



# Getting safely to and from school

Nelson City Council is working with schools around Nelson with the aim of improving safety and reducing the frequency of children travelling to and from school in cars, by providing alternative travel options.

Most schools have a customised school travel plan to provide more choices for students travelling to and from school.

As part of these plans, some changes may be made to the local area's infrastructure to improve the walking and cycling environment. These include creating crossing facilities or introducing measures to reduce vehicle speed or crashes in the area. The area covered can be a radius of between one and two kilometres from the school. These changes will benefit others in the community not just school children.

Projects also include education programmes, information and support for the school and community to make travel to and from school safer. Council staff will work with schools, teachers, parents and students to raise awareness of safety issues through community education and information campaigns. This could include setting up walking school buses, providing cycle safety training and stressing the importance of operating school patrols.

Each school community is different and requires a tailored approach. Council aims to work with schools to make the right choices. Please talk to your school about current or new things you'd like to see happening including:

- Walking school buses
- Cycle safety training
- Better cycle facilities
- School patrols
- Or any other ideas you may have.



For more information contact Nelson City Council:

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# Creating Travel Choices – for Schools



**Making it easier and safer for children to walk or cycle to and from school.**





## Benefits of walking or cycling to school

About 40 per cent of school students in Nelson usually travel to school by car, which means they are missing out on the advantages of walking or cycling to school, including:

- Increased physical activity which creates good habits for life and benefits health and fitness
- Arriving at school brighter and more alert
- Gaining confidence and useful road safety skills such as how and where to cross the road safely
- Sharing fun social time with other children by joining walking school buses or travelling with friends
- Having fun time with parents and unwinding at the end of the school day
- Learning about different surroundings, sites and people and experiencing the world around them
- Greater interaction with the local neighbourhood and community, which helps children develop a sense of place and a respect for their local area.

## Why are these Travel Choices projects needed?

We know from survey data that many caregivers see road safety risks as a barrier to letting kids walk and cycle to school.

It is true that children travelling to and from school are a vulnerable group of road users. These projects are about providing practical actions to improve road safety.

- Children are physically more vulnerable to the impact of injury than an adult and their size can create problems, as it limits their ability to see or be seen over certain heights such as parked cars or large trucks.
- The highest number of child pedestrian serious injuries occurred between 3pm and 4pm (1500hrs-1600hrs). This coincides with the same time as most journeys from school.

The projects offers a number of ways to reduce the risks including:

- Safer crossing points (kea crossings and school patrols)
- Pedestrian refuges



- Cycle storage facilities
- School speed zones
- Better walking and cycling links.

In addition, parents and caregivers can make a huge contribution to improving the situation by allowing children to walk or cycle.

- Less congestion- the proportion of children driven to school by car in NZ has increased significantly over the past two decades. Traffic volumes are lower during school holidays
- Safer at the school gate – fewer vehicle dropping kids at the school gates and double parking will reduce the chaos and make it safer for children outside the school gates
- More convenient for the local community – less cars coming and going from schools means less blocked driveways and better traffic flow in the neighbourhood
- Better for the environment – fewer journeys by car means less pollution.

