

Help with making travel choices for your children

Wanaka Primary and Holy Family Schools have school travel plan programmes with Queenstown Lakes District Council which aim to increase safe travel choice for families.

Children are encouraged to walk, bike and bus to school and choosing a safe route to school with your child is important in making this choice.

Information about 'walking school buses' or 'cycle trains' in your area (supervised walking/biking), is available from your school office. Note that parents are encouraged to use the 'drop off zones' identified on the parking/drop off map to minimise congestion at the school gate.

When considering biking to school, the New Zealand Transport Agency recommends that children younger than 10 yrs old should always ride with an adult. Everyone must wear a helmet when cycling and sensible clothing and covered shoes are recommended. Scooter riders should also wear a helmet and be especially watchful of cars coming out of driveways. Make sure your bike and scooter are well maintained, checking brakes and seat height.

For more information about travel planning in the Queenstown Lakes area, please contact the Council on 03 441 0499 or visit www.choice.qldc.govt.nz



Road safety tips

- ① Less cars at the school gate mean it is safer and less stressful for everyone.
- ① Why not walk to school? It's a great opportunity to encourage independence, keep active, teach road safety and get to know other children in your neighbourhood.... and it's fun!
- ① Take your children to a safe drop off area so they can walk the last 5-10 minutes to school. They'll feel invigorated and ready to learn and there's less congestion at the school gate.
- ① Scooter riders should always wear a helmet, keep control of their speed, and be aware of 'sneaky driveways' (where cars coming out of driveways are not easily seen).

When should drivers stop at crossings?

Drivers should always stop for pedestrians waiting to cross on a designated pedestrian crossing (or 'zebra' crossing).

Unfortunately it's not practical or always safe to have pedestrian crossings at all the places children want to cross. Instead, there are 'crossing points' for pedestrians to use, especially around schools which make it easier and safer for children to cross. These 'crossing points' might have islands in the middle of the road, there may be handrails, or it could simply be a narrower strip of road. Drivers need to be careful in these areas, but should not routinely stop to let children cross (the car behind might not see what's happening).

For more information about road rules around pedestrian crossings you can visit NZTA's website at: www.nzta.govt.nz

