



Welcome to the Schools' Sustainable Transport Team Newsletter

Website: www.schooltravelplanning.com

Email: schooltravelplanning@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

	Page		Page
Welcome	1	Initiatives To Try	4
Key Dates	2	School Travel Planning Contacts	10
School Travel Planning	2	Other Council Initiatives	11
Announcements	4	Partner News	13

Welcome

Happy New Year and welcome to the first Edition of the Schools Sustainable Transport Team Newsletter for 2024. We hope you had a lovely Christmas break.

How children travel to and from school is more important than ever; we all know the benefits of walking and being outside for our own wellbeing and mental health. The Council would like to encourage everyone to walk, cycle, scoot, or park further away from school, and then walk instead of driving all the way to school. Also catching the bus or train is a fantastic 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.

****Important Information****

To help with encouraging behaviour change to more active and sustainable travel to school, the Council currently has funding for **Bikeability Cycle Training places at all schools**, and for **Living Streets' WOW Travel Tracker**. There is more information about these initiatives later in the Newsletter, but in the meantime, please get in touch if you would like more information about how to take part:
Bikeability Cycle Training: georgina.longley@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

WOW Travel Tracker: amanda.hayes@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Following the list of key dates, this newsletter explains school travel planning, why we have School Travel Plans, Modeshift Stars, and its accreditation process. It then gives examples of initiatives for schools to try and school events from last term. Finally, it includes news from some of our partners.

Key Dates

January 2024

Bus Behaviour - reminder for secondary schools - [Anti-social behaviour on public transport: safety measures - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

February 2024

Children's Mental Health Week 5th - 9th February - [Schools - Children's Mental Health Week \(childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk\)](#)

March 2024

World Book Day 7th March - [Educators - World Book Day](#)

Beep Beep Day - [Brake | The Road Safety Charity](#)

Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel - 11th to 22nd March - [Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel - Sustrans.org.uk](#)

April

Deadline Accreditation Modeshift STARS - 30th April - [Login - Modeshift STARS](#)

May

Walk to School Week (TBC) - [Walk to School Week | Living Streets](#)

June

Anti-idling Day/Clean Air Day 20th June - [Clean Air Day | Action for Clean Air](#)

Brake Kids Walk 19th June - [Brake's Kids Walk | Brake](#)

July

Transition Year 7 (date TBC) - [Walk to School | Secondary Schools | Living Streets](#)

Deadline Accreditation Modeshift STARS - 31st July - [Login - Modeshift STARS](#)

School Travel Planning

The main role of the Schools' Sustainable Travel Team is to help schools 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 particularly important life skills they need to stay safe and healthy on their journey to and from school.

A school travel plan (STP) is a document that sets out how a school will promote safer, active, and sustainable travel to and from school. A good STP includes consultation with teachers, parents, pupils, governors, and other local people in the school community. An STP will:

- 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/initiatives that the school will do 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 STPs. Buckinghamshire schools can register and use it for free. Emma Jackson is our School Travel Plan Advisor, and she can be contacted on emma.jackson@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

There is more information on our website.

[School Travel Planning – Buckinghamshire Council](#)

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. Schools that have demonstrated excellence in supporting cycling, walking and other forms of sustainable transport can then be put forward for Accreditation and Awards.

Accreditation

The Modeshift STARS national accreditation scheme offers five award levels: by adding your school's basic information you will achieve '**Approved.**' As you identify and complete initiatives you move up to '**Good,**' which is what we expect all schools in Buckinghamshire to have. By embedding your STP into everyday school life, you achieve '**Very Good,**' and if you involve your whole school community you move up to **Excellent.** The more initiatives schools organise, the higher accreditation schools can achieve to **Outstanding.** STPs can be submitted for accreditation three times a year on 31 March, 31 July, and 31 December.

To date we have **68** Bucks schools and **one** college