

# walking school bus

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## Getting to school enjoyably & safely

### What is a Walking School Bus?

A Walking School Bus provides a fun, safe and active way for children to travel to and from school.

A walking school bus is like a real bus – it travels at a set time and children join or leave the bus at designated stops.

Each bus walks along a set route with at least one adult 'driver' picking children up at designated 'bus stops' and walking them to school. In the afternoons when the children are coming home the process is reversed.

Buses can be flexible to suit the needs of the families using it and can go as often as volunteer parents/caregivers/whānau/neighbours want to drive them.

### Why walk to school?

By walking to school, children get fresh air, enjoy the activity of walking and have the opportunity to:

- learn how to safely negotiate the roads
- develop independence
- enjoy the environment
- have fun with their friends during the walk.

Children love being part of a walking school bus. Teachers often report that children arrive at school invigorated and ready to learn.

### How do I set up a walking school bus?

If you're a parent/caregiver, talk to your school's principal and your local council's road safety coordinator about the idea.

If you're a teacher, try to enthuse and involve parents from the beginning.

For more information or to download a Walking School Bus Coordinator's Guide, visit [www.feetfirst.govt.nz](http://www.feetfirst.govt.nz)

