



## **School Travel Plan Coordinators' Newsletter January 2022**

### **Welcome**

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and New Year holiday.

National lockdowns helped to demonstrate the benefits of getting out and walking or cycling by keeping us fit and aiding our mental health. We are encouraging everyone to try to keep this up, and to think about walking, cycling, scooting, or parking further away from school and walking the rest of the way. Also catching the bus or train is a great way to get to school and can be quite sociable. Often there is an element of active travel to get to and from bus stops.

We are encouraging children and parents to think about the way they will travel to and from school, reminding them about safety as well thinking about the benefits to the environment. To help with this we have produced a range of banners designed to help you to run a promotion in your school. These are available for schools to attach on railings outside their school. Please read on to find out how you can borrow one for free!

After key dates for your diary, you'll find some useful information about School Travel Plans, Modeshift Stars and some local examples as well as news from key partners. In the list of forthcoming dates, I will introduce school travel planning, why we have School Travel Plans, Modeshift Stars and its accreditation process, examples of initiatives and finally some news from our partners.

## Forthcoming Dates for Your Diary

This section lists dates of forthcoming events that you may want to promote at your school. Please follow the links as many of these initiatives offer free downloadable resources for schools.

### February

- Children's Mental Health Week - 7<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> February 2022
- Schools and Youth Groups - Children's Mental Health Week  
([childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk](http://childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk))
- Bus Behaviour -reminder for secondary schools
- [Anti-social behaviour on public transport: safety measures - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/anti-social-behaviour-on-public-transport-safety-measures)

### March

- World Book Day - 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022
- Schools and Nurseries - World Book Day
- Beep Beep Day
- Beep Beep! Days | Brake
- Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel - 21<sup>st</sup> March to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022
- Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel is taking place 21 March - 1 April 2022
- Modeshift STARS Deadline Accreditation 31<sup>st</sup> March
- Login - Modeshift STARS

### May

- Bike to School Day - 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022
- Bike to School Day | Safe Routes to School (saferoutesmichigan.org)
- Walk to School Week - 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022
- Walk to School Week | Living Streets
- Happy Shoes Day - TBC
- <https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/happyshoesday>

### June

- Ant-idling Day/Clean Air Day – TBC
- Clean Air Day - the UK's largest clean air campaign
- Brake Kids Walk – TBC
- Brake's Kids Walk | Brake

## July

- Transition Year 7 – TBC
- Walk to School | Secondary Schools | Living Streets
- Modeshift STARS Deadline Accreditation 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022. Please see [Login - Modeshift STARS](#)

## School Travel Planning

The main aim of a School Travel Plan (STP) is to reduce single occupancy car use on the school journey. Increasing sustainable travel helps to reduce congestion and pollution, as well as improving the health and fitness of children and young people and helping to give your children the very important life skills they need to stay safe and healthy on their journey to and from school. These are just a few of the many benefits of an active STP.

For those of you new to school travel planning, STPs are developed, maintained, and monitored by the whole school community, to promote and facilitate sustainable travel. They are a great example of partnership working by Ofsted. All schools should promote active, safe, and sustainable travel as an alternative to single occupancy car use for the school journey. An STP is developed and monitored by the school to:

- discover actual and preferred mode of travel for the school journey;
- identify issues to determine why people do not travel sustainably;
- set future targets to achieve or maintain modes of sustainable travel (for example to increase cycling; to maintain walking);
- lay out a plan of action for the tasks that the school will carry out to achieve their targets and aspirations;
- Encourage the whole school community to travel in a safer, healthier, and more sustainable way.

In Buckinghamshire we use Modeshift STARS to help us and you to develop and monitor our STPs.

## What is Modeshift Stars?

Modeshift STARS (Sustainable Travel Accreditation and Recognition for Schools) provides a framework for the implementation of sustainable and active school travel activities. It is an online system that helps schools to input the information they need to produce a nationally recognised STP.

Established in 2007, Modeshift is a national membership organisation that specialises in sustainable and active travel and provides behaviour change support for those working with children, young people, families, school communities, educational establishments, and workplaces. It is a national schools awards scheme that has been established to recognise schools that have demonstrated excellence in supporting cycling, walking and other forms of sustainable transport.

