



Fairhall School

Fairhall PRIDE – Pathway to excellence

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A Notice to Parents of Fairhall School Bus Students

29 May 2017

Dear Parents,

As we have a number of new families that now use the school bus service I felt it is a good time to inform you of our current bus arrangements and agreement with the bus company and the Ministry of Education.

While students travel to and from school daily it is the school's responsibility to ensure all students travelling are safe and well cared for. We do this by providing senior students as monitors to help manage the safety on the bus and the behaviour of students. Our monitors are required to lead by example and have been trained by the NZ Police Education Officer.

We have two bus runs on our service: we call these the country run and the town run. The country run heads west of the school and covers the areas of Brancott, Dog Point, Brookby and Hawkesbury Roads, into the Omaka Valley; and the town run covers Paynters and Ben Morven Roads. Students living in these areas are classified as eligible students unless they do not meet the age and distance criteria.

To meet the age and distance criteria a student must live further than a certain distance from the nearest appropriate school, regardless of whether it is a school the student attends. The distance is measured over the shortest public road or public pedestrian route from the home roadside gate of the student to the nearest appropriate school.

The distances are:

- More than 3.2 kilometres for students under 10 years of age;
- More than 4.8 kilometres for students 10 years of age and over.

At Fairhall School we have an Enrolment Scheme Zone and a Transport Entitlement Zone (TEZ). These are two different areas. The TEZ is based on the halfway point between Fairhall and its neighbouring schools – in our case Redwoodtown, Whitney Street and Springlands Schools.

For your information the stretch of road from Bells/Ben Morven Roads to Burleigh, i.e. New Renwick Road, is outside our Transport Entitlement Zone but within our Enrolment Scheme Zone. Therefore this stretch of road is not officially on our bus run. However, we have an agreement with the bus company to transport students to and from Burleigh as long as these students pay for a bus ticket. This also is required of students who live out of our school zone but parents transport their children to the nearest bus stop within the TEZ. Money from ticket sales is collected by the school but given to the bus company.

It is very important that if you are picking your child up from the bus at the end of the day that you be at the bus stop prior to the buses' arrival. On the country run we have asked the driver to return to school any child, where their parent is not there to collect them, whose parents have not made a prior arrangement with the school.

Our monitors do a reasonably good job in managing the bus students and try to be accurate with marking students off before the bus departs each day. They don't always get it right but we would appreciate your help by please informing the office or checking with the bus monitors if plans have changed and you are collecting your child at the end of the day. Your child can quickly go to the office or check in with the monitors before they leave the school grounds.

Please feel free to contact the school if you have any concerns regarding the school buses. I am more than happy to talk to you about the service and our responsibility for your child to travel safely.

Yours sincerely

Steve Crockett
Fairhall School Bus Controller