

# School Streets

## Reshaping Streets fact sheet

July 2023

Reshaping Streets is a package of regulatory changes that enables communities and Road Controlling Authorities (RCAs) to work together to modify existing streets to provide more space for people to move around using a variety of transport options.

The Reshaping Streets package of regulatory changes will be enacted as the *Land Transport Rule Street Layouts 2023*. As part of Reshaping Streets, RCAs will have the option to establish School Streets.

### What is a School Street?

School Streets make it safer for tamariki and rangatahi to travel independently to and from school, by restricting motorised traffic on streets outside schools, or nearby, during student drop-off and pick-up times.

RCAs can implement a School Street in conjunction with the school community where there is a need to manage congestion and improve safety, and enable more space for children to walk, cycle, and scoot to school. School Streets can be implemented with a combination of physical and regulatory traffic filters.

[More information on filtering and restricting traffic.](#)

### What are the benefits of School Streets?

School Streets improve safety and reduce congestion around schools at drop off and pick up times. Congestion around schools puts school children at risk and causes inconvenience to local residents. School Streets also aim to improve air quality around schools and increase the number of students walking, cycling or scooting to school.

Tamariki and rangatahi using active modes to get to school supports the development of a child's self-esteem, independence, freedom and navigation skills, in addition to the increased benefits to health that come with physical activity on the journey to school. Reducing traffic around schools during peak times also helps manage congestion and improves air quality around schools.

Internationally, School Streets have seen improved road safety outcomes outside of schools, with perceptions of safety increasing up to 87%, increases of walking and cycling to school of up to 50%, and traffic congestion decreasing – even on surrounding streets near where the School Street is put in. Evidence from abroad shows they lead to a significant reduction in driving, and those parents who continue to drive park further away.



An example of a School Street style traffic restriction in Melbourne, Victoria.

## How does a School Street work?

Reshaping Streets gives RCAs the option to create a School Street by prohibiting or restricting through traffic outside schools at drop-off and pickup times, with the exact times to be specified by the RCA through approved signage. It also gives RCAs the power to install objects on the roadway to give effect to the prohibition or restriction.

RCAs must work with schools to establish a School Street, alternatively schools could approach their RCA to set up a School Street. To implement School Streets, RCAs must notify the public, including people who could be impacted by the School Street such as parents and caregivers, local businesses and those that live in the school's surrounding area. They must also notify emergency services.

In this notification, RCAs must include:

- Information that outlines what the school street is (for example, where it is located, what times it applies and information about who can and cannot access the area).
- The purpose/objective of the School Street.
- Information about alternative routes that people can take.
- Information about any infringement fees/fines that are related to the School Street.

It is anticipated most School Streets will be initially implemented as a Street Pilot. If this is the case, School Streets must adhere to Street Pilot rule including notification of the pilot and enabling the public to feedback on the changes, monitoring and modification of the pilot and the duration of the pilot.

### [More information about Street Pilots.](#)

If a School Street is not installed as a Street Pilot, there is no maximum period a School Street can run for, provided it operates only during pick up and drop off times. Normal consultation and decision-making requirements for installing street changes under the Local Government Act would also apply, as well as the RCAs own standards and policies for engaging with the public.

## Further guidance

Waka Kotahi is developing more detailed guidance on School Streets which is expected to be available in late 2023. This guidance will provide more detail around best practice for implementing a School Street including:

- Communicating and engaging with the school and neighbouring community.
- Completing a network street assessment and determining what an appropriate traffic restriction zone should be.
- Putting a School Street working group together.
- Developing a School Street specific monitoring and evaluation plan.
- Developing a delivery plan.
- Determining the appropriate traffic filters and traffic restriction devices.
- Activating and modifying the School Street.
- Making a retention decision at the end of the School Street pilot period (if piloted).

For more information about School Streets guidance, please email [Reshaping.Streets@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:Reshaping.Streets@nzta.govt.nz).



A new Traffic Control Device (sign) for School Streets is being gazetted as part of Reshaping Streets (the creation of the *Land Transport Rule Street Layouts 2023*).

The exact timings of the School Street restriction is at the discretion of the local authority.

Local authorities will be expected to use this sign for a piloted or permanent School Street.



This factsheet is a general guide only. It doesn't replace legal advice, and exact procedures depend on current legislation and local processes.

For more information about the Reshaping Streets package of rule changes, please email [Reshaping.Streets@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:Reshaping.Streets@nzta.govt.nz).



[www.nzta.govt.nz](http://www.nzta.govt.nz)



0800 822 422



[info@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:info@nzta.govt.nz)



Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency,  
Private Bag 11777, Palmerston North 4442

**New Zealand Government**