To register on the system please go to the website and request a login. Please check with your Headteacher or School Office that they don't already have one. If you are already using Modeshift, please keep your school details up to date (children and staff numbers) and include your Headteacher's information too. Also, if you have been working with me can you please add me to your introduction tab under working with the local authority. If you need to delete a user, please let me know by email. Please keep all contacts and email addresses up to date. <https://www.modeshiftstars.org/>

### Accreditation

You will notice I talk a lot about accreditation. The Modeshift STARS national accreditation scheme offers 5 levels: Green, Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum. The more initiatives schools organise, the higher accreditation they will be able to achieve. The initiatives are split into two categories, Sustainable Travel (ST) and Supporting Initiatives (SI).

Sustainable Travel (ST) focus on topics such as cycling, scooting, walking, road safety & training, air quality, public transport. Supporting Initiatives (SI) focus on promotion, curriculum, and partnerships.

This year I would like to **congratulate all the 62 schools** in Bucks that in a very difficult year still managed to get accredited for their School Travel Plan. For those schools that were so close, please don't give up. You are doing amazing work to keep our children safe. Modeshift now accredit 3 times a year so you may well be able to get accredited this next time round. The new dates are 31 March, 31 July, and 31 December. If you didn't get accredited this time round let me know if you need help to get you accredited in March

If you have the option to apply for more than one level of accreditation, please only submit the highest and remember to check your expiry date on the Accreditation progress tab first.

I know we had lots of fantastic work going on in and around our schools in Buckinghamshire despite of COVID-19. It was lovely reading your STPs and looking through all the pictures that you used for evidence. You all work hard to give your children the important life skills they need to keep healthy and safe. Why not plan events now then add them to the system? This makes life easier when you need to submit evidence for accreditation and could get you Green if you are not yet at Bronze.

Please remember to add evidence of anything you do, as well as ensure any working groups are included in the introduction tab. There's no need to include children's names, simply JRSO/Eco Representative for example, is fine. As we start a new year, your staff and pupil numbers may have changed. This information needs to be updated, which can be found under the 'Introduction' tab. Do this before adding your surveys. Modeshift have added a new tab which is to do with your school's aims and objectives. and what you will do to embed the STP in your school community. If you haven't already had a look, log-on and see what you have on your STP: <https://www.modeshiftstars.org/login/> This is a living document. You can download your STP as a PDF file and add this to your website or include it in your new prospectus.

## Announcements

### School Travel Plan Coordinator Meetings (Consultations LA1)

In the past we had our STP Coordinator meetings in your area. During lockdown we were unable to meet in person, but I held virtual meetings using Microsoft Teams instead. This seems to be convenient for schools as there is no traveling time. We can also look at your STP and your school's needs. I will be continuing with this arrangement as well as sending you regular email updates.

At these meetings I will also cover what you need to do to complete your STP to help you get accredited. I will include some trouble shooting on the Modeshift STARS system along with giving you some more information about initiatives. You will need to be logged on to Modeshift and be on Microsoft Teams or a hands-free phone. Please get in touch by emailing me at [Emma.James@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:Emma.James@buckinghamshire.gov.uk) If you would like a meeting.

### Footsteps – Pause to Tutor Training Programme

We are currently pausing our Footsteps Tutor Training Programme and working on an alternative, class based Work Objective for Child Pedestrian Training.

If your school already has trained Footsteps Tutors and wish to continue with the current Footsteps Programme, it is ultimately the decision of the school with the Chair of Governors who are accountable and responsible. The school must also review and update the Footsteps Risk Assessment Schools coronavirus (COVID-19) operational guidance - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

You may be interested to share the following Road Safety Wales video link with your parents for them to watch and practise pedestrian skills for life with their children.  
<https://www.roadsafetywales.org.uk/child-pedestrian-training/>

Further resources including lesson plans, films and games can be found on the DfT THINK website <https://www.think.gov.uk/education-resources/>

## Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel

Sustrans Big Pedal is now called Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel and has the aim to encourage more families to travel to school actively, to help create healthier and happier communities. The event will run for 10 days from 21 March to 1 April 2022 and is open to all primary and secondary schools in the UK, including SEN schools.

