

Information for Parents of students on AT routes:

We operate these services for Auckland Transport so the buses will be in AT livery and you will require an AT HOP card to pay for the fares. Fares are much cheaper if students have their own HOP card, rather than being “tagged on” by someone with a HOP card (paying a “cash” fare). Make sure you register the cards online with a child/student account in order to get further discounted fares.

<https://at.govt.nz/bus-train-ferry/at-hop-card/>

The great thing about AT services is that you can use their online tool (Journey Planner) to find the best route for you – just make sure that you “refine” the search by selecting “School Bus”. Although AT’s Journey Planner has “scheduled times”, they are just indicative times; Auckland Transport gets these scheduled times from average travel times on this route.

<https://at.govt.nz/bus-train-ferry/journey-planner>

All the buses have GPS so if your children download the AT Mobile App they can use the Live Tracking section to track the process of the bus once it is in service to see if it is running late (traffic can cause big delays). You can use this yourself to check where it is in the afternoon too - if you are picking up your kids from the bus stop. Within the app you select your bus stop and can see any services that are due there.

Instructions for Live Tracking

- Select “Live Departures” at the bottom of the screen
- At the top of the screen enter your stop number or location
- You can then select “Save Stop” and this will add it to your favourites so that you don’t have to enter it every time you want to check it
- Once you have entered the bus stop or location a list of bus routes that travel there will appear
- Click on the Route number and this will bring up a map of the bus route and show you the location of the bus on that route

Bus Stops

You should be able to see official stops on Google Maps and within Journey Planner (sometimes JP isn’t up to date so we have been requesting changes to this whenever we see an error). Most AT routes will stop at any official AT bus stop, but some routes are express for part of the journey. For example, KingsWay School Routes 8 and 9 = Route 9 services East Coast Road and while Route 8 travels that way also it is an express service from/to Northcross Shops.

East Coast Road

Rural roads without official bus stops can have bus stops in random locations – sometimes it is just the end of a driveway in very rural areas. We like to make sure that the area is safe for kids disembarking/boarding and that there is plenty of room for the bus to pull off the road.

There are several school buses that travel through this area so make sure your children are waiting in full view for the driver (not waiting in your car), and that they hail the driver to stop. The drivers look out for the different school uniforms that relate to the school(s) they are travelling to.

We usually allocate the same bus driver to the same route every day, so the drivers get used to where the kids are getting on/off, but there is a huge shortage of drivers presently so I can’t guarantee they’ll always have the same driver. Just make sure they continue to hail the bus when waiting at the bus stop, and press the bell to indicate that they’d like to disembark.