

SAFE AND ACTIVE TRAVEL TO SCHOOL

A GUIDE FOR SCHOOL
COMMUNITIES



INTRODUCTION

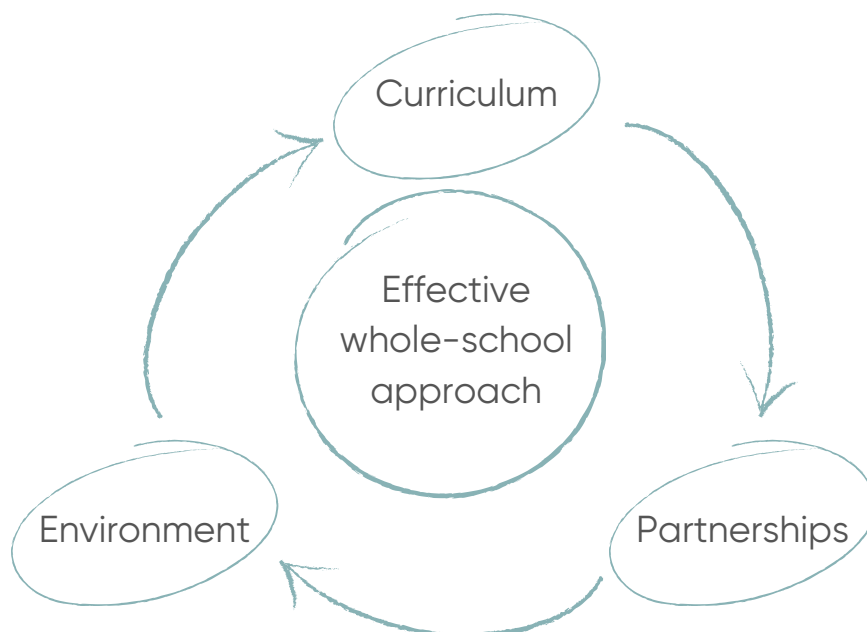
Road safety and active transport are two crucially important issues for school communities. The drop in the number of students who walk or ride to school over recent generations has resulted in a significant increase in traffic and congestion around schools, which in turn creates a less safe environment for all road and path users.

Using active transport to school benefits student's health as well as the environment. In addition to being more physically active, students who walk, ride or catch the bus to school are gaining skills in independence and resilience.

Addressing road safety issues in tandem with encouraging active transport helps to create a safe and supportive environment where students and families can confidently choose to ride, walk, or catch the bus to school.

This resource is designed as a starting point for school staff and families to improve road safety and active transport at their school.

It is based on a whole-school approach, which encompasses in-school learning as well as the critical partnerships and environmental changes that are needed to create improvement.



ROAD SAFETY AROUND SCHOOLS

Partnerships

Who is responsible for what when it comes to road safety around schools? Knowing who to contact is an important first step to resolving safety issues and concerns around schools. This list is the best place to start:

- [School zones and speed limits](#) are approved by Main Roads WA.
- [Roads](#) are built and maintained by Main Roads WA or the City of Albany.
- [Footpaths and cycle paths](#) are built and maintained by the City of Albany.
- [School crossings](#) are approved by the Children's Crossing and Road Safety Committee, while [Traffic Wardens](#) are managed by WA Police.
- [Enforcement](#) of road rules is the responsibility of WA Police, while the City of Albany Rangers look after enforcement of parking regulations outside the school grounds. Parking inside the school grounds is the responsibility of the school.

Road user behaviour
is everyone's
responsibility.



ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION

Curriculum

Every day, children and young people are on our road network either as a driver, passenger, pedestrian, cyclist or rider of other wheeled devices such as a scooter.

Road safety education in early childhood centres and schools gives vulnerable road users the knowledge, skills and positive attitudes to help them make safer choices.

The Department of Education provides resources which are evidence-based, age-appropriate, classroom-ready and aligned to the Early Years Learning Framework and Western Australian curriculum.

Department of Education Consultants are available to visit early childhood centres and schools around WA to support staff with the planning and delivery of best practice road safety education through consultation and professional learning opportunities. Seminars and resources are also available for parents and carers to compliment a whole school approach towards road safety.

