

# What's happening with the Walking School Bus?

The Walking School Bus has grown threefold since its inception at APS two years ago. While this growth is welcome, we have had to make some changes and formalise some guidelines and arrangements. This means that the Walking School Bus is now part of the APS P&C Association.

## Why the P&C?

Volunteers with the Walking School Bus were in a grey area with insurance. Becoming part of the P&C enables the volunteers to be definitively covered by their public liability insurance, and this was the simplest solution of the options considered.

## What happens now?

The growth in numbers means we need to set adult to children ratios for safety's sake. This term we have had our usual one or two volunteers in charge of a group as large as a whole class (and sometimes more). With children as young as 3½ years (kindergarten) on the Walking School Bus, it was decided that there needs to be a safety ratio that we abide by, which is one adult to eight children at this stage.

This unfortunately means that the number of children who can walk on the Bus route with the group has to be capped, as it is dependent on the number of WSB volunteers available for each route. Children of volunteers have priority to walk with the WSB.

Children walking with the WSB have to be registered so we know in advance who is on the bus roll for each route. This takes away the spontaneity that the WSB used to have, but it is a necessary change to have predictability in numbers.

From term 2 onwards, children need to be registered and have their routes confirmed. Please only send your child on the WSB if you have received confirmation that your child has been accepted on the specific route(s).

## What do I have to do?

Please fill out a new Walking School Bus registration form and return it promptly. We will send confirmation that your child is on the specific route(s) requested as soon as we can.

Please consider volunteering! Grandparents and other non-parent volunteers are also welcome. They will require a Working with Children check, which costs \$11 when you register as a volunteer. The more adult volunteers we have, the more children can walk – which overall leads to less traffic congestion, increased physical activity, and all those good things. 😊

For further enquiries, please email us at [apswalkingschoolbus@gmail.com](mailto:apswalkingschoolbus@gmail.com).

**Walking School Bus(WSB) Child Registration Form - Confidential**  
(filed)

**PERSONAL DETAILS**

Name of Parent/Legal Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name of Child 1.: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Child 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (BH): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (M): \_\_\_\_\_

**HEALTH**

Does the child/ren have any particular health condition which may require special attention whilst they are in the care of the WSB volunteers?  yes (please fill in details below or attach a separate sheet)  No

---

**EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS – If parent/guardian listed above is not available**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (BH): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (AH): \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (BH): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (AH): \_\_\_\_\_

I consent for Albany Primary School P&C or any person authorised by them to take photographs, video tapes, voice recording of my child in any form deemed appropriate by the walking school bus committee for publicity of the walking school bus.

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

✂ \_\_\_\_\_

(To be kept with WSB volunteers)

Childs Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_ Room \_\_\_\_

Health concerns:  Yes (see full form for details)  No

Childs Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_ Room \_\_\_\_

Health concerns:  Yes (see full form for details)  No

Parent/guardian emergency contact details (in priority order)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like my child to walk with the walking school bus on the following days and times:

Monday

To school

From school

Tuesday

To school

From school

Wednesday

To school

From school

Thursday

To school

From school

I have received a copy of the WSB handbook and I agree with the terms and conditions of use.

Parent/Guardian name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_