

EDWARDSTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

What is a WALKING SCHOOL BUS?

A Walking School Bus is a group of primary school children who walk to school along a safe and enjoyable set route, accompanied by a parent driver/supervisors per 'bus'. Additional parents are welcome, and may be needed depending on the number of students walking. The 'walking' bus picks up 'passengers' along the way at designated 'bus stops'. These busses walk in the mornings only.

The 'bus stops' can be meeting points along the route or at homes of the Walking School Bus participants. It can be flexible to suit the needs of families using it. The 'bus' can go as seldom or as often as parents want to 'drive' it and children want to use it. This means that it can even operate as little as one morning each week. Many schools start the Walking School Bus on a one-day per week basis and increase its schedule over time. The service is free. Every child is welcome to join the bus even if their parents cannot be drivers.



Please be aware that the school can not be responsible for any 'accidents' that may occur on the way to school. Parents allowing students to partake agree to delegate their authority to the adult supervisor. Such adult may take whatever disciplinary action they deem necessary to ensure the safety, well-being and successful conduct of the students as a group and individual.

Students on the busses, have a stamp card which is stamped every morning they walk, and after 10 walks they receive a voucher for them to have a free ice block from the front office. We then have one winner at the end of each term for a regular walker raffle who wins a \$10 voucher.

BENEFITS of the Walking School Bus

For 15 years now Edwardstown Primary School has been a part of the Walking School Bus program, which supports the increasing need to change our travel choices. Each child who is part of a Walking School Bus is potentially one less vehicle on the road. This eases traffic congestion, increases safety and reduces pollution.

The benefits of the Walking School Bus reach the whole community and include:

- a safe and convenient way for children to travel to school;
- improvement of health and well being of children through walking and talking;
- an opportunity for children to learn road sense and traffic safety;
- reduction of traffic congestion around schools;
- contributing to a sustainable environment;
- opportunities for children and parents to develop friendships and a sense of place and community in their neighbourhood.

Walking School Bus PARENTS VIEWS

"From our experience of the Walking Bus it has only been a positive thing. It gets all of us walking more and the children do not complain about walking like they used to".

"As a driver I have been impressed by how quickly the children's fitness increases and in particular how quickly the younger children develop stamina and a good walking pace."

"Socially, it's great because the children meet other children they otherwise would only know by sight. My children have formed some good friendships because of the Walking Bus. The parents get to know other parents too!"

