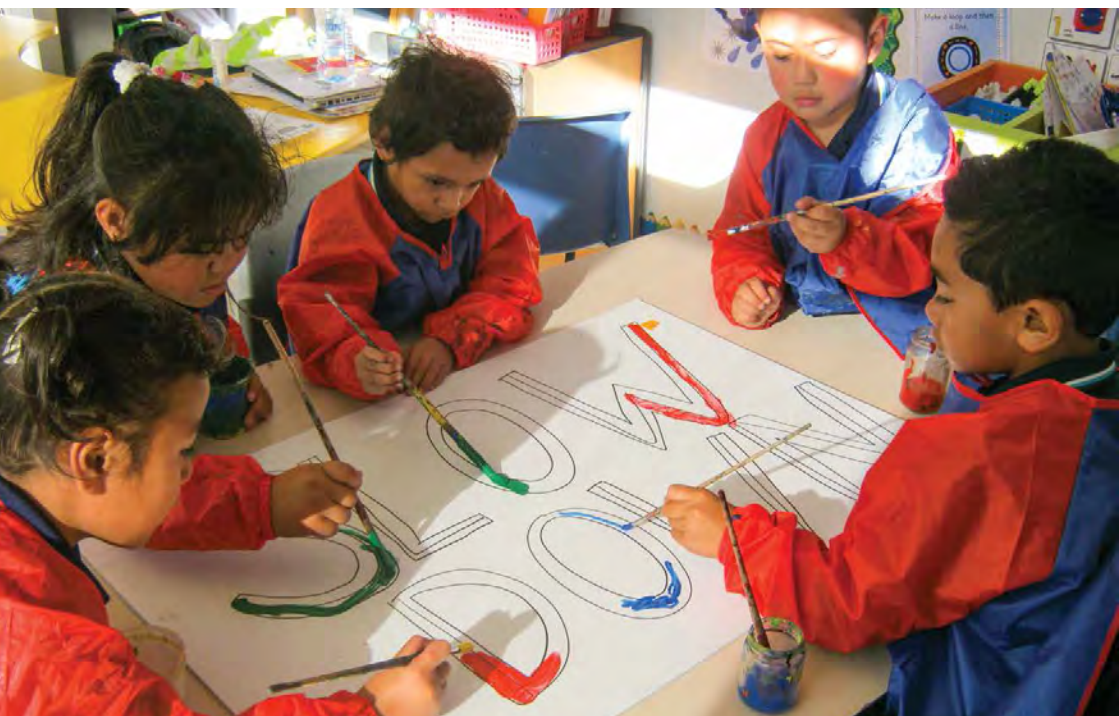


# Speed and Your School

## A Guide for School Leaders



## Introduction

The safety of pedestrians, cyclists and children is of mounting concern as Auckland roads become increasingly busy. The roads outside schools are often perceived as dangerous for children, with school communities often concerned about the speed of vehicles travelling past their school.

If you are concerned about speeding and your community has a high level of concern about the safety of children going to and from school, the school may request that Auckland Transport review the traffic management arrangements in your school zone.

40km/h School Speed Zone and/or Active Warning Signs can be installed by Auckland Transport at schools where speed is an issue. The installation of these signs is dependent on the evidence provided and whether the area meets the criteria determined by NZTA. Auckland Transport can also provide the resources and support to run your own school based speed reduction promotions through our Back to School and Slow Down Around Schools campaigns.

## What is a 40km/h School Speed Zone?

A 40km/h school speed zone involves the installation of 40km/h electronic signs on each approach to the selected school zone.

The signs increase driver awareness of the presence of children which helps to reduce the risk of crashes around schools.

School speed zones are in force throughout Auckland on school days. They operate 35 minutes before the start of school and 20 minutes at the end of the school day. They begin no earlier than 5 minutes before the end of the school day. In many cases they are operated by the school principal or delegated member of staff.



## What are Active School Warning Signs?



Active school warning signs are electronic signs which are installed on each approach to the selected school zone. The signs usually include some combination of flashing lights and symbols such as the silhouette of children walking. The signs operate at the beginning and end of each school day.

Active school warning signs are a good alternative where a school does not meet the criteria for a 40km/h speed zone. Active school warning signs may also be the sensible option for rural schools located on roads with speed limits above 70 km/h.



