



Active Transport Guide

The Department of Education acknowledges that the use of active transport has many beneficial outcomes for both the individual and community and promotes the use of active transport at all public schools.

Why walk, ride, scoot or skate?

Active transport meaning biking, bus riding, scooting, skating and walking to and/or from school. At best practice schools, 75% of students take active transport most days. Public school students live an average of 1.2k from their school, which is easy walking distance, even for the littlest legs.

Active transport reduces the school's carbon footprint, air pollution and local traffic. Transport is currently the second largest source of air polluting emissions in our area.*

Active transport makes a big difference to health and wellbeing. Despite Australia's active image 70% of school aged kids are not doing enough physical activity for good health. Studies have also shown students that use active transport to travel to school are more alert and find it easier to focus in class.

It's a great way for students to see things in the local area and build a sense of community. They are also learning important life skills (e.g. crossing the road and riding the bus).

Addressing concerns

The DoE states schools are not responsible for the care of students until they enter the school premises.

The school should recommend that students lock up scooters or bikes while making them aware that it accepts no responsibility for loss, damage or theft of personal property.

As numbers grow on bus/bike/walking routes, it's important to preempt-behavioural issues by communicating expectations for etiquette, especially while wearing school uniform.

Take these steps

- Refresh students on road safety and appropriate behaviour while travelling to/from school.
- Dedicate a space for students to leave/lock up scooters/bikes and store helmets. Fund and install bike racks.
- Provide details of active transport options on the school's web page.
- Gather information from students to track the school's progress.
- Present at the parent climate change talk a "How to Do Active Transport" and address concerns and questions raised by parents.
- Provide parents with bus FAQs. Host a 'ride the bus home' day and communicate expected bus etiquette.
- Organise "cycling or walking buses" where a group of children ride or walk as a group, supervised by an adult.
- Start a WhatsApp parent group for bus routes and walking/cycling school buses.
- Create incentives such as providing students with a [make your move passport](#) where they receive house points each time they use active transport.

Useful resources

[DoE information on active transport and safety tips](#)

[Research paper on the health benefits of active transport](#)

[WA Government strategy white paper and guidelines](#)

[KidSafe NSW Safety tips for parents](#)