

Safe speeds around schools

Ngā tere haumaruru tata ki ngā kura

30km/h variable speed limit



How was 30km/h chosen for the variable speed limit outside my school?

International best practice is that 30km/h is the safer speed on roads and streets where a high number of tamariki are present or where we are wanting to encourage more walking, biking or scootering to and from school.

This is because people who walk or ride bikes have a strong chance of surviving a crash and avoiding serious injury if the person driving is travelling at 30km/h or less. The risk of death or serious injury doubles between 30km/h and 40km/h, and doubles again at 50km/h.

The Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits 2024 (the rule) requires that a variable speed limit of 30km/h be applied to the road outside the school gate of all category one schools unless the permanent speed limit on the road is already 30km/h or less.

Why didn't you permanently reduce the speed outside the school?

We need to balance safety around schools with the efficiency of traffic movements on the state highway. A variable speed limit makes the area outside the school safer for vehicle movements at school drop-off/pick-up times.

The rule sets out how we manage speed limits. The rule requires variable speed limits to be applied to the road outside the school gates of all schools.

I haven't seen a child walking or cycling along this road, so why do I need to slow down?

Conversations with the school and community have confirmed that there are students walking, cycling or scootering near the state highway outside the school, and/or parents and school buses dropping-off students where they must walk along or cross the state highway to reach the school.

Children are some of our most vulnerable road users because, compared with adults, they are generally less visible to other road users and less able to see the road over parked vehicles and other obstacles. They are also less likely to judge speed and distance accurately.

Lower speed limits around schools at pick-up and drop-off times help protect students walking, cycling and scootering.

How did you decide where to put the variable speed limit signs?

The rule requires variable speed limits be installed outside school gates. We have installed the signs approximately 150m either side of a school entrance on the state highway. In some cases, the signs are placed further away when this is more practical or enhances safety.

Will a variable speed limit operate out of normal school drop-off and pick-up times?

Yes, if required by the school to accommodate the movement of a high number of tamariki during school related events.

Are variable speed limits enforceable?

Yes, variable speed limits are enforceable speed limits.

Did you consult with the public on these changes?

While we have previously consulted with the public on proposed variable speed limits outside schools, most recently in November/December 2022, the rule specifically exempts schools from consultation and requires that variable speed limits are implemented on roads outside the school gate before 1 July 2026.