

Forest Hill School Cycle Bus Scheme

Best Project under Â£1,000

The plan created by the Youth Travel Ambassadors is to promote an increase in cycling, to help healthy & greener travel to school. The students identified a need for healthier and more efficient alternatives to the bus route predominantly used by students both morning and afternoon. The bus also creates an issue environmentally as the reliance on the public services increases, plus the additional special service in the afternoon only for the school. To create the Cycling Bus Scheme students need to create a change in behaviour led by the YTA's. To be successful the YTA's put together a plan of activities that would educate and motivate pupils to participate in the Cycle Bus Scheme. These initiatives included quizzes, Bikeability training, equipment purchases from the school rewards system and road safety training. The Cycle Bus runs 3 days a week from 3 different areas to encourage safe group rides that are led by staff.

Local Authority

Forest Hill School, Lewisham Borough Contact Elaine Goad emg@mattinsonpartnership.com or Aaron Davey a.davey@foresthillschool.co.uk

Who Was Involved

Mr Aaron Davey his role was to lead and coordinate YTA's/School council on the project. Manage budget and external support. Dr David Evans (IT teacher) held Bikeability sessions 10 YTA's – school council pupils allocated to the transport committee from year 7-10. Their role was promoting and marketing the activities & initiatives to students. In addition they presented to Transport for London to c

Budgeting

The YTA's successfully secured funding from Transport for London (£250) to purchase equipment for "selling" on the schools reward system. Items were available to be purchased with points gained from behaviour in lessons. Items included helmets, lights, locks and water bottles.

Project Development

Initially to help secure the funding at the TfL pitch we surveyed pupils and parents. The major findings were that safety and confidence was the key barrier(s). After funding was secured we purchased the helmets to help with this along with the other items. To alleviate fears of students YTA's presented in assembly on several occasions with different material the ways in which all road users can remain safe. There were also follow up resources shared with tutor groups. In addition several other initiatives with outside agencies were developed and used to promote cycling during National Bike Week. The YTA's split into small groups and

pairs to target different useful agencies/resources. A Local bike shop provided a Dr Bike session, Pedal My Wheels held a bike market to offer students upgraded bikes to what they may have already, route planning sessions and materials including maps and online resources helped pupils, Bikeability afterschool refresher sessions hosted by a qualified staff

What Was The Outcome

The pupils responded really well to all the sessions on offer. Bikeability sessions ran on 3 afternoons in the lead up to Bike Week refreshing 30 pupils cycle skills. The pedal my wheels session was successful and several pupils upgraded their bikes and sold old ones. The Dr Bike session was initially a one-off and will be repeated in the next academic year on a 12-week cycle. The Cycle Bus Scheme met several students (10 students and 4 staff across 3 days) in various locations and they have all returned weekly for the 4 weeks of the scheme. This wasn't as well attended as the YTA's and I had planned for but there are areas for development. During Bike Week the school saw an increase of 50% in bikes stored on site (from 20 to 30) and this remained for the week after but fell to 25% for the second week after. Moving forward our considerations are to encouraging the behaviour change and how pupils may be rewarded for their participation. Applications for further safety and bike related e

How Does This Project Meet The Criteria

TfL are convinced we are the first school in London attempting this type of project. We are confident that our project meets elements of all the criteria. We initially identified barriers and have created some solutions that have measurable improvements to cycling at Forest Hill School. As a lead school in London we hope to be producing a guide for other schools as part of our YTA project next year. The project is cost effective; to the pupils there are few costs other than owning a bike we have supported 3 students with a bike loan. In addition there are also essentials on offer for staff, pupils and parents and this will be sustained. The project by design is a sustainable, it is a project, which should actually grow in participation and could possibly bring in additional revenue through sponsorship of the Cycle Bus. The creativity of the Cycle Bus was born out of the pupils experience at primary school when trips and travel to/from school was often in a walking bus. As older pupils

