

16 to 19 Bus Travel

Within Buckinghamshire there are opportunities for young people aged 16 to 19 years to have discounted bus travel.

Citizen Card Scheme: allows all 16-17 year olds living in Buckinghamshire to travel on buses after 9:00am from Monday-Friday and all day on weekends for only £1 per single trip (*limited services, conditions apply*). An application form is available to download from the following web-site, where there is also further information on the scheme: www.buckscc.gov.uk/citizencard.

Subsidised Travel Scheme: this scheme provides subsidised transport for eligible 16-19 year olds who live more than 3 miles from their catchment or nearest school/college that offers the required full-time course. Students with special educational needs or from low income families may qualify for free transport. For more information see: www.buckscc.gov.uk/bcc/schools/transport.page, select '16 - 19 year olds' located on the left hand side of the webpage.

Travelling over the Buckinghamshire Border

Sometimes families live in one county

and travel to school in another county, so there may be useful information relating to school travel available from relevant local authorities bordering Buckinghamshire. See the following details to access information for these local authorities:

- Bedfordshire: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or 0300 300 8000
- Hertfordshire: www.hertsdirect.org or 0300 123 4040
- Hillingdon: www.hillingdon.gov.uk or 01895 250111
- Luton: www.luton.gov.uk or 01582 546000
- Milton Keynes: www.milton-keynes.gov.uk or 01908 691691
- Northamptonshire: www.northamptonshire.gov.uk or 01604 236236
- Oxfordshire: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk or 01865 792422
- Slough: www.slough.gov.uk or 01753 475111
- Windsor and Maidenhead: www.rbwm.gov.uk or 01628 683 00

School Travel Planning

There is a team at Buckinghamshire County Council that works with schools to develop individual School

Travel Plans (STPs) which aim to encourage safe and sustainable travel on the school journey. School Travel Planning work establishes what might be preventing families from travelling sustainably and looks into ways of helping resolve these issues such as safety concerns or lack of facilities (i.e. cycle or scooter parking). Many schools have active STPs and run initiatives that families can take part in and benefit from, such as: cycle training, walk to school events, competitions, and prizes/rewards for travelling sustainably.

For more information see www.schooltravelplanning.com or contact schools directly.



Personal Safety

It is really important that people travel safely to and from school, especially those children that are travelling independently. Many schools run safety training for cycling, scooting, pedestrians & young drivers, but it is important that parents/guardians also help influence children to behave safely when travelling. Here are a few simple tips and ideas to help stay safe:

- * Wear bright clothing (be seen)
- * Pay attention to your surroundings
- * Try not to travel alone (if possible)
- * Be careful with distractions (i.e. talking/music)
- * Only cross roads where and when it is safe to do so.



Travel to School

Information Guide for Parents/Guardians



This leaflet has been produced as an information guide for parents/guardians in order to raise awareness of some of the school travel options that may be available to them and their children so that they can make informed decisions on how to travel to school.

There are many benefits to travelling sustainably, for example by foot, bicycle, bus, scooter, train, and car sharing. Benefits can include reducing congestion around schools, helping to make young people more confident travellers, and helping to increase young people's sense of road safety.

Travelling actively on the journey to and from school will contribute to the 60 minutes of daily activity recommended for young people in order to help make them fit and healthy. This active travel will also help to make children more alert and ready to learn at school!

For more information on School Travel Planning and sustainable travel options, please visit: www.schooltravelplanning.com, email: travelchoice@buckscc.gov.uk or call: 0845 230 2882.



Walking

Walking to school can be a great way to exercise and get the whole family active twice a day!

Planning: It is important to plan the walking route to school carefully in advance so that the most appropriate and safest route possible is taken. It is also useful to walk the route a few times before the actual school journey takes place in order to help plan how long it will take.

Benefits: The benefits to children of walking to school can include:

- * Helping them to be fit & healthy
- * Increasing their road safety skills
- * Improving their attention spans
- * Helping them to be independent
- * Making them more ready to learn once they get to school.

