



It has come to the Board's attention that there is some confusion over buses and how they operate at our school. Kaipara Flats School is a member of the Mahurangi Transport Network ("the Network"), a collection of schools in the area that have banded together to deliver bus services across our zones. Transport to a school of a parent's choice is not guaranteed by the Ministry of Education ("the Ministry") and there is no "right" to transport inherent in its policies.

The Network is independent of the individual schools and is not overseen by any of the schools Board's, the Board therefore has no say in its operations or as to how bus services are provided in the area. Each school is entitled to 1 representative on the Network, and our current representative is our Principal, Debbie Hamer. Decisions at the Network are made by majority vote. The Network is responsible for the provision of all bus services in our area, the setting of routes, and managing any conflicts or issues that arise.

The Network is funded from the Ministry based on the number of eligible students in the relevant schools' transport entitlement zone and dependent upon approved routes. Further information is available on the Ministry's website (<http://education.govt.nz/school/running-a-school/school-transport>).

Currently we have two bus services that serve the school. One through the Kaipara Hills, and one that runs a loop through Kaipara flats road, Streamlands Swamp Road, Old Kaipara Road, and to Old Woodcocks Road before officially starting / finishing by Davie Martin Road. The bus then carries on from / to Mahurangi College, however, this is not part of the official Kaipara Flats School route. Carriage by pupils from this point is at the discretion of the Network and is liable to a fee. Complaints where pupils have utilised this service without approval from the Network have historically been made which has resulted in pupils being removed from this bus service.

Should you wish for your child to catch the school bus from outside of the approved zone, then a request in writing needs to be made to Debbie, who will then raise this at the next meeting of the Network. Each request will need to be approved by the Board of Trustees of the School whose zone is being crossed (for Kaipara Flats this is often either Warkworth or Ahuroa schools). Each of the schools has different internal requirements and processes for this approval so there is minimal guidance available on this. If approval is received from the impacted school the Network will then either approve or decline based upon the space available and in line with the priorities set out by the Ministry.

I know there may be some disagreement or concern in regard to this, however, we are bound by the rules set by the Network.

If you have any further questions please feel free to contact either myself Todd Wilkin (toddw@kaiparaflats.school.nz) or Debbie (debbieh@kaiparaflats.school.nz) and we will do our best to answer your questions.