

Take the children to a pre-determined assembly point (as detailed in your risk assessment)
Check register of children
Stamp passports
Remove high visibility safety equipment and get the children to store this in their bags

Please note that each Trail will be monitored annually by the School Travel Planning Team of Transport for Buckinghamshire

Contacts

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