Escorted walks: some Primary Schools in Buckinghamshire run groups (led by parent volunteers) that escort children to school, these are known as Crocodiles or Allig8ors. These 'walking buses' have an established pick up point and route, and each person wears a high visibility tabard (or bands). Please contact individual schools to find out if they run escorted walks.



Scooting

Scooting can be a fun and active way of travelling to school and it is a good way to encourage children to exercise.



It is important to check that the scooter is in a safe condition before allowing a child to ride it, in particular there should be a working brake.

The majority of planning and safety information provided in the Cycling section also applies to scooting, so please ensure this is taken into consideration.

Cycling

Cycling to school can be fun for children and young people, and adults can even join in as well!

Planning: Plan your route in advance choosing the safest one possible. Find out from the school if there are any cycle paths in the area and whether they have cycle parking facilities. The school may have cycling guidelines (*i.e. use of bikes on the school site*), so check this beforehand.

Safety: Whilst the benefits of cycling are similar to those for walking, there are more safety measures that need to be considered:

- * Does the child have a helmet?
- * Is the child wearing bright clothing?
- * Does the child have a suitable bag?
- * Are lights needed? (*i.e. dim light*)
- * Is the bike in safe working order? (*i.e. brakes/tyres*)



Please remember: Whilst on the journey to and from school, children are the responsibility of their parents/guardians and not the school.



Park and Walk

For some families it might not be possible to walk the whole of the school journey. In order to help gain the benefits of walking, these families could consider driving for part of the journey, parking at a suitable location, and walking the remainder of the journey to school. Why not visit the school area in advance to find out where suitable parking locations may be? Some schools have parking agreements with local public houses or businesses, please speak to individual schools for more information.

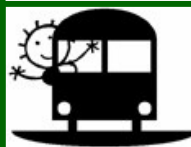


Train

There are a few rail routes which go through Buckinghamshire run by Chiltern Railways and the London Underground. Some of these routes might be suitable for school journeys. Families could either travel on the train together or young people could be dropped off at a station if there is a destination safely near to their school.

Benefits: There are a number of possible benefits to travelling to school by train, including allowing time to:

- * Relax
- * Study
- * Read
- * Socialise with friends
- * Do some homework
- * Revise for exams



Routes and times: Please see the following details to access rail information: Chiltern Railways: visit www.chilternrailways.co.uk or call 08456 005 165 London Underground: visit www.thetube.com or call 0845 330 9880



Car

As mentioned in the Park & Walk section, parents/guardians sometimes have to drive to school because it is not possible or convenient to travel any other way.

For those travelling by car it is vital that safety and the environment are carefully considered.

Car sharing: It may be possible that families living near one another or on the same route to school could travel in the same car. This would enable parents/guardians to alternate journeys, saving time and money. It would also help reduce the number of cars on the roads which would in turn reduce the amount of congestion and pollution around the school.

Parking: It is important that those people who drive to school park considerably so that the area around the school is kept as safe as possible. People should not park on/across:

- * Zig Zag (Keep Clear) lines
- * Double Yellow lines
- * Junctions
- * Driveways
- * Pavements



Helping the environment: If parents/guardians are waiting outside of the school whilst dropping off or collecting children, turning off the vehicle's engine will help to reduce the amount of fumes and pollution being released around the school.

Bus

Travelling to school by bus can give families or groups of young people the opportunity to relax on the journey, socialise, read, or even do homework!

Bus routes & times: General information on bus routes and timetables can be gained from Traveline:

visit www.travelinesoutheast.org.uk or call 0871 200 2233

For enquiries on routes and timetables: email passtrans@buckscc.gov.uk or call 0845 230 2882

Free travel: Many pupils around the county are eligible for free home to school transport. For information on whether pupils could qualify for free transport visit:

www.buckscc.gov.uk/transport, select public transport and then home to school transport.

For free entitlement enquiries: call: 01296 383250 or email: educationtransport@buckscc.gov.uk

Discretionary travel: Where a child is not entitled to free transport it may be possible for the child to pay a fare to travel on the bus services provided for the entitled pupils (only if there are spaces available).

For information on discretionary travel availability and bus passes: call: 01296 383737 or email: Ameytrans@buckscc.gov.uk