## How does a school get a school speed zone or active school warning signs?

- Auckland Transport undertakes a technical assessment to establish the suitability of a site for a school speed zone or active school warning sign, based on criteria set by the New Zealand Transport Agency including:
  - o The level of on-road related school activity
  - o The average speed of passing vehicles
  - o The number of speed related crashes outside the school in the past five years.
- Auckland Transport then prioritises the school as funding becomes available.
- Relevant organisations are consulted such as New Zealand Police as well as those that may be directly affected by the speed zone including adjacent businesses and residents.
- Auckland Transport must then pass a bylaw amendment to include the new school zone.
- Appropriate signs are installed and school personnel trained to operate them.



## School-based Speed Activities

When schools do not meet the criteria for 40km/h or active school warning signs, Auckland Transport can still support the school to address speed issues around the school.

### Slow Down Around Schools

This activity involves students using a speed gun to record the speeds of drivers passing the school. A SDAS activity can be conducted with or without the presence of the NZ Police.

#### Police SDAS

Where the police are involved, students use the Police speed gun and cars are pulled over. Students then read to the driver a prepared 'good driver' or 'bad driver' speech, depending on their speed. Police sometimes issue tickets to speeding drivers.

#### School SDAS

Community Transport owns a number of speed guns which can be booked by your school to run a SDAS activity at any time. The speed data collected can then be used within the school curriculum and shared with the community.

#### SDAS and the Curriculum

Participating in a SDAS activity enables students to contribute to their community. Learning can be integrated into the curriculum through all key learning areas in many ways.

#### Some brief examples are:

**English:** Write a letter to the local paper about speed, some catchy slogans about speed or a blog about road safety in the local community

**The Arts:** Present an assembly item or write a song about speed, create a mural or sign for your school asking drivers to 'slow down'

**Health:** Focus on risk and how students can keep safe in a range of road environments

**Mathematics:** Use the speed data gathered to calculate averages, percentages, patterns and then communicate findings using data displays.

**Science:** examine how speed relates to stopping distance, compare stopping distances in wet and dry weather.

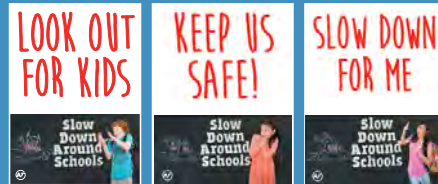
**Social Science:** look at how speed limits are enforced, compare speed limits in different places, and promote speed reduction using leaflets and posters in the local community.

## Back To School

The Back to School Campaign aims to raise awareness about how vulnerable children are on roads near schools and encourages drivers to slow down.

The campaign runs in the first three weeks of each term and involves a group of students standing in

a strategic location holding placards that state the three key messages:



This activity is supported by a large banner that can be displayed at the school, and 'Slow Down Around Schools' postcards which can be used by students to share speed related messages with the local community. Schools are encouraged to run a Back to School campaign every term.

## How to take action:

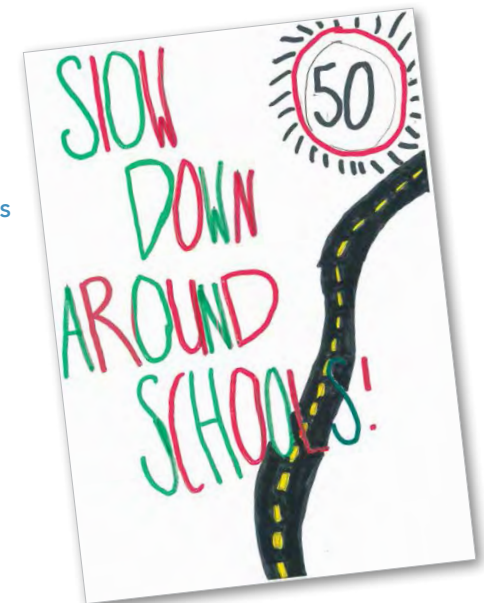
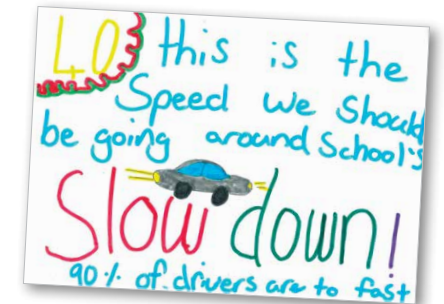
Through the Travelwise programme, Auckland Transport supports schools to deliver road safety education and to promote active transport such as safe walking and cycling to school. Schools develop a Safe School Travel Plan that can include measures to address speed. To find out more about the Travelwise Programme, please visit <https://at.govt.nz/travelwise>