The idea is that on each day of the challenge schools compete to see who can record the greatest number of pupils walking, using a wheelchair, scooting, or cycling to school.

It would be great for all our schools to join in the fun and to understand the health and wellbeing benefits of active travel. There is lots of really useful information, free resources on the website along with a link to register at [Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel is taking place 21 March - 1 April 2022](#)

## Examples of Initiatives

### Stoke Mandeville Combined School Initiatives PR2, 3, 7, 13, 16, 20

Three schools in Buckinghamshire have achieved the highest level of accreditation for their sustainable travel plans from a nationwide scheme. Stoke Mandeville Combined School, Haddenham St Mary's Church of England School and High March School have all been awarded a platinum level travel plan accreditation with Modeshift STARS.



Bucks Radio visited Stoke Mandeville Combined School and the full report and video can be seen here : [Three schools in Bucks receive highest award for sustainable travel - Bucks Radio](#)

### High Wycombe Church of England School (Initiatives R10, 18, PR1, 7, 19, CU7, P3)

At High Wycombe C of E, the children undertook different activities for Be Bright Be Seen Week and Road Safety Week. The children learnt about road safety and how to keep safe when walking to school in the Winter months. They used PSHE lessons to create posters to display around the school. On Friday 22nd October the whole school wore bright clothes for a mufti day to promote Be Bright Be Seen.



### High March (initiatives PR1,4,20,27)



At High March school the JRSOs borrowed some of our JRSOs banners to run a travel theme stall at the recent Christmas Fayre. They sold high viz merchandise, traffic light cupcakes and brownies. They raised £128 for The Blue Cross. [Blue Cross | We've been helping sick, injured and homeless pets in the UK since 1897.](#) If you would like to borrow these banners for your travel stall or for an event you're running, email me at [Emma.James@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:Emma.James@buckinghamshire.gov.uk).

**If you would like to share your good news stories with other schools and tick off PR4 email me with your story. Make sure any pictures have permission to be shared.**

### **Junior Road Safety Officers (Promotions- Supporting PR7, 20 Consultations P3, 4)**

The Junior Road Safety Officer (JRSO) scheme has been running successfully in Bucks since 2003. JRSOs are children from your school who promote road safety and sustainable transport to their fellow pupils and have fun whilst they are doing it! Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic usually two children from year 5 and/or 6 are nominated and appointed as JRSOs. This can be through an application and interview process, or simply names drawn out of a hat. They can be part of a Student Council or be a separate group. This past 2 years schools have made different arrangements to fit in with Class or Year Bubbles and COVID restriction.

Please register children now to be a JRSO at your school so they can receive their badges and hats. Don't forget to add them to your working group on the Modeshift system under the working group tab and PR20. JRSOs promote road safety and sustainable transport to their fellow pupils and have fun whilst they are doing it! There is a fantastic JTA resource pack on the Modeshift STARS system under the guidance tab at the top of the page. To give your JRSOs ideas about notice boards (PR7) and quizzes they could run in the school.

### **Modeshift Walking Bubble Maps (Walking & Scooting - Travel W8 Promotions - Supporting PR7, 9, 17, Consultations SM1)**

Modeshift launched the Walking Bubble Maps, to encourage everyone who can to 'Get Active' on their journeys to and from school.



Walking Bubbles encourage families that must travel by car to park at least five minutes away from school, creating a safer space for walking, cycling, or scooting to the school. By encouraging park and stride/ride we also reduce the number of cars manoeuvring and parking outside and close to the school gates, which is one of the main concerns parents have when walking to

school. Reducing vehicles and creating more space around schools will also make it much easier for families to socially distance and feel safer. It's easy for schools that are registered with STARS to create their Walking Bubble map.



