

Parking Enforcement

Mini guide



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What the Council can do

Parking regulations can be confusing, even more so as they can change depending on the landownership, time and place and incorporate different pieces of legislation. The Council has limited powers when it comes to enforcement so before getting in touch with us, please check to see if your enquiry comes under the responsibility of MK City Council.

Milton Keynes operates under decriminalised parking law, this means the council enforces most parking restrictions rather than the police. However, the council can only enforce restrictions that are supported by a Traffic Regulation Order.

These are clearly identified using signage and / or lining such as double yellow lines. Enforcement is carried out by Civil Enforcement Officers who are trained in parking regulations and are able to issue a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) to anyone breaching parking regulations.

The Council has no powers to take enforcement action if there are no visible restrictions on the road (no signs or road markings).

The police have retained the powers to enforce for obstruction whether this a vehicle, for access or visibility.

These acts are a criminal offence and should be reported to the police using the non-emergency number 101 not the council as legally, there is nothing the council can do.

Quick Guide to Parking Enforcement

You can contact the Parking Team at MK City Council on:

Tel: 01908 252353

Email mkparking@milton-keynes.gov.uk:

MK City Council* is responsible for the enforcement of:

- Parking on double yellow lines
- Parking on single yellow lines
- Parking in Blue Badge disabled bays (not private car parks)
- Parking in a marked Bus Lane or Bus Cage
- Unauthorised parking in a taxi rank area
- Parking in a Limited Waiting area over the time limit
- Parking in a Resident Permit area without a valid permit
- Parking on dropped kerbs
- Parking on the Pavement –if there are restrictions e.g. double yellow lines
- Parking in an MKCC-owner parking bay without a valid parking ticket.
- Double parking - vehicle parked over 50 centimetres from the kerb.

Parking enforcement is undertaken randomly so offenders can be caught. Areas of heavy abuse receive daily enforcement.

If you notice abuse of a particular restriction email mkparking@miltonkeynes.gov.uk.

We can't send out officers immediately but we will note this location for our enforcement team to check.

Please do not take pictures of the issue and email to us or post them on our social media pages as we are unable, under the regulations, to retrospectively issue a penalty notice based on photographs sent to us.

Yellow line restrictions apply at all times and enforcement is undertaken seven days a week. The Council doesn't have powers to remove vehicles but can issue a penalty charge notice to a vehicle parked where restrictions are in place.

*MK City Council currently use a third party company to carry out enforcement on its behalf.

Quick Guide to Parking Enforcement

Thames Valley Police

Call 101 or report online at www.thamesvalley.police.uk

Thames Valley Police can take action against a vehicle owner who has parked either obstructively or has parked dangerously. This may be a fine or they may remove the vehicle.

This includes:

- Parking on white zig zag lines
- Parking on a pedestrian crossing
- Parking in a way that would prevent emergency vehicles from getting through
- Parking dangerously e.g. on a junction, blocking visibility for other road users and pedestrians.

The police receive a high number of enquiries about parking that are either for the Council to act upon or are a civil matter so please check if it meets the above criteria first before calling 101.



Cars parked on the footway blocks access for pedestrians forcing them into the road. Parking like this also prevents highways repairs being carried out as we can't access drains or street lights.



These vehicles have parked on the junction blocking visibility for other road users. Drivers cannot see the oncoming traffic and check it is safe to pull out causing a serious road safety problem.

Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO)

A TRO is a legal document that restricts or prohibits the use of the public highway network. A TRO helps us to effectively manage the highway for all users. We can use a TRO to improve road safety and to help people to access facilities. For example, a TRO may include a speed limit, prevent dangerous manoeuvres like U-turns or regulate on-street parking in a defined location.

TROs can only be made for specific reasons as set out in the legislation. A TRO must be clearly signed or lined such as a speed limit or double yellow lines.

A TRO may be used to help with an existing parking issue such as verge parking which blocks visibility. You can request new parking restrictions through your local parish, town or community council. They can submit an application to the Council's highways team to show there's widespread support for a scheme or a clear safety reason for introducing double yellow lines. A TRO can take up to a year to introduce (a legal process must be followed) and includes both formal and informal consultations and there is a cost to create them, on average around £3-4,000 plus the cost of any scheme implementation e.g., signs and lining.

For information about the application process, visit the Parking section on the MKCC website.

Obstructive Parking

If a parked vehicle has blocked access to your driveway, the first thing to do is try to locate the owner and ask them to move it. They may not always realise they have blocked access. If they refuse or this happens repeatedly by the same vehicle owner, you can report it to the police on 101 as anti-social behaviour.

If a vehicle is parked on your property without your permission, this is a civil dispute and neither the police or the Council have any powers to intervene. First you should try to locate the owner to sort it out as it may be a misunderstanding. If it continues to happen you should seek legal advice or speak with the Citizens Advice Bureau to find out what action you can take.

Vehicles may park on the public highway as long as they are not causing an obstruction. This means that people can park on the road in front of your house if a parking space is available if they wish.

If you have a designated parking bay and someone parks in it, try to find the vehicle owner to sort it out otherwise you should contact the company or person responsible for managing the parking bays.

