

# Being a safe travel citizen

At years 7 and 8, ākonga are able to think critically about what it means to be a safe travel citizen and apply these principles to real-life situations.

## 1. Read the journal entry below by a year 8 student who values being a safe travel citizen.

**22 February 2023**

Today, I had some time to reflect on what it means to be a safe travel citizen, and I realised how important it is to me. I'm twelve now, and as I'm getting older, I'm understanding more about the world around me and the responsibilities that come with it.

Being a safe travel citizen means more than just following rules and obeying signs. It's about caring for myself and others, making smart choices, and doing my part to create a safer environment for everyone.

One thing I've learned is the importance of being aware of my surroundings. Whether I'm walking to school, riding my bike, or using public transport, I always try to stay alert and pay attention to what's happening around me. This helps me anticipate potential dangers and avoid risky situations.

I also believe in respecting others and their right to travel safely. This means using pedestrian crossings, waiting for my turn at intersections, and being patient and courteous to fellow travellers. It's about treating others the way I would want to be treated and making sure everyone feels safe and respected on the road.

But being a safe travel citizen isn't just about following the rules, it's about taking responsibility for my actions. If I see someone in need of help, whether it's a lost child or someone struggling to cross the street, I want to be there to lend a hand. It's about looking out for one another, especially in times of need.

In the end, being a safe travel citizen is about making a commitment to myself and others to prioritise safety and well-being whenever I'm on the move. It's a responsibility I take seriously, and by doing my part, I can help make my community a safer place for everyone.

Hine, year 8 student, Tūī Valley Intermediate.

## 2. Reflective questions

What does it mean to Hine to be a safe travel citizen, and why is it important to her?

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Think about what Hine does to keep herself and others safe. How can you do similar things to stay safe when you're out and about?

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Imagine a situation where someone needs help while travelling, like missing the bus or getting a puncture. What could you do to help them?

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Why do you think it's important to treat others with kindness and respect when travelling? How does it make travelling better for everyone?

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3. In the space below, draw an image that portrays the meaning of safe travel citizenship to you. Once complete, write an explanation for your image.

Explanation:

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Kia hakune!  
What does it mean  
to be a safe travel  
citizen?

