

SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN 2014

We believe it important to encourage "active travel", especially to school, because it benefits health and the environment - now and in the future.

Since our first Travel Plan in 2010, when we also joined the "Bike It" project run by sustainable transport charity Sustrans, an enthusiastic cycling culture has developed at school, and a rolling programme of active travel initiatives has been set up. Our achievements have been recognised in a series of awards; most notably, we gained "outstanding" level in a Modeshift award for Sustainable Transport in 2011, and became only the fifteenth school in the country to earn a Sustrans Gold Bike It Mark in 2014.

OBJECTIVES 2014 onwards

1. Increase healthy and car-free school journeys ("active travel")
2. As a Bike It school, help children and others to cycle, especially on the school journey which gives them good practice
3. Continue to work with community to improve conditions for walking and cycling

TARGETS 2014 onwards

- 90% of pupils travel to school "actively" (walk,cycle/scoot Park & Stride)
- Continue to enable all children to gain Bikeability Level 1 skills during KS2 and Level 2 by the end of Y6
- 35% cycle at least once a week
- Work with some/all of Parish Council, Community Plan and County Council about at least one road/pavement/cycling issue of concern.

(Monitor by termly hands-up pupil survey, Steering Group meetings.)

SUMMARY OF ACTION PLAN FOR 2014-5

Autumn 1	After -school Bike Club Inter-House Cycling Competition Choose new Bike It Crew - KS2 pupils who help with cycling activities	"Better By" active travel newsletter School Travel Plan steering group meeting
Autumn 2	Active Travel week (incentive scheme: walk, cycle, scoot, Park & Stride) Dr Bike (free bike repairs for school families) Bike It Crew - learn to repair punctures	Hands-up survey
Spring 1	Playground-based cycle training (Bikeability level 1) for all pupils Years R-4 Competition run by Bike It Crew Bike It Crew assembly	Keep staff and governors updated Bike It Crew meetings
Spring 2	After -school Bike Club Take part in national Big Pedal cycling to school competition "Destabilisation" sessions for children to learn to cycle, with their parents	Keep Bike It notice board up to date with help of Crew
Summer 1	After -school Bike Club On-road Bikeability level 2 training for Y5/6 Active Travel week Sponsored bike ride in aid of partner schools in Kenya Bike It Crew contribute "assembly slot"	Keep active travel pages of school website up to date Maintain school "pool" bikes
Summer 2	Transition to secondary school: "training" bike ride for Y6 to Impington Village College Bike It Crew ride Promote Active Travel at new Reception parents' meeting	

REVIEW OF SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN ACTIVITIES 2013

Our objectives in 2013-14 were:

1. Increase healthy and car-free school journeys ("active travel")
2. As a Bike It school, help children and others to cycle, especially on the school journey which gives them good practice
3. Reduce congestion on Water Lane and in High Street
4. Work with community to improve conditions for walking and cycling

Two "Active Travel" weeks, with incentives including housepoints and stickers, in November and May helped to encourage more families to leave the car at home when they could. Cycling to school in particular visibly increased after every cycling activity - these included an inter-house cycling competition, and taking part in the "Big Pedal" virtual bike race in spring, in which schools compete to have the highest proportion of school journeys made by bike or scooter. We also ran a fun "Design a Bike" competition in February.

Learning to cycle safely helps children gain confidence and independence, and there were lots of opportunities over the year, ranging from balance bike sessions for all the Reception pupils, parent/child focussed "destabilisation" workshops (after which nearly all participants could abandon their stabilisers!) and whole-school cycle training, on the playground in March for Years Reception to 4, and on-road Bikeability level 2 training delivered in May by local company Outspoken for Year 5 and any Year 6 who did not achieve the level last year. Year 6 children who will have to cycle to IVC next year joined a ride to show them the safest route and what to do with their bikes at college.

We have many enthusiastic cyclists in every class, who were able to join an after-school Bike Club, or participate in the "Bike It Crew". The Crew ran assemblies, kept the Bike It notice board up to date, and enjoyed a ride of their own in June.

Poor road conditions on Water Lane outside school can put off families from walking and cycling. This year a significant achievement was to gain the support of the Parish Council, and, working with them, apply for a Local Highways Initiative grant to reduce the speed limit and restrict parking outside school. Our application scored highest out of all those submitted from around the county, and will be implemented during this coming school year. The works should achieve the third objective above for Water Lane.

There were two special highlights during the year. On 7th July, the Tour de France came to Cambridge, and the whole school celebrated with a collapsed curriculum day in which children participated in French and cycling-related activities ranging from trying French food to cycling under the "baguette limbo"! On 23rd May we were presented with the Gold Bike It Mark, at a ceremony on the school field in which children lined up their bikes in a "Big Bike Chain" and passed the plaque along for all to see.

We are very grateful to all the staff and parent volunteers who make School Travel Plan activities possible, and also for support from the Sustrans Bike It Officer, John Stanley.

2013-14 TARGETS	Results
90% of pupils travel to school "actively" (walk, cycle/scoot Park & Stride)	81% (Jan 2014) Qualitatively, the three bike sheds are often overflowing, and many school families are dedicated cyclists, including some who come in from Impington and Girton, 3-4 miles away.

Enable all children to gain Bikeability Level 1 skills during KS2 and Level 2 by the end of Y6	YR-4 all took part in on-playground training and most Y3/4 achieved most Level 1 skills 13/17 Y5/6s gained Bikeability 2 in May 2014 - Y5s who did not will get another chance this year.
35% cycle at least once a week (Gold Bike Mark goal)	25% (Jan 2014)
Reduce number of school cars parked on Water Lane	No quantitative data Should be addressed by parking restrictions on Water Lane
Liaise with Parish Council, Community Plan and County Council about road/pavement/cycling issues	Yes - issues appeared in Community Plan questionnaire Worked with Parish Council to secure LHI grant to improve safety on Water Lane outside school (speed limit, parking restrictions, barrier outside Pre-school)

SCHOOL TRAVEL CHALLENGES

Opportunities...

- Most children would like to cycle to school (consistently revealed by hands-up surveys).
- Cycling skills acquired at primary school stand children in good stead as they grow up - keeping fit, independence, getting to IVC, healthier adult lifestyles.
- Helps encourage families to travel more actively outside school.
- Lets people see their choices help the environment.
- As our school grows, there is an opportunity to instil the "active travel" culture from the start, so that an increase in school numbers does not result in increased traffic and car parking.

Problems...

- Although Water Lane outside school should improve this year, the local area (roads, pavements, traffic) is perceived by many as less safe than ideal for cycling and walking.
- Some car journeys to school seem unavoidable - parent surveys reveal the school run may be part of a longer journey (eg. to work, to swimming lessons) which has to be undertaken by car.
- Staff/visitor car parking may become an issue as the school increases in size. This can be addressed by: making visitors aware of alternatives to driving, such as our excellent village bus service; encouraging cycling or walking for local staff; car shares where possible; "Park & Stride" (permission has been gained from the Parish Council for staff to use the pavilion car park around the corner from school); looking at increasing physical car parking spaces on site.