



5 March 2026

Kia ora

St Dominic's College and Liston College – school bus service changes (Piha/Waiatarua/Oratia)

Thank you for your patience while we completed the review of the school bus service for St Dominic's College and Liston College serving the Piha, Waiatarua, and Oratia areas.

Our review is now complete. I am pleased to confirm that, due to an increase in the number of eligible students, a second bus service will begin operating from Monday 16 March 2026. This is the earliest possible start date for the new service.

To help manage demand on the Ministry service, your school will introduce a bus pass system. Only eligible students with a valid bus pass will be able to travel on the Ministry-funded school bus services. For information about the bus passes, please contact your school directly.

Staged implementation of changes

Due to the upcoming significant roadworks on Forest Hill Road, the bus and route changes will be introduced in stages.

Stage 1 (Monday 9 March to 13 March 2026):

- The former bus stop at the Oratia Combined Church carpark (corner of West Coast and Parker Roads) will be reinstated for eligible students only.
- Eligible students will be issued a bus pass by their school. Only students with a valid bus pass will be able to use this service.

Stage 2 (From 16 March 2026 until roadworks complete):

- Existing bus route D020308 (Piha to Liston College and St Dominic's College) will pick-up and drop-off students only between Piha and Waiatarua. It will run as an express service between Waiatarua and the schools:
 - The last pick-up location in the morning will be at the carpark at 473 Scenic Drive (former Elevation Café location)
 - The first drop-off location in the afternoon will be at the Waiatarua Fire Station (464 Scenic Drive)

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[education.govt.nz](https://www.education.govt.nz)

- New bus route D020324 (bus shelter opposite 832 West Coast Road to Liston College and St Dominic's College):
 - The first morning pick-up will be at the bus shelter opposite 832 West Coast Road, and the final pick-up will be at the Oratia Combined Church carpark
 - In the afternoon, the first drop-off will be at the Oratia Combined Church carpark, and the final drop-off will be at 900 West Coast Road.
- Bus pass system will continue. Students will also be allocated to a specific bus and will only be able to travel on their assigned service.

Stage 3 (once roadworks are complete):

- Route D020308 will travel via Forest Hill Road and will no longer be an express service.
- Bus pass system for eligible students will remain in place. Students will be reallocated to a specific bus as required and will only be able to travel on their assigned service.

School Transport Assistance

The primary responsibility for transporting children to and from school rests with their caregivers. To be eligible to receive Ministry-funded school transport assistance, students must meet the following long-standing criteria:

1. Students must attend their closest state or state-integrated school.
2. Students must live more than a certain distance from the school:
 - Years 1-8: At least 3.2 km
 - Years 9-13: At least 4.8 km
3. There must be no public transport available.

Bus route information and queries

Please contact your child's school for route maps, timetables, and bus stop information.

If you have any queries regarding your school's bus services, including bus passes and bus allocations, please contact your school's Bus Controller.

Nāku noa, nā

Regina Osborne
Regional Liaison Lead
School Transport
Te Mahau | Education Services

Piha/Waiatarua/Oratia school bus timetables – effective from 16 March 2026

Route D020308 (Piha)

| Direction | Stop Location | Approx. Time |
|-----------|--|--------------|
| Inbound | Piha General Store, 24 Seaview Rd | 7:30 am |
| Inbound | Carpark at 473 Scenic Drive (Old Elevation Cafe) | 7:50 am |
| Inbound | Bus Shelter opposite 832 West Coast Rd | 7:55 am |
| Inbound | Oratia Combined Church Carpark | 8:00 am |
| Outbound | Oratia Combined Church Carpark | 3:40 pm |
| Outbound | Cnr West Coast Rd and Bush Rd | 3:50 pm |
| Outbound | Waiatarua Fire Station Carpark | 3:55 pm |

Route D020324 (Waiatarua/Oratia)

| Direction | Stop Location | Approx. Time |
|-----------|---|--------------|
| Inbound | Bus Shelter opposite 832 West Coast Rd | 7:45 am |
| Inbound | Oratia Combined Church Carpark | 7:50 am |
| Inbound | Driveway at 68 Carter Rd | 7:55 am |
| Inbound | Driveway at 183 Shaw Rd | 8:00 am |
| Inbound | Driveway opposite 170 Shaw Rd | 8:02 am |
| Outbound | Driveway at 170 Shaw Rd | 3:40 pm |
| Outbound | Bus Shelter at corner of Shaw and Carter Rd | 3:42 pm |
| Outbound | Driveway at 60 Carter Rd | 3:45 pm |
| Outbound | Oratia Combined Church Carpark | 3:55 pm |
| Outbound | Cnr West Coast Rd and Bush Rd | 4:00 pm |

Please ensure students are at their designated bus stops at least five minutes before the times listed. A more accurate timetable will be confirmed once the routes have been run on the ground.

Only eligible students with a valid bus pass will be able to use these services, and they must only travel on the service they have been allocated to.