



Transforming Travel

greener | healthier | better connected

Transition to Secondary School

Planning for a
positive start



Transition to Secondary School

Transport and active travel information

Moving up from primary to secondary school is one of the biggest steps a pupil will take in their school life.

How they choose to travel to their new school requires careful thought and planning.

This change presents a great opportunity to encourage positive travel habits that can support independence, health, and sustainability.

The information below is designed to help primary pupils prepare for their move to secondary school, ensuring that the experience is safe, enjoyable, and well-informed.

Giving pupils the chance to fully explore and discuss their travel options allows them to make confident choices while adapting to their new routine.

Whether walking, cycling, wheeling, or using public transport, establishing a smooth, reliable travel routine is key to starting secondary school with confidence.

This guide provides practical tips to help parents and pupils consider different travel options, stay safe, and make the journey to school an easy and enjoyable part of the day.





Planning the journey

→ Check school information

What time does school start and finish? Are there breakfast or after-school clubs? Where are the pedestrian entrances and cycle storage? Is there a dedicated school bus? The school's website often has useful travel guidance.

→ Choose the best travel option

Walking, cycling, scooting, wheeling, or taking public transport are all great ways to get to school actively. Consider what works best for your child.

→ Practise the journey

Doing a couple of trial runs before the first day can help your child feel more confident about the route and timing.

→ Allow extra time

Factor in walking to bus stops, train stations, or crossing busy roads to avoid rushing.



Safety and independence

→ Stay alert on busier roads

Secondary school routes may include busier streets, so reinforce road safety skills like using crossings and staying aware of vehicles.

→ Travel with friends

Walking, cycling, or using public transport with a friend or group can improve safety and make the journey more enjoyable.

→ Be flexible

School schedules, clubs, and weather changes might require adjustments, so having a backup plan is helpful.





Cycling and scooting tips

→ Boost confidence

Training courses like Bikeability can help children, young people and families learn safe cycling skills.

→ Check equipment

Make sure brakes, tyres, and gears are in good condition.

→ Helmet safety

Wearing a well-fitted helmet is advised.

→ Visibility matters

Front and rear lights and bright clothing make cyclists more visible, especially in darker mornings or evenings during the winter months.

→ Secure storage

Ensure bikes and scooters are safely locked at school.



Using public transport

→ Check timetables

Knowing when the bus or train arrives and departs helps avoid unnecessary delays.

→ Arrive early

Allow extra time for travel disruptions.

→ Know the stops

Make sure your child understands where to get on and off.





Active Travel – good for your child, good for the planet

→ Supports health and fitness

Walking, cycling, scooting, and wheeling help children stay active, improve heart health, build strength, and improve concentration at school.

→ Encourages wellbeing

Regular movement can boost mood, confidence, and reduce stress.

→ Promotes independence

Learning how to navigate travel routes builds confidence and responsibility for young people and gives them skills for life.

→ Saves money

Walking, scooting, wheeling and cycling reduce transport costs.

→ Saves time

If your child travels independently to school, that frees up parents' time to get to work or get on with their day.

→ Reduces pollution

Choosing active travel lowers emissions and contributes to cleaner air creating healthier environments for everyone.

→ Improves road safety

More children walking and cycling means fewer cars, making school routes safer.

Driving? Try Park and Stride

If driving is necessary, consider dropping off five to ten minutes from school and walking the rest of the way. This helps reduce congestion and air pollution at the school gate while adding a little activity to the morning routine.



Further travel information

and road safety

Walking, cycling, wheeling and scooting

BCP Council's travel pages include cycle training, routes, parking and maintenance courses: [Travel and transport | BCP](#)

For Bikeability training: [Bikeability Learn to Ride | BCP](#) and advice on: [How to fasten a helmet correctly](#)

The Walk Wheel Cycle Trust offers tips for active school travel: [9 reasons to cycle, scoot or walk the school run – Walk Wheel Cycle Trust](#)

Their simple bike safety check is also useful: [The M check for your bike in 11 steps – Walk Wheel Cycle Trust](#)

Living Streets provides a guide for pupils walking to secondary school: [Secondary Schools](#)

Bus travel

MoreBus offers young person and school/college tickets. Child fares available up to age 19: [Young Person's and School/College bus tickets – morebus](#)

They also run dedicated school and college routes: [morebus.co.uk/schools-colleges](#)

Parents can buy point to point term tickets via the MoreBus app: [Fares and tickets – morebus](#)



Train travel

South Western Railway has a student travel guide with railcards, group discounts and child rate tickets: [A student's guide to train travel | South Western Railway](#)

Pupils aged 16-17 can get a 16-17 Saver Railcard for 50% off most fares.

Children aged 5-15 travel on child tickets; under-5s travel free with an adult.

For safety around railway crossings, see Network Rail's resources: [Safety education – Network Rail](#)

Home to school transport

Eligibility for school transport assistance is set out in the Council's policy: [Home to school transport policy | BCP](#)

Road safety

BCP Council's road safety education programme: [Road safety education | BCP](#)

The Department for Transport's THINK! website has helpful resources for pupils moving to secondary school: [Transitioning to Secondary School – THINK!](#)

If you have any questions about your journey to school, please email: activetravel@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

