

Willoughby Public School Active Travel Project



"I'm proud of the work done by our Year 6 students to help tackle traffic congestion and pedestrian safety issues around our school. It's a great example of thinking globally and acting locally!"

Jennifer Simmonds, Principal, Willoughby PS

What is the Active Travel Project?

The Willoughby Public School P&C (Parents and Citizens Committee) approached Willoughby City Council for help in addressing serious traffic congestion around the school and concern over the safety of students and pedestrians during peak drop-off and pick-up times.

Council initiated the Willoughby Public Schools (WPS) Active Travel Project to help tackle the problem. The project aims to promote and encourage 'active travel' which means either walking, cycling or scootering. Travelling actively to school saves time for busy parents as children learn to become more independent, helps with their fitness, and it is good for the environment.

Since 2022, Year 6 students have addressed the project objectives through their geography lessons and identified active travel pathways, for a safer and more pleasant commute for the school community.

An increase in active travel to school by up to 10-15%, would result in 100 to 150 fewer cars on the streets around the school at peak times.

For this project Council has
partnered with



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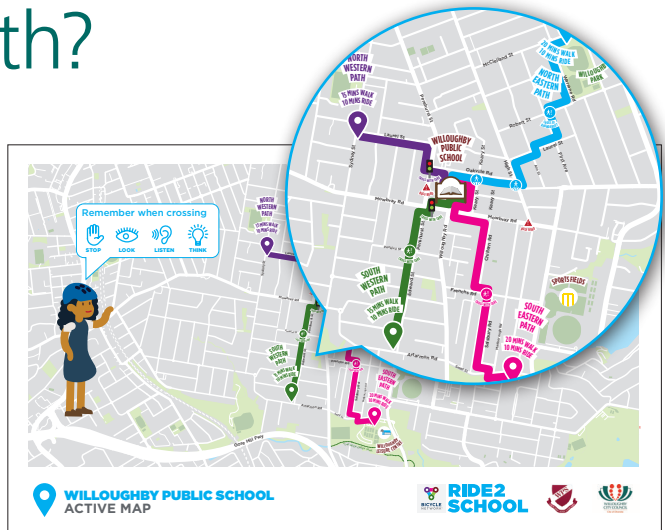
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What is an active path?

An active path is a safe identified route for active travel.

In their geography lessons the students identified four active paths, utilising the existing footpath network. The routes have been safety checked by Council and marked with wayfinding decals.

A large printed WPS Active Map can be found at the school entrance and you can also view it online at <https://tinyurl.com/WilloughbyPSActiveMap>



Can my family get involved?

Yes you can!

Everyone is encouraged to use the active path closest to where you live, to walk, cycle or scooter to and from school.

On Ride2School Day 2023, the school community showed what a difference it can make to walk and cycle to school. 24% more families chose to travel actively to WPS on that day and teachers reported that the streets were significantly less congested, quieter and safer.

WPS and Council will continue to work collaboratively together to develop programs to encourage more families to switch to active travel over time.

87% of the school community lives within 1.5 kms of the school and 68% live within 1km that is less than a 15 minute walk.

Data provided by WPS in 2022

Benefits of travelling actively to school

- Saves time for busy parents.
- A stress free way to travel to school.
- Improves pedestrian safety and reduces impacts from traffic e.g. less noise, emissions, congestion and dangerous parking
- Improves our local environment.
- Enhances community resilience and wellbeing. Research shows that students who travel actively to school are fitter, more independent and socialise and learn better.

www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/resilient-willoughby

