

Coordinator Quick Guides

## Park and Stride

Q and A with Tauranga City Council Travel Safe Coordinator Sheree Ellis.

### **What is Park and Stride?**

Parents are encouraged to park their car 500 metres away from the school and walk to collect their children. It reduces congestion, improves safety around the school gate and is a component of active travel promotions.

Park and Stride is set up on a school-by-school basis.

### **What time of day do schools use Park and Stride?**

Mainly afternoons because Park & Stride was promoted for the problem part of the day which is usually 3pm pick-up. We find schools don't have much of an issue in the morning due to the longer 8am - 9am drop-off window.

### **What is needed to set up a Park and Ride scheme?**

The council Travel Safe Coordinator has a meeting with school staff to explain how the programme will work.

We produce a map showing suitable parking areas for parents and caregivers to use.

A decision for the school is what fun incentive they can offer to encourage students and their families to give it a go. Options we have used:

- Early release from school for students who use active travel or Park and Stride to get home
- Fun afternoon once a term for participating students

We encourage schools to use Park and Stride as part of a wider active travel promotion, such as the Feet First programme we run for Tauranga schools. The only job for teachers is to clip the house point tickets in the morning – more on this below.

When the school is ready, it's time to let student and families know all about. The students themselves are often the best promoters.

### **Is it right for all schools? What factors about their local street environment help a Park and Stride scheme?**

Rural schools in high speed zones would not be suited. Urban schools that have chaos and congestion at the school gate are the best candidates!

Some schools have areas close by that provide plenty of parking. In one case, there is a local supermarket which supports the programme. Many schools have parks and reserves within a short walking distance that have ample parking.

Council provides the school with a map identifying all available parking within 500m.

### **How does Park and Stride support a wider active travel initiative?**

Park & Stride is one component of the Feet First active travel initiative. Here's how this works:

- Any student who walks, bikes, scooters or skates can collect house points for rewards.
- Tickets are kept on each teacher's desk. (Two clips for a rainy day)
- Students take completed tickets to the Travel Smart student group (set up one lunchtime per week). The student group issues a new bag tag and new house card ticket, then collate the house points.
- To maintain the programme the students promote it regularly in assembly, newsletters, Facebook and so on.
- They also give out Active Transport Champion awards in assembly once a term.

Read more here:

[Support for Feet First programme on the rise at Pillans Point School](#)

### **How do you evaluate the success of Park and Stride?**

Firstly, via the Feet First data collection. All Park and Stride children are registered, and the percentages can be easily accessed from the school.

Secondly, feedback from the school community and residents. I have heard parents say 'Oh, I didn't even think of Park & Stride as an option, but it makes sense to park away from the school gate to avoid the stress.'

Thirdly, fewer complaints to council. Since Park and Stride started at Pillans Point School, we haven't received a complaint from a member of the public or resident. Prior to this, we would receive complaints on a regular basis. Around Greenpark School (roll of 900) we still receive complaints but nowhere near as many.