



Safer School Journeys

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Our school community is large with more than 750 students enrolled at our kura (school). With that comes increased traffic around the school during drop-off and pick-up times. Ensuring the safety of our students is our top priority, and we need your help to make this happen.

We greatly appreciate your cooperation and understanding in keeping our school community safe. Your efforts in following these guidelines make a significant impact, and together, we can ensure a safe and efficient drop-off and pick-up time for all. We thank you for your continued support and patience.

We encourage our school community to use active/sustainable modes of travel as there are many benefits for student's mental and physical wellbeing. It also helps with congestion issues and is also friendlier for the environment.



Below are some examples of ways parents/caregivers could get involved:

- **Park and stride** – Park at the shops on Hukanui Road and have students walk, scoot the short distance to/from school. You can wait for students by the traffic light crossing in the afternoons and avoid the busy school gate (a duty teacher will be walking down to patrol the crossing after school).
- **Walking school bus** – A walking school bus is when a group of students walk to school together accompanied by a parent on a rostered system, it's a great way to be connected to the school community. For example, we have a large percentage of our school community coming from the St James area with a nice, safe link to the back entrance of the school. If there is a group of interested parents, we would support creating a walking school bus. There may also be opportunities for groups travelling from other routes.
- **Carpool** – Often we have families who live on the same street as other students driving into/from school. We would love for families to connect and share the pickup duties, one less car on the roads around the school makes a difference.



Safety during pick-up time

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1. **Patience is key:** Peak traffic is between 2.55pm - 3.10pm so be prepared for some delays, congestion and slow flow of traffic during this time. When possible, delay pick up time until after the peak rush.
2. **Follow traffic rules:** Stay alert and always adhere to the traffic rules. This includes respecting disability car parks and no-parking zones and keeping to speed limits around the school. Give way to traffic and carefully merge lanes.
3. **Use designated areas:** Please use the designated pick-up and drop-off areas to ensure a smooth flow of traffic. Please avoid parking in the Rototuna Early Childhood carparks, stopping in the middle of the road, blocking driveways, parking on yellow lines or trying to swap lanes at the roundabout, as this creates unsafe conditions for everyone.
4. **Walking and cycling:** If you live nearby, consider walking or cycling your children to school. You can also park at the Countdown Carpark and walk to school to pick up and drop off children.
5. **Be mindful of others:** Be considerate of other drivers and pedestrians. A smile or wave can make a big difference in creating a friendly and cooperative environment.

Disability parks

We have four disability car parks available for people who have been issued a disability permit.

Drop-off / pick-up zone

This area is for quick drop-off or pick-up of students. Do not leave your car unattended in this zone and if your child is not present for pick up, you will need to go and park your vehicle and find your child/children. Enter via Carpark Lane (a). **Do not enter from the roundabout.**

Traffic flow

Single lane traffic through all roads and parking areas. **Do not** enter the roundabout on the wrong side of the road.



Car parking at school

We have limited car parks available at school which you are welcome to use. Please do not park in the Rototuna Early Education car parks.



Pick-up/drop-off zone rules

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This area is only to be used to drop-off students or pick-up **if they are standing waiting for you**. If they are not waiting, please park your car in a designated car park and come and find them.

DO NOT enter the drop-off zone from the roundabout. You need to go via the entrance to Rototuna Education Centre car park (see green arrow on map).

DO NOT leave your car unattended in this zone.

DO NOT park and wait for them to arrive in this zone.

DO NOT allow your child to hop in the vehicle before your vehicle is stationary in the pick-up zone.

DO NOT allow your child to hop in the vehicle using the doors on the road-side of your vehicle.

We want to keep everyone safe and reduce the risk of anyone being hurt.

Do not cross the roundabout or busy traffic areas

During peak traffic times this is considered a danger as cars are regularly passing through these areas.

We ask that you prioritise your safety and the safety of the children in your care by walking around the footpath, past Rototuna Early Childhood Centre and then into school.

Doing this adds less than a minute to the trip to school and ensures your safety.

**Please stick to the yellow marked path**

Be careful crossing driveways. Look and listen for cars before crossing.

Staff supervision

The school car park entrance is staffed after school from 3pm - 3:15pm for safe crossing.

**Keep to the pavement**

If walking, biking or scootering from the St James area, students need to stay on the right-hand side of the road and then follow the footpath around to the end of the cul-de-sac and into the gates. This avoids a busy road or carpark crossing.



Identifying risks

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Driving to and from school

- Watch out for whaanau walking across the entrance of the school car park when entering or exiting.
- Pay attention to other vehicles and remember to merge to preserve the flow of traffic.
- Ensure you keep all driveways clear when parking in streets around our school.
- **Do not** enter the roundabout on the wrong side of the road.
- To avoid congestion you can park in the Countdown supermarket and have your children walk to or from school.

Walking, biking and scootering

- Always wear a helmet.
- Always keep your eyes peeled and watch for vehicles.
- Keep note of driveways and look out for reversing cars.
- Keep to the path and **do not** cross the road at the roundabout or other busy traffic areas.
- When crossing at the traffic lights around our school **always** check before you step, even when a green man signals to cross, we occasionally see cars running red lights and want to mitigate any risk.



Reporting Concerns

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Hamilton Police - Community Roadwatch

For serious concerns and to report unsafe drivers please use the Community Roadwatch.

If you witness an incident that requires immediate police attendance please call 111.
For other incidents use the 105 non-emergency services.

For the Police to process your report you need to provide the registration plate number and make or colour of the vehicle you are reporting. Video or photo evidence is **not** required.

Hamilton City Council

Hamilton City Council would like to know if you experience any traffic incidents outside the school gates such as near misses with students crossing roads, scootering or biking incidents or vehicle incidents

You can contact Council via the Antenno App, email or simply fill out the online form below:

<https://hamilton.govt.nz/do-it-online/report-it/report-a-walking-biking-and-micro-mobility-incident/>

To ensure safer journeys for all and reduce dangerous congestion, our school asks that caregivers and students sign a pledge. This affirms our school community understands and will abide by our school rules getting to/from school each day.

By signing this pledge, I agree:

- I have read and understand the ‘Safer School Journey’ document.
- Only to drive to school when necessary and consider other methods of transport such as foot or active modes (scooters, bikes) when possible.
- To park sensibly and safely outside the school in designated, marked carparks, to **not** just park anywhere, even for a short time, to run your child to class (this is a common occurrence and has caused a lot of issues).
- To **not** park on yellow lines. Yellow lines are in place for safety reasons.
- To **not** park in the disabled car parks, unless you have a disability permit.
- To respect residents by **not** parking over driveways or on footpaths/berms.
- To drive slowly. 30kmph is the speed limit around schools during peak times.
- Students will only enter/exit on the footpath side of the car.
- When possible, delay pick up until after the bell has rung.

We all have a collective part to play to ensure our students can get to and from school safely.
Thanks for helping keep Rototuna students safe.

Parent/caregiver

Student(s)