



Wurruk Primary School and Kindergarten

Walking School Bus

Rationale:

The Walking School Bus is a school bus powered not by an engine but by legs. The walkers are the bus. The bus travels along a set route to school, picking up children along the way from their homes. The Walking School bus aims to improve our attendance, teacher road safety skills and provide a healthy physical exercise for the day.

Aims:

- To improve our attendance.
- To enable students to learn about their local traffic environment and safety skills.
- To raise the profile of traffic safety within the local school community.
- Promote a healthy lifestyle.
- Supports parents who want their children to be healthy and get to school safely
- Support teachers who like children to arrive at school alert and motivated
- To encourage children to begin their day with an enjoyable social and physical activity
- Provide an environment that supports quality education and a healthy and productive community
- Providing the community the benefit of a stronger sense of connect

What are the benefits for children?

Walking School Buses can assist children to:

- get to school safely, conveniently and on time;
- get regular physical activity and exercise;
- gain a sense of independence;
- develop as individuals through involvement in a responsible and disciplined activity;
- experience being part of a group or team;
- learn about traffic safety and good road sense;
- become more familiar with their own neighbourhood and surroundings;
- have a chance to build friendships;
- have fun getting to school; and
- arrive at school alert and ready to learn.

Implementation:

Our Walking School bus leaves school at 8:00 am every school day.

Our Route is set and is checked for traffic hazards. [Map](#)

The adults wear Hi-Viz vests to be easily seen, carry a first aid kit and a roll.

Two staff members are always on the bus.

Volunteer drivers complete an induction program that includes information on road safety, duty of care and basic first aid.

The size of the bus depends on the number of accompanying adults: 1:8 is the ratio of the school bus.

On Kindergarten days we use our four-seater early years pram and have a volunteer accompanying the bus to increase the ratio. Three-year-old Kindergarten children must be in the pram to keep them safe.

Our older students hold the four-year-old kindergarten children's hands for extra safety.

All children on the bus agree to the behavioural guidelines and have permission for their families to attend.

[WSB FORMS](#)

Resource

<https://raisingchildren.net.au/toddlers/safety/car-pedestrian-safety/pedestrian-safety>

https://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/WSB_InteractivePrint.pdf

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

Approved by school council February 2024