Simply follow the steps below:

- Login
- Click on the 'Perform Process' button and select 'Generate Walking Bubble'
- Ensure your map is centred on your school (if not follow the on-screen instructions)
- Select 'Save'

Your Walking Bubble map will then be created, and you will receive an email with the PDF version of your map. You will also be able to download the map from the Walking Bubble tab. For more detailed instructions, please visit the 'Guidance' tab and download the 'How to generate your #StaySafeGetActive Walking Bubble Map' guide

[www.modeshiftstars.org/staysafegetactive](http://www.modeshiftstars.org/staysafegetactive)

### Parents' Parking Promise (Promotion - Supporting PR13, 16, 17, Air Quality-Travel AQ 8)

Parents' Parking Promise was developed to encourage parents and guardians to think about how they are parking around the school including ensuring there is enough room for emergency vehicles to pass.

They sign a pledge to promise to park responsibly. The initiative works well in schools where there are problems with parents and guardians parking inconsiderately and dangerously.

How does the initiative work?

Parents are asked to sign a 'promise' to say that they will park responsibly around the school. The promise is returned to the school (usually someone in the school office) who will issue the parent a car sticker to show they have signed the promise. The sticker acts as a reminder to the parents that they should be parking responsibly near the school and as a reminder to others to do the same.

We can provide schools with the following:

**A sample Parents' Parking Promise document.** - This document can be adapted to suit the specific needs of the school, for example it could include road names or locations, and it could also include further information on related issues that the school would like to resolve.

**Car stickers for parents or guardians who have signed the promise.** - These stickers should be displayed in the windscreens of those that have signed the promise to highlight to others that they have agreed to park considerately. For more information and order your stickers please email me at <https://schooltravelplanning.com/initiatives>

This is a picture of our new parking promise sticker:



### Banners (Promotion - Supporting PR1, 19)

Buckinghamshire Council is encouraging children and parents to think about the way they will travel to and from school. Schools can display banners to help promote active travel to and from school.

If you want to borrow one of the new banners to display at your school, please email [schooltravelplanning@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:schooltravelplanning@buckinghamshire.gov.uk) with your school's name, address and the name of your School Travel Plan Coordinator, we do have limited numbers and banners will need to be returned to us after 4 weeks so they can be available for other schools to use.



Primary School Banner



Secondary School Banner

Unfortunately, we experience some very inconsiderate parking around our schools so we are also highlighting the dangers of parking unsafely around the school gates and encouraging parents or guardians to park carefully and considerately (should they need to bring a car to school). But even better, to park safely away from the school gates and walk the last section of the journey. Why not borrow one of our new parking banners, and along with the new parking promise stickers to run your own parking campaign?

We also work in partnership with the Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service as inconsiderate parking can also block access for the emergency services.



Considerate Parking Banner

### Child pedestrian training (Road Safety & Training - Travel R5)

#### School road safety - secondary

There is also a useful site with information on the following site.

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/teenage-road-safety>

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/be-safe-pedestrian>

By walking regularly, children can build exercise into their daily routine to help achieve the recommended 60 minutes of physical activity per day. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, many children in Buckinghamshire benefitted from *Footsteps Pedestrian Training* at school. Whilst we update our training following the pandemic, please note that Road Safety Wales has put together a new online package which covers three core skills:

#### Choosing the safe place to cross

Helping your child to recognise hazards and identify appropriate crossing places.

#### Crossing the road

Enabling your child to practise their crossing skills under supervision.

#### Crossing between parked cars

Teaching your child how to use a safe strategy for crossing near parked cars, when avoiding them is impossible.

Practice should begin on a quiet road and include discussions on the safest places to cross and the risk from traffic.

Try to include a variety of crossings, junctions and pavements with driveways and entrances where children need to look out for moving vehicles.

Learning pedestrian skills is a keystone of childhood road safety and regular practise at different locations will help to reinforce methods that can be used in any roadside scenario for years to come. Watch the short video:

[roadsafetygb.org.uk/news/new-resource-to-support-child-pedestrian-training](https://roadsafetygb.org.uk/news/new-resource-to-support-child-pedestrian-training)

## School Crossing Patrollers

School Crossing Patrollers are an important part of school travel planning and have an important role within the community helping children and their parents/carers to cross busy roads on their journeys to and from school.

Buckinghamshire's 60 School Crossing Patrollers are out in all weathers, twice a day cheerfully helping school children and adults across roads to and from their local schools.