White 'H' access or disabled bay markings in residential streets are advisory only and are not enforceable.

For Abandoned Vehicles, check the number plate with the [DVLA](#) to see if it is taxed and MOT'd. If it is then the Council cannot take action. If it is not then report it to us on 01908 252570. If you believe the abandoned vehicle has been involved in a crime or is parked dangerously, report it to the police on 101.

Dropped kerbs

A dropped kerb is a lowered kerb to help with accessibility. This helps pedestrians with mobility issues or for users of wheelchairs, powered mobility vehicles and people with prams or pushchairs. A dropped kerb may also be used for vehicle access where there is a vehicle crossover.

If a parked vehicle is fully or partially across a dropped kerb is it classed as an obstruction and the police or our Civil Enforcement Officers can issue a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN).

Rule 243 of the Highway Code covers dropped kerbs. It states that you may not park where a kerb is lowered for accessibility unless stationary traffic forces you to do so.

Blue Badge holders are not exempt from the prohibition parking on dropped kerbs.

For more information about vehicle crossings check out our webpage on Vehicle Crossings at www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/highways



The footway above (circled) has a dropped kerb for pedestrian accessibility. This section also has tactile paving that so that visually impaired pedestrians can recognise the change to the footway and the crossing point.



This lorry is unloading but they have blocked the public footway with cones and the vehicle. This is an obstruction of the public highway and is forcing pedestrians to walk in the road to get around the lorry.

Verge parking

It is not illegal to park a vehicle, unless it is a HGV (vehicle over 7.5 tons), on a grass verge unless it is causing an obstruction or there is a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) in place.

However, parking on a grass verge causes damage and can block visibility for other road users as well as pedestrians and cyclists.

Repeated parking on a grass verge causes damage which is unsightly and the council will not repair verges damaged by parked vehicles.

In some areas where verge parking has caused road safety issues, different types of verge protection have been installed. You can read more about these in our [Mini Guide to Verges, Lines and Kerbs](#).

You may not place items on the grass verge to prevent parking or vehicles driving over it as this is an obstruction on the highways. Our enforcement officers will ask anyone doing this to remove the obstruction and if they fail to do so, we will remove them and recharge the costs.



The resident has placed large stones onto the grass verge to prevent parking. This verge is public highway therefore this is an obstruction of the highway so we can take enforcement action against them.



Repeatedly driving or parking on a soft grass verge will cause damage and make it look unsightly. This can also be a hazard for pedestrians if they need to use the verge for access if a footway is unavailable.

Parking on the footway

Vehicles parked on the footway can cause a number of issues. For pedestrians, it means they cannot walk on the footway but are forced into the road so they can get past which is dangerous. This is particularly difficult for those in power assisted mobility vehicles, and people with pushchairs.

The UK government is considering a UK-wide ban on pavement parking to stop this road safety issue. This may mean that parked vehicles then cause other problems on narrow roads for emergency vehicles, bin lorries or buses.

Parking on the pavement is not illegal outside of London but if you park in an obstructive way, such as blocking visibility, you could be issued with a Fixed Penalty Charge by the police.

You should park considerately when parking your vehicle. Allow enough room for pedestrians to get past and do not block the whole footway (pavement). Check that you are not blocking visibility for other drivers e.g. by parking too close to a junction.



This vehicle is partially on the footway, allowing pedestrians to get past

These vehicles have parked across the footway, so pedestrians are forced to walk in the road to get past.

Parking outside schools

We encourage pupils to either walk, cycle or scoot between home and school as it benefits them, the environment and reduces congestion outside the school gates. Our Transport team work with schools to help them create travel plans to help educate parents and pupils on more sustainable, greener journeys. We also provide schools with Park Smart banners to encourage considerate parking.

Most parents park considerately when dropping off their children to local schools however some do not and we work with our enforcement officers and the police to take action against people who park dangerously on Keep Clear zig zags, on corners and in front of residents' driveways.

You can find out more about the Park Smart campaign and others on our Road Safety section on the website www.milton-keynes.gov.uk

If you would like to find out more about travel plans for schools, email our Transport team, Transport.Policy@milton-keynes.gov.uk



Cars parked on the yellow 'School Keep Clear' zig zag markings outside a primary school in Greenleys.



This driver has not only parking on the 'School Keep Clear' zig zags, but they are also blocking visibility at a busy junction in a residential area.

Parking outside schools



Many schools across MK experience road safety issues at drop off and pick up times due to the number of vehicles and inconsiderate or unsafe parking by some drivers. We work with local schools to educate parents and guardians to park considerately when dropping off or picking up their children from school. Our Transport team offer suggestions and routes for children to walk, cycle or scoot to school instead.

We also have a section on our website for Road Safety which includes details about how we are working with schools on parking issues outside the school gates including both enforcement and awareness activities.

More information

You can find out more about parking regulations online including the Highways Act 1980 and the Highway Code at www.legislation.gov.uk

Other useful websites include:

www.britishparking.co.uk

www.thamesvalley.police.uk