To find your Regional Consultant, contact:

Road Safety and Drug Education
Department for Education
rsde.rfa@education.wa.edu.au
9402 6415



GET YOUR SCHOOL MOVING

Environment

What is the Your Move program?

Your Move is a free program for schools in WA that is run by the Department of Transport. The aim of the program is to support schools and students to use active and sustainable options to travel to and from school more often. This means walking, riding, scooting or catching the bus to school, instead of travelling by car.

How does the program work?

By running activities at your school that encourage active transport and then sharing your stories with Your Move, the school is awarded points which can be redeemed for rewards. The activities also enable schools to gain eligibility for an annual grant program which can assist schools with larger projects such as bike parking infrastructure, purchasing school bikes or delivering bike education sessions.

Support is provided to schools by the Your Move Schools team based in Perth. Local support is also provided by the City of Albany - please refer to the key contacts page at the end of this guide.



Albany Primary School and Albany High School are located adjacent to each other, with a combined student population of around 1500. The intake area for each school is relatively small, however there was still a large amount of vehicles accessing the schools each day resulting in congestion and parking issues.

The schools worked together with the City of Albany to develop a simple map to use as a communication tool for both of the school communities. The aim of the map is to highlight areas where parents can drop off students and enable them to walk or ride the remaining distance from school. The key message is that it is an easy and practical choice to park and ride or walk to school.



CASE STUDY:

WALK TO SCHOOL DAY

The opportunity:

Little Grove Primary School and its P&C participated in National Walk Safely to School Day in 2022 for the first time, and was looking for a way to get as many school families as possible involved.

The P&C decided to run a one-off Walking School Bus to coincide with the event. An appropriate starting point was determined, which was just over 1km distance from the school. Students and families were able to join at the starting point, or join the group along the route. Supervision was provided by P&C members, and students who walked to school received a piece of fresh fruit on arrival at school thanks to a donation from a local business. The event was promoted via social media and school communication channels.

The outcome:

The event was embraced by the school community, with 60% of students walking to school on the day, with one class recording all students walking to school. Overall, 80% of students walked, rode or caught the bus to school that day.

This Walk to School Day was a simple event, well supported by school students and families, with a significantly positive outcome. It showed in a practical way how easy and achievable it is for students to walk to school on a regular basis.



NEXT STEPS

Annual events:

- March: National Ride 2 School Day
- May: National Walk Safely to School Day
- May: National Road Safety Week
- October: WA Bike Month

Funding opportunities:

- Connecting Schools Grants: open to schools participating in the Your Move program each year. Visit www.yourmove.org for more information.
- Road Safety Commission Grants: available for road safety projects and events. Visit www.rsc.wa.gov.au for more information.
- WA Bike Month Grants: available to support schools to run cycling-focussed events during October. Visit www.westcycle.org.au for more information.
- City of Albany Community Sustainability Grants: available to schools to support active transport initiatives. Visit www.albany.wa.gov.au for more information.



KEY CONTACTS



Partnerships

- City of Albany
Email: sustainable@albany.wa.gov.au | Ph: 6820 3032
Web: www.albany.wa.gov.au
- Department of Education – Road Safety and Drug Education Branch
Email: rsde.rfa@education.wa.edu.au | Ph: 9402 6415
- WALGA RoadWise Program – Regional Road Safety Advisor
Email: vgardiner@walga.asn.au | Ph: 0418 904 081
Web: www.roadwise.asn.au
- Department of Transport – Your Move Schools
Email: yourmove@transport.wa.gov.au | Ph: 6551 6144
Web: www.yourmove.org.au
- Main Roads WA – Great Southern Region
Email: gsreg@mainroads.wa.gov.au | Ph: 9892 0555
Web: www.mainroads.wa.gov.au
- WA Children's Crossings and Road Safety Committee:
Email: childrenscrossingunitmail@police.wa.gov.au | Ph: 6274 8731
Web: www.police.wa.gov.au/Traffic
- School buses:
Swan Transit (TransAlbany bus service) Ph: 9842 2888
Loves Bus Service (orange buses) Ph: 9841 1211
- WA Police:
Ph: 6274 8767 (Albany) | Web: www.police.wa.gov.au
- Road Safety Commission:
Email: info@rsc.wa.gov.au | Web: www.rsc.wa.gov.au