The 1988 Road Traffic Act clearly states that as soon as a patroller raises their sign, even if they have not stepped into the road, drivers must be prepared to stop. Once the School Crossing Patroller is in the road displaying the sign, drivers must stop, and not proceed until the School Crossing Patroller and all those crossing have cleared the road. Drivers flouting the law could face a £1,000 fine, three penalty points and even disqualification

To report an incident please contact: Corinne Randall Aylesbury Vale and Wycombe (West) or Georgina Longley Chiltern & South Bucks and Wycombe (East).

We have designed some banners as shown below which you may see at some schools.



## School Travel Planning Contacts:

**Emma James** — [Emma.James@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:Emma.James@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

School Travel Planning Advisor

**Corinne Randall** — [Corinne.Randall@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:Corinne.Randall@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

Footsteps Training and School Crossing Patroller Supervisor Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe (West)

**Georgina Longley** — [Georgina.Longley@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:Georgina.Longley@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

Bikeability Training and School Crossing Patroller Supervisor Chiltern & South Bucks & Wycombe (East)

You may also find information on our website useful [www.schooltravelplanning.com](http://www.schooltravelplanning.com) or you can email [schooltravelplanning@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:schooltravelplanning@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

## Partner News

The following pages provide some additional information from some of our partners relating to school travel. This includes Bucks Radio, PC Liz Johnson, Road Safety GB, and Living Streets

### Promote your School Travel Plan (Promotion- Supporting PR3)

Don't forget if you are doing anything in your school and want to get noticed in Bucks you can promote your School Travel Plan to Bucks through <https://www.bucks.radio/> [news@bucks.radio](mailto:news@bucks.radio)



Bucks Radio is the new sound of Buckinghamshire, aiming to bring local radio back to the county. Launched by local broadcasters Nathan Cooper and Richard Carr in February 2021. We've been overwhelmed by the support we've received so far and are looking forward to becoming a part of Bucks life. Between them, our team have been working, and broadcasting, in the area for over 40 years, so we understand what matters to you.

Right now, we're broadcasting online, via smart speakers and app, meaning you can take us with you wherever you go. We have the latest news, weather, and travel, and loads of community information, including our free What's on Guide and features like Charity Friday.

We are especially keen to report on and promote any events and activities or positive news stories from schools across Buckinghamshire.... Also visit... when we are able! For more details check out our website: [www.bucks.radio](http://www.bucks.radio)

PC Liz Johnson – Road Safety officer for Thames Valley and Hampshire Police



### Distractions – What are the risks?

Drivers who use a mobile phone, whether handheld or hands free are much less aware of what's happening on the road around them. They fail to see road signs, fail to maintain proper lane position and a steady speed. Are more likely to 'tailgate' the vehicle in front, react more slowly and take longer to brake or enter unsafe gaps in traffic.

Pedestrians too become distracted and make poor choices when crossing the road. They fail to judge the speed of an oncoming vehicle, fail to look the other way whilst crossing or even just fail to look at all as they are so engrossed with the call, app or message.

Mobile phones do not kill us – it's when people become distracted by mobile phones.

Think about how a mobile phone distracts you!

What do you need to do when you walk to school?

What should you be aware of around you?

What does a driver need to be able to do to drive a car safely?



Become ambassadors for road safety. Challenge those around you that think it is OK to use a mobile phone whilst driving or when crossing the road. Keep them and others safe.

### Safe Drive Stay Alive

<https://safedrive.org.uk/>

Safe Drive Stay Alive is a road safety partnership event aimed at young drivers (16 – 24-year-olds) throughout the Thames Valley & Hampshire. Sadly, the live events for November 2020 and 2021 didn't take place due to Covid. 2021's event was replaced with a film that can be streamed online and shown to young and pre drivers for free. The link went out to schools during November and will remain online for a few more weeks. Schools are able to access the film and show it to whole year groups. If your school isn't registered, you can do so on the booking page: <https://booking.safedrive.org.uk/>

Thank you to the schools that have been helping us with the evaluation and hopefully in 2022 we will be back to the live events.

