

Top Tips for sustainable school travel

department for
children, schools and families

1

Here are ten tips to help promote sustainable travel to school.

Encourage cycling by providing secure bike storage and lockers.

- Surveys in 2005 showed that 31 per cent of children would have liked to cycle to school, but only one per cent of those aged 5-16 actually did so.
- The main reason given for not cycling to school is lack of secure facilities.
- Cycle parking should be secure, visible to school staff, durable, well lit, easy to use, accessible and sheltered.
- A grant is available to all state schools that implement a School Travel Plan. More information at www.teachernet.gov.uk?_doc/9532/schooltravelplanscapitalgrants.doc
- Check out the Sustrans information sheets *Cycle Parking for Schools* and *Cycling to School*, which can be accessed via www.saferoutestoschools.org.uk

2

Set up a 'walking bus' or an alternative scheme.

- A group of children walk to or from school supervised by volunteer adult escorts.
- Both adults and children wear high visibility jackets.
- The 'bus' follows a set route with agreed pick-up points.
- Alternatively, in a 'passport' scheme pupils can earn rewards for walking to school.
- In a 'buddies' scheme pupils walk with friends, siblings and/or older/younger pupils.
- More information can be found a www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/sustainable/schooltravel/grantsforwalkingbuses/howtsetupawalkingbus

3

Incorporate sustainable travel activities across the curriculum.

- Involve pupils in monitoring your current travel-to-school practice and identifying possible solutions.
- Find ways of linking the School Travel Plan across the curriculum.
- Look for other links to sustainable travel as a topic across the curriculum.
- Involve the school council in developing the Travel Plan and/or as part of the consultation process.
- Demonstrate support for the Healthy Schools initiative by encouraging healthy ways of travelling to school.

4

Hold special promotions for active travel.

- Nominate one day a week as walk/cycle-to-school day.
- Once a week can later be extended to two days or a whole week.
- Devise a pedometer challenge where pupils or classes try to achieve targets or beat their personal best.
- Hold a bike MOT day with local cycle shops to service bikes and raise awareness of bike maintenance.
- Take part in an awards scheme like Sheffield's STARS or Transport for London's travel plan accreditation scheme.
- Take a look at www.walktoschool.org.uk and www.sustrans.org.uk/bikeit for more ideas.

5

Arrange training for walkers and cyclists and on independent travel.

- This training could be part of PSHE or be offered as an out-of-school-hours learning activity.
- Ask your local authority road safety department what training is available.
- The Government-approved standard – Bikeability – sets out the training and skills essential for cycle trips in today's road conditions. See www.bikeability.org.uk
- The widely-used Kerbcraft model developed by Strathclyde University is designed to teach pedestrian training skills to 5-7 year olds by practical roadside training. See www.kerbcraft.org.uk

6

Liaise with feeder schools to agree guidance for transition pupils on sustainable travel.

- Encourage pupils and parents to think how they might travel to their new school.
- Help them identify sustainable methods and most appropriate routes from Day One.
- Provide all relevant information to help parents and pupils choose to walk, cycle or use public transport.

7

Find ways of involving pupils who are obliged to travel by car.

- ‘Park and stride’ schemes encourage parents to park a little way from the school and walk the rest of the journey.
- These schemes can be set up from local car parks, supermarkets and leisure centres where there is a convenient route to school.
- Pupils can play a vital role in encouraging parents to take part and asking organisations for the use of their facilities.
- Encourage car sharing with ‘postcode coffee mornings’ to help parents identify others who make similar journeys.
- Check out www.school-run.org, the website that helps parents find other local parents with whom to share the school run by foot, cycle or car.

8

Work to improve bus provision and behaviour on school transport.

- Talk to bus operators about modifying services, routes and timetables so that more pupils can choose public transport for school journeys.
- Poor behaviour and fear of bullying are given as reasons for not using public transport.
- Senior pupils can act as monitors on school services, identifying and eliminating unsocial behaviour.
- Have a look at www.wymetro.com/schoolsandcolleges/safemark

9

Work with your local authority to identify safer routes and possible highway improvements.

- Many local authorities support ‘Safer Routes to School’ projects with funding to encourage more pupils to walk, cycle or use public transport.
- Involve pupils, parents and carers in identifying the most popular routes, the main barriers to walking or cycling and any safety concerns.
- Ask your local authority School Travel Adviser how to obtain funding to address highway issues resulting in more walking, cycling and public transport use.
- Sustrans has online maps of local pedestrian/cycle routes and can refer you to your local school travel contact.

Make sure your School Travel Plan is an up-to-date, living document.

- Your School Travel Plan should be monitored and reviewed regularly to reflect pupil turnover and other changes.
- New developments in education and transport provision should be reflected in the plan.
- It should also take account of initiatives such as extended schools and extended rights to free travel, and popular trends such as scooters.
- Make sure parents receive regular information about the School Travel Plan so they can make informed choices about the school journey.
- The latest DfES information on School Travel Plans can be found at www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/sd/managers/travel/STAtoolkit/stp

00610-2007BKT-EN

PPAPG/D35/XXXX/53

© Crown Copyright 2007

Published by the Department for Education and Skills

Extracts from this document may be reproduced for non-commercial research, education or training purposes on the condition that the source is acknowledged. For any other use please contact

HMSOlicensing@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk

This project has been supported by the Sustainable Development Commission.

Working with Climate Care, we have offset the CO₂ emissions arising from all the printing and distribution. The money used to offset these will go towards sustainable energy projects.

This document has been produced to support the Sustainable Schools Strategy. For more information, go to **www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools**



100% recycled

This book is printed
on 100% recycled paper



When you have finished with
this book please recycle it