If you are part of Travelwise already and would like to find out who your Community Transport Co-ordinator is, please email: [Travelwise@aucklandtransport.govt.nz](mailto:Travelwise@aucklandtransport.govt.nz)

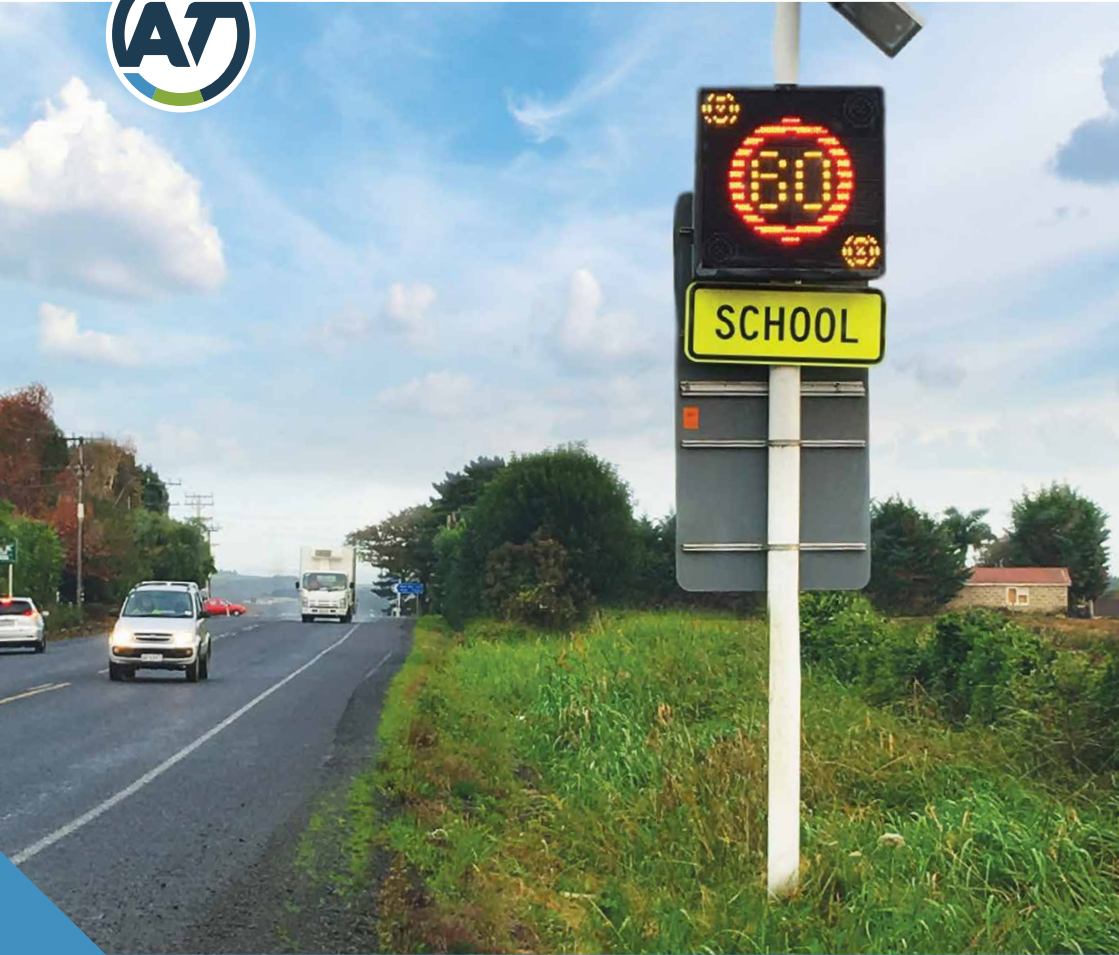
To request your school be assessed for a school speed zone and/or active school warning signs, please log a request online at: <https://at.govt.nz/about-us/contact-us/report-a-problem/>

NZTA has a wide selection of curriculum resources for primary and secondary schools which can be found at: <https://education.nzta.govt.nz/resources>

Road Safety Week is held every year. For more information and great resources visit: [www.brake.org.nz](http://www.brake.org.nz)







## Speed Statistics

Auckland Transport collects traffic volume and speed information from a variety of sites across Auckland.

To find out the latest traffic volume data on roads near your school, please visit: <https://at.govt.nz/about-us/reports-publications/traffic-counts/>

To request traffic speed data, please log a request with: <https://at.govt.nz/about-us/contact-us/>