### Winter driving module

Driving in the winter can be very different to driving during the rest of the year with adverse weather and longer periods of darkness making driving more hazardous

To help drivers prepare for driving in winter weather Transport for Bucks (TfB) are promoting their online winter driving e learning module.

The online module contains useful advice for drivers, takes about ten minutes to complete and is totally free to use. The module contains key messages, including:

- consider the road conditions, gritting doesn't guarantee an ice-free road,
- stopping relies on grip between the tyres and the road
- slow down and increase the gap between you and the vehicle in front
- avoid harsh braking acceleration and steering
- make sure your vehicle is fit for the road
- ensure you can see and be seen
- be aware of your vehicle's safety features but don't rely on them
- carry an emergency kit, just in case.

The module can be accessed by visiting:

<http://buckinghamshire.edrivingsolutions.com/ModuleList.aspx>

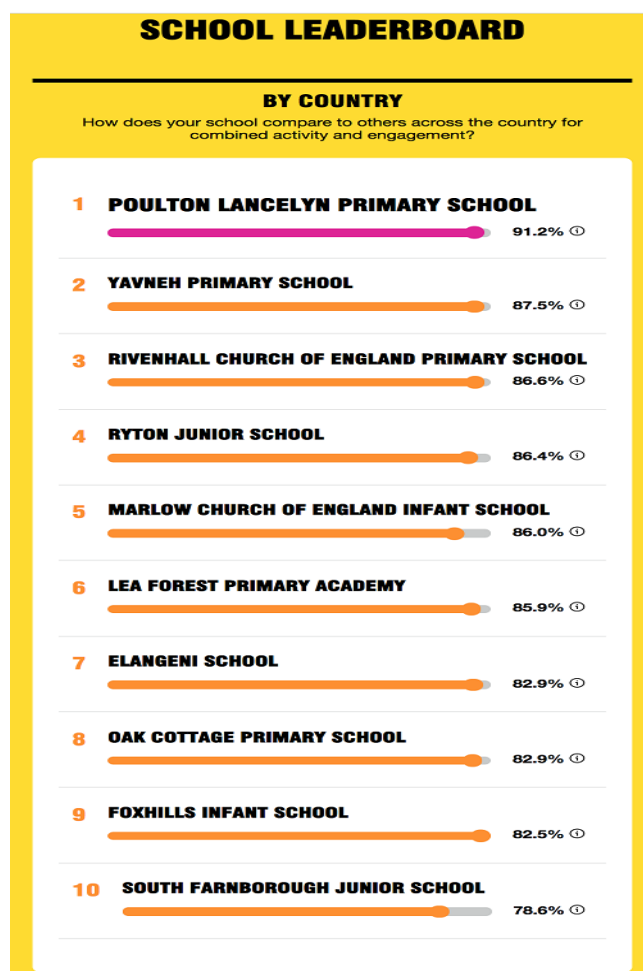
For more information contact June Howlett: [June.Howlett@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:June.Howlett@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)



Buckinghamshire Schools in the Top 10 on the new national leader

board. A local and national leader board feature was added to the interactive **Travel Tracker** that **WOW** schools use to record pupils' daily journeys to school.

We're excited to say that two of our local **WOW** schools have been so active that they both appeared in the Top 10 of all WOW schools in England. See the table below.



Congratulations and Well Done to all staff, pupils and families at **Marlow CoE Infant School** and **Elangeni School**!

During October's International Walk to School Month, **well over 1.6M active trips** were recorded on the WOW Travel Tracker UK wide! A special big thank you to every pupil and family in Buckinghamshire who stepped it up in October and has since continued regular active journeys through the whole term.



More congratulations and well done to everyone at the following **WOW** schools that achieved a Top 10 place on the Leader board for Buckinghamshire in December:

- Winslow CoE School
- Brushwood Junior School
- St Mary's CoE School
- Holy Trinity CoE School
- The Iver Village School
- Iver Heath Infant School
- Steeple Claydon School
- Juniper Hill School

The positive impact created by swapping those car rides for active journeys is hugely important right now, so let's keep it going through 2022!

**WOW: the walk to school challenge**



To view a short video and see more information about Living Streets' successful walk to school initiative and why it works, visit the [WOW Webpage](#).