

Keeping safe while using school buses

Information for caregivers

April 2025

Delivering our ākonga to school safely and ready to learn involves many parties, and each has an important role to play and responsibilities to meet. **Caregivers are responsible for safely transporting their children to and from their school bus stop as they are best placed to decide the safest way to do this.**

Here's some information about how you can help keep children safe when they are travelling to school.

What can I do to keep my child safe?

The most important thing you can do is make sure your child understands how to behave and keep themselves safe before, during, and after their school bus journey.

The highest risk is when a child gets off a bus.

To prevent children running across the road to or from the bus into the path of passing traffic, you should:

- › Walk them to the bus stop in the morning.
- › Meet them as they get off the bus, on the same side of the road that the bus stops.

Remember, the speed limit is 20km per hour when driving past a stationary school bus from either direction.

Safety and behaviour tips for students

Kerb drill	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› Find a safe place to cross› Take one step back from the kerb› Look in all directions and listen for traffic› If traffic is coming, wait for it to pass, then look and listen again› When there is no traffic, walk quickly across and be alert to any changes
Boarding the bus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› Arrive at the bus stop five minutes early› Stand five giant steps away from the kerb› Wait until the bus stops, the door opens, and the driver says it's okay before stepping onto the bus› Board the bus one at a time› Be patient - no pushing› Find a seat and sit down straight away› Put your bag and anything you're carrying on your lap or under the seat in front of you

<p>Behaviour on the bus</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Follow all instructions from the bus driver › No eating, drinking, smoking or vaping on the bus › Once seated, stay seated › When seated, put your bag on your lap or under your seat › If standing, hold on to a seat handle or rail for support › If standing, stay behind the driver › Keep your voices low so the driver is not distracted › Keep the inside of the bus clean and damage free
<p>Leaving the bus</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Wait for the bus to stop before making your way to the door › Leave the bus one at a time – no pushing › Wait well back from the road until the bus has gone and you can see clearly › Always use your kerb drill before crossing the road

Students are expected to comply with the behaviour guidelines above and any code of conduct or conditions of carriage issued by the bus operator.

If a student’s behaviour is disruptive or poses a safety risk, the school will take appropriate steps to manage this behaviour, and the student could lose their place on the school bus. If the bus driver judges that it is no longer safe to continue the route, the school or the Police will be contacted to remove the student from the school bus.

If a student loses their place on the school bus a Conveyance Allowance will not be paid in this situation.

More information

More tips on how to keep your children safe can be found on the New Zealand Transport Agency | Waka Kotahi website: <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/safety/keeping-children-safe/bus-safety/>

 More information? Check out the Ministry of Education’s website [here](#)