



Gold 2025-26 Connecting Schools Grant Case Study

Creating walkable neighbourhoods through decorative pavement artworks – Marmion Primary School

What they did

- Installed 10 permanent decorative pavement artworks.
- Placed artworks along four main walking routes to school.
- Worked with students, a local artist, Marmion Town Team and the City of Joondalup.

Why it worked

- Students helped shape the simple, visible and community focussed designs.
- Nature-based concepts made walking routes more playful.
- Local government advice supported suitable locations and materials.

What was achieved

- Launched artworks on National Walk2School Day.
- Created a more engaging and enjoyable walking environment.
- Encouraged movement, play and active travel.
- Strengthened neighbourhood identity and school culture.

Advice for other schools

- Start with the walking routes students already use.
- Involve students early in the design process.
- Work closely with local government before installation.
- Use small creative projects to make school journeys more welcoming and fun.

“The designs give me a happy boost to start the day.” — Year 6 Student Leader

“It’s wonderful seeing students play and move along the pavement artworks each morning.” — Staff member

“The artworks make the streets feel safer and more welcoming.” — Community member



Background

Marmion Primary School has proudly participated in the Department of Transport and Major Infrastructure's Your Move Program since October 2021. What began as a group of proactive parents forming a Your Move team under the P&C Committee, with strong support from the Principal, it has grown into a thriving active transport culture across the school community.

Each year, the school delivers three active transport events, annual bike skills sessions, and improvements to bike and scooter infrastructure. Additional initiatives such as walking school buses and bike licences have helped encourage lasting behaviour change and supports students to travel actively to and from school.

Project description

The school's current focus is on strengthening its active travel culture by making the neighbourhood more inviting and enjoyable to walk through. Students have always loved the chalk pavement artwork featured during Walk to School events, which inspired the idea of creating permanent decorative pavement artworks.

The timing aligned with a Marmion Town Team initiative installing murals and garden beds around the school and local shopping hub to create more people-friendly streets and help slow traffic.

Key steps

- After achieving Gold accreditation in the Your Move Program, the school became eligible to apply for up to \$3,500 through the 2025-26 Connecting Schools Grant. Marmion Primary School successfully secured funding to install 10 pavement artworks across the four main walking routes leading to the school.
- The next stage involved working with local artist *Susan Respinger* to develop design concepts. The pavement artworks were nature-based and designed to encourage movement and play along the journey to school, inviting students to run, sidestep, follow winding paths and engage with their surroundings. Concepts included 'Pop the Bubble' and 'Follow the Bee Flight Path'.
- A workshop with Year 6 Student Leaders helped select the final designs. Students enjoyed being part of the process.
- The City of Joondalup's Active Transport Officer also visited the school to provide advice on suitable locations and council requirements, including the use of anti-slip paint on pedestrian infrastructure.

Outcomes

- The new pavement artworks were officially launched on National Walk2School Day, Friday 15 May 2026. Students joined neighbours and friends to explore the new installations, celebrating the occasion by wearing crazy socks.
- A month on, the pavement artworks have become a valued part of the daily journey to school. Students follow the winding trails, do star jumps, and navigate the maze as they make their way to class each morning.
- The artworks have strengthened the school's active travel culture, enhanced neighbourhood identity and created a more engaging and enjoyable walking environment.

Key takeaways

- Creative wayfinding can transform everyday walking routes into engaging, playful experiences.
- Permanent pavement artworks reinforce active travel habits beyond event days.
- Collaboration with artists, students and local government strengthens project outcomes.
- Grant funding enables schools to deliver high-impact, low-cost placemaking initiatives.
- Pavement artworks contribute to safer, more welcoming neighbourhood streets for families.

Acknowledgements

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- The Your Move Program
- The Department of Transport and Major Infrastructure
- The 2025–26 Connecting Schools Grant
- Marmion Town Team
- City of Joondalup
- Artist Susan Respinger
- Parent and student volunteers

Read the story about this project:

- [Your Move | Sharks, mazes and bubbles! Marmion Primary School Walk2School Day](#)

Students enjoying the footpath artwork

