

School Travel Policy Template

Introduction:

As a school the health and welfare of children is fundamental to everything that we do. The choices we make in the way we travel to school can benefit children's physical and mental health. This policy is in place to maximise these benefits and combat air pollution in and around the school gate. Air pollution disproportionately affects children because their lungs are still developing, they are at a lower height so have greater exposure to the fumes from cars and they breathe twice as fast as adults.

Like in most of the UK, in BCP most air pollution comes from road traffic and highest levels occur at peak times when school starts and finishes. This policy aims to improve the quality of the air our children breathe at school.

We will discuss this policy with the pupils and re-visit it periodically to ensure its relevance. If you have any ideas to improve things at or around school for pedestrians and cyclists, or questions about travelling to school, please get in touch with us via the school office.

Example Policy:

At _____ School, we:

	Why
Encourage pupils and parents to travel to school by cycling, scooting, wheeling and walking (active travel) wherever possible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of the air the children breathe at our school Improving both mental and physical health through physical activity. Establishing positive active travel behaviour. Promoting independence and improving safety awareness. Reducing congestion and noise in the community. Reducing the environmental impact of the journey to school.
Encourage use of public transport if at all possible, for those who can't actively travel.	Improves air quality at our school and teaches children to travel sustainably
Request that if you choose to drive your child to school, you park at least a 5 minute walk away. Below there is a map indicating an approximate 5 minute walking zone from the school to help you to plan your journey.	Stops a pollution bubble forming outside the school from all the vehicles, thereby gives children (and everyone else) cleaner air to breathe in school and for a section of their journey to/from school.
In the rare event that individuals drive closer to the school, you switch your engine off whenever stationary.	Each idling engine (when a car is stopped but with its engine running) produces 150 balloons worth of toxic gases every minute it is left on!

Why do we need one? (say here what cars do to our air)

At _____ School, we:

(Complete the 'why' column with pictures or words to explain the reason for each point)

	Why?
Encourage pupils and parents to travel to school by cycling, scooting and walking (active travel) wherever possible.	
Encourage use of public transport if at all possible, for those who can't actively travel.	
Request that if you choose to drive your child to school, you park at least a 5 minute walk away. Below there is a map indicating an approximate 5 minute walking zone from the school to help you to plan your journey.	
In the rare event that individuals drive closer to the school, you switch your engine off whenever stationary.	

To encourage pupils to walk, cycle, wheel or scooter to school frequently the school will:

- Actively promote walking, cycling, wheeling and scooting as a positive way of travelling.
- Celebrate the achievements of those who actively travel to school.
- Provide cycle and scooter storage on the school site.
- Offer high quality cycle training to all pupils who wish to participate by engaging with Bikeability

To make cycling and scooting to and from school a positive experience for everybody concerned, we expect our pupils to:

- Ride sensibly and safely and to follow the Highway Code.
- Check that their bicycle or scooter is roadworthy and regularly maintained.
- Behave in a manner which shows them and the school in the best possible light and to consider the needs of others when cycling or scooting.
- Consider wearing a cycle helmet.
- Ensure they can be seen by other road users, by using lights and wearing high-visibility clothing, as appropriate.

For the well-being of our pupils, we expect parents and carers and anyone transporting our pupils to:

- Encourage their child to walk, cycle, wheel or scooter to school whenever possible.
- Encourage their child to take up opportunities to develop their competence and confidence in cycling or scooting.
- Consider cycling or scooting with their child on the school run; possibly joining with other families as a 'cycle bus'.
- Provide their child with equipment such as high-visibility clothing, lights, a lock and cycle helmet as appropriate.
- Ensure that the bicycles and scooters ridden to school are roadworthy and regularly maintained.
- If in a vehicle, switch off engines whenever their vehicles are stationary

Please note:

- The decision as to whether a child is competent to cycle, scoot or walk safely to and from school rests with the parent(s)/carer(s). The school has no liability for any consequences of that decision.
- This policy covers the journey to and from school where the school has no responsibility or liability.
- Parents are advised that the school's insurance does not cover any loss or damage to pupil's bicycles and scooters left on the premises.

We thank you for adhering to our policy, which will stop the ill effects (like preventing normal lung development, leading to lifelong problems, affecting the brain and causing or exacerbate asthma and other lung conditions) of air pollution on your children.