

DEVELOPING A SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN



NBB
School
Shelters

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INTRODUCTION

One in five cars on the road at morning peak traffic times is making a short journey of around two miles to take children to school (www.sustrans.org.uk). Cycling, scooting or walking to school has many benefits for pupils, parents and the community as a whole.

There is a statutory duty under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to promote sustainable travel to and from school, and between schools and other institutions.

In 2013 the Prime Minister announced plans to shift cycling up a gear, and detailed a number of supportive measures for encouraging cycling to be delivered in the coming years.

In November 2014, Baroness Kramer, Former minister of State for Transport, stated that the Department for Transport will contribute a grant of up to £184,000 to expand the Modeshift STARS national award scheme to every school in England (<https://www.modeshiftstars.org/>).

Modeshift is an easy to use online system that helps schools plan their activities, focus on delivering sustainable travel initiatives and upload evidence of actions (www.schooltravelplanning.com).



WHAT IS A SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN?

A School Travel Plan (STP) sets out how a school will promote active, safer and more sustainable travel to school, with the main importance being on reducing the number of children commuting by car.

STPs are created with the involvement of members from the school community including: head teachers, parents, governors, pupils and influential members of the local area.

All STPs are very different as local situations and current trends are considered, and for this reason it is important to review the STP periodically.

An effective school travel plan should put forward a package of measures to: reduce the number of vehicles on the journey to school, improve safety on the journey to school, and encourage more active and sustainable travel choices.



WHY DEVELOP A SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN?

Sustainable methods of travelling to school such as cycling, scooting and walking have many benefits for the pupils, school, parents and wider community. The benefits of having an active School Travel Plan include:

For Pupils:

- Improving health and fitness by walking, scooting and cycling. According to Livingstreets.org.uk, one in three children are leaving primary schools either overweight or obese.
- Improving safety by reducing congestion around the school.
- Establishing safer walking and cycling routes around the school.
- Contributing to other school policies such as Environmental awareness in Schools, and Healthy Schools.
- Improving travel awareness and road user skills. The National Cycling Charity (CTC) are urging for all schools to provide cycle training as part of the national curriculum (www.ctc.org.uk/put-cycling-on-national-curriculum). In 2012 the government pledged a multi-million pound boost for children's cycle training, with the aim that cycling training will be offered to all children before they leave school. The Bikeability scheme is the cycling proficiency of the 21st century underpinned by the National Standards for Cycle Training and has been developed by Cycling England and the Department for Transport (<http://bikeability.org.uk>).

For parents:

- Reducing stress and time spent driving to school, especially when it is congested.
- Building better links with the school for the local community.
- Improving the local environment by reducing air and noise pollution and congestion problems. Improving walking routes and road safety

For the local community:

- Improving the local environment by reducing air and noise pollution, and reducing congestion problems
- Improving walking routes and road safety

The more schools in local areas which are developing and implementing the measures in their STP's, the greater cumulative effect there will be, reducing the reliance on and impact of cars on the school journey, thus leading to less traffic and congestion in and around the 'school run' period.



DEVELOPING YOUR SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN

The first step will be to set up a committee consisting of dedicated individuals from the school community to become responsible for the STP. This should include the head teacher, parents and governors, local authority officers and some influential pupils (www.sustrans.co.uk).

Consider Your School

- Pupil numbers
- School type and location
- Catchment area

Provide Evidence

Show evidence of your consultations concerning staff and pupils' current travel behaviour, by conducting a survey at school, and presenting the results to the rest of the committee.

Summarise the problems

Identify the key issues for pupils, parents, staff and governors. Typically these may be: problems at the school gates, specific reasons for not wanting to walk or cycle to school, issues relating to parents' work start and finish times, and after school clubs/activities.

Set Objectives and Targets

Come up with objectives and targets, and outline how your school intends to achieve them.



Initiatives such as Walk Once A Week (WoW) or Walk to School Week is run by Living Streets and the campaign reaches over 13 million people, making it one of the UK's leading behaviour change campaigns for young people (www.livingstreets.org.uk). Other initiatives include; Bike Week; Mass Walks to School; Park and Stride; Travel Information Leaflets and Travel Action Groups.

Plan of Action

It is vital that you now create and follow an action plan in order to achieve your STP objectives. Set out a time frame (start and end dates for key tasks), allow time for if you will need to involve other local bodies, and account time for sourcing funding.

Monitor and Review

Now the STP has been developed, you will want to ensure that work towards it's targets is genuinely progressing. Local situations and current trends might mean that some targets are no longer relevant. It is important to consider how and when changes will be monitored, how any changes will be reported, and also when and who will review the plan.

About NBB School Shelters

The school commute doesn't have to be a stressful journey in a car; cycling, walking or scooting have many perks! It's good for health, the environment, it is cheap and helps children focus more at school. NBB School Shelters have a vast amount of shelter solutions to suit your school needs including Cycle, Waiting and Buggy Shelters. Additionally, we supply a comprehensive range of racks and stands for securing cycles and scooters.

With over 25 Years' Experience, NBB School Shelters has become the UK's Leading Manufacturer of School Shelters. We also offer a full bespoke service to meet your exact requirements. If you need a shelter which is a complex size, needs to fit into an awkward space, or you need it to aesthetically blend with the surroundings, then NBB School Shelters are the answer!