



STOP, KISS, DROP...

It's the morning peak-hour headache motorists dread: negotiating a school drop-off zone without hitting a child, bumping into another car or having to queue for ages when you're already running late for work. And the fears for parents and teachers, that a child will be hurt in this mad scramble are not unfounded: new VicRoads figures show that 52 children aged under 18 were injured in accidents near schools last year.

But one Melbourne girls' school believes it has worked out how to create a safe drop-off and pick-up system for its students - while not hindering local traffic.

When Camberwell Girls Grammar School decided to relocate its Junior School to the already busy Mont Albert Road, principal Glenda Bushell's main concern was how to keep the traffic generated by 150 families flowing, while maintaining the safety of her students.

"I had to think very carefully about what our needs were but also think about what would have the least impact on our neighbours so that we weren't clogging up their roads," Mrs Bushell said.

After much discussion, the **Stop, Kiss, Drop** method of depositing and collecting children from school was launched. The method sees parents drive into the school four cars at a time, all directed by the School's maintenance worker Daryl Feldman. A teacher opens the car's passenger door so the student can jump out after kissing her parent goodbye. Parents then drive off without having set foot out of the car, and traffic flows smoothly.

In a little over thirty minutes, the painless and efficient school drop-off is over.

RACV chief engineer Peter Daly said the motoring body would like similar programs to operate in all school's throughout the state.

Mrs Bushell said it has taken quite a bit to educate the parents, but I think it is now widely accepted. She said some parents initially felt the loss of morning and afternoon car park "chat", so each class now has a parent activity coordinator who helps to organise social events for parents.

