

Goldington Green Academy
Active Travel Policy Academic Year 2020-2021

School Travel Champion – Jade Harrison

At Goldington Green Academy we encourage pupils, parents and staff to travel actively to school by walking, cycling and scooting wherever possible.

This school active travel policy explains how **Goldington Green Academy** will be encouraging active travel. Our policy will outline how we will minimise single occupancy car trips associated with the school, by promoting and encouraging the use of more sustainable alternatives through our curriculum. We will discuss the policy with the pupils and re-visit it alongside our online STARs travel plan to ensure its relevance.

The situation of our school site means that walking to school is an ideal way of getting here. Parking a 5-minute walk away is also a good option, and we are ideally located for travel by bus.

What are the benefits of active travel?

- Improves mental health leading to improved attendance and academic success
- Improves physical health, helping pupils to achieve the recommended minimum of 60 minutes of physical activity per day
- Promotes independence and improves road safety awareness
- Reduces congestion and noise in the community
- Improves the local environment's air quality

Why have a School Travel plan?

Encouraging active travel at school has a wide range of benefits, both for the school community, but also for the area around the school in terms of less traffic and congestion.

The benefits of having an active School Travel Plan include:

For the pupils

- Improving health and fitness by walking, scooting and cycling
- Improving travel awareness and road user skills
- Improving awareness of their surroundings
- Improving safety around the school
- Reducing congestion around the school
- Establishing safer walking and cycling routes around the school
- Contributing to other school policies such as Eco- Schools/Healthy Schools etc
- Linking to the National Curriculum

For parents

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

In order to ensure as many pupils as possible are given the opportunity to realise these benefits we each have an important role to play:

Staff

We will encourage pupils to travel to and from school more safely and actively by:

- Promoting the benefits of active travel through the curriculum and assemblies
- Celebrating the achievements of those who travel actively to school
- Raise awareness of different ways to travel to school with sponsored days and weeks
- Raising awareness of the air quality benefits of active travel
- Providing cycle and scooter storage on the school site
- Ensuring we update our school travel plan annually and that it is accredited under the Modeshift Stars scheme
- Working with our borough school travel and road safety officers to deliver interventions and activities that promote active, safe and responsible travel to school

Pupils

To make active travel a positive experience for everybody concerned, we expect our pupils to:

- Behave in a sensible, safe and respectful manner and to consider the needs of others when travelling
- Use lights and high-visibility clothing where appropriate and consider wearing a cycle helmet
- Check that their bicycle or scooter is roadworthy and well maintained
- Follow the rules of the road (Highway Code) when travelling

Parents and carers

For the wellbeing of our pupils, we expect parents/carers to:

- Encourage their child to travel actively to school
- Consider walking, cycling or scooting with their child
- Encourage their child to take up opportunities to develop their competence and confidence in walking cycling and scooting
- Provide their child with safety equipment as appropriate, which may include high-visibility clothing, lights, cycle helmet and a lock
- Ensure that the bicycles and scooters ridden to school are roadworthy and well maintained

Parents and carers are reminded that they are responsible for the safety of their child on the journey to and from school. The decision as to whether a child is competent to cycle or scooter safely to and from school rests with the parent(s)/carer(s). The school has no liability for any consequences of that decision. Parents are advised to take out appropriate insurance cover for bikes (check home insurance) as the school's insurance does not cover any loss or damage to bicycles and scooters.

Impact

Each year the school's Travel Plan will be reviewed using surveys from pupils, staff and parents. Opportunities for parents and carers to engage in the discussion of improving sustainable methods of transport will be given. Promotion of sustainable and active methods of travel will be shared through Year Group and Whole School newsletters too.

Role of School Travel Champion

The School Travel Champion will be a permanent member of staff with the appropriate skills and resources to fulfil the role.

The School Travel Plan Champion will be made responsible for developing and implementing the School Travel Plan and collecting data at the school. They will lead on this initiative and act as the correspondent between the local authority and the school. They will ensure ongoing development and implementation of the School Travel Plan, taking responsibility for liaison with external agencies as appropriate, whilst ensuring that the pupil, staff, parents and visitors are kept fully informed of any new developments in the Plan's implementation.

The duties of the School Travel Plan Co-ordinator will include:

- Undertake annual Pupil and Staff Travel Surveys over five consecutive years and supply evidence of this to the Council
- Take responsibility for data collection and review of the School Travel Plan

- Oversee the development and implementation of the School Travel Plan on a day-to-day basis
- Obtain and maintain commitment and support from senior staff, governors etc
- Design and implement effective marketing and awareness-raising campaigns to promote the School Travel Plan
- Act as a point of contact for all pupils, staff and parents requiring information
- Ensure the travel information available is always up to date
- Liaise with external organisations, e.g. local authorities
- Co-ordinate the monitoring programme for the School Travel Plan, including target setting and make necessary changes if the targets are not being met
- Upload School Travel Plan content to the Modeshift STARS website, enabling efficient online monitoring and review; and progress through the measures and/or actions to meet associated criteria for Accreditation at Bronze, Silver and Gold levels

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 the School Travel Champion Jade Harrison