

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL (TIMARU) SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN

May 2016

St Joseph's School is a Catholic Primary School who commenced working on a School Travel Plan in 2012 and continues to be proactive in promoting active and sustainable transport methods.

Stacey Day (School Travel Plan Coordinator) and Josh South (WAVE Facilitator) have worked together with St Josephs School community, Timaru District Council engineering and road safety representatives Simon Davenport and Daniel Naude, and also New Zealand Police Schools Community Officer Senior Constable Keri Brown, to develop an action plan.

Families and students have participated in surveys at various times over the last few years with initial results showing nearly three quarters (74%) of students were driven to school. Recently figures were collated over one week and it was noted that half of the children (50%) were actively getting to school (walk, bike, scooter).



With good support from staff, the WAVE student team have run various active transport initiatives and also regularly present at assembly promoting these, along with sharing survey and other related information. Lead teacher Diana Young has also been proactive in displaying a message board at the front gate with active transport goals and encouraging messages.

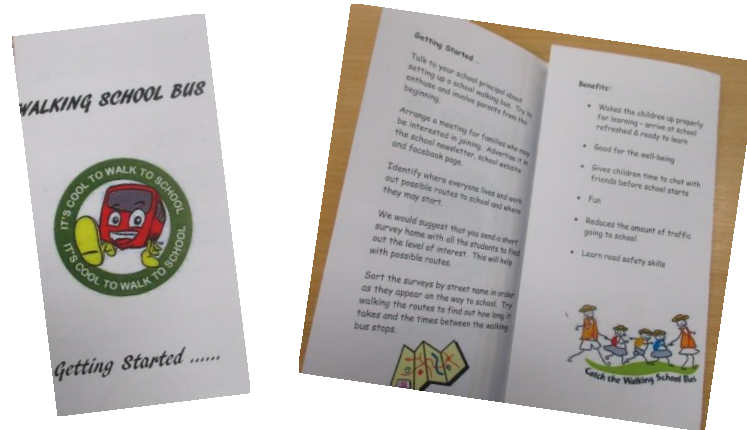
Keri Brown has delivered pedestrian, cycle and scooter safety lessons to all students during the last few years which has assisted to develop the students' skills and confidence.

Timaru District Council have put in a pedestrian refuge island on Pages Road just north of Kelvin Street to improve the safety of children crossing this busy main thoroughfare. The council also have produced large maps showing walking distances and times, as well as walking school bus routes and drop & walk zones, which have been very effective promotional tools to share with the school community.

St Joseph's were also involved in producing art work for a local bus when Environment Canterbury revamped the Timaru bus routes in 2013.



Two senior students presented a display at the Science Fair in 2014 showcasing 'Walking School Buses' and even designed their own pamphlet for other primary schools to use.



Diana Young (STP Lead Teacher) said "The Walking School Bus at St Joseph's Timaru has been going for ten years and is now stronger than ever - thanks to a couple of enthusiastic parents and teacher support. The bus regularly has 15 – 25 walkers that join along the way walking + scooting." The children now have hi-vis vests kindly donated by Mega Mitre 10 to wear.



Several drop off points instigated in 2014 and the promotion of these to families to 'Drop & Walk' have lessened congestion outside the school gates, and this practice still continues.

Carmel Brosnahan-Pye (Principal) commented that "From my perspective this initiative has had many benefits for our school. It is great to see the students on the walking school bus arrive at the gate in the mornings full of energy after having had a lovely time walking or scooting with their friends to school. Their teachers also notice that those that arrive actively are switched on for learning. Over the last few years our community awareness of the importance of this has increased so that now we have a dedicated group of parents who keep the walking school bus going and many more beginning to drop children a little way away from school. Makes our congested gate much safer in the mornings. Students too are aware that it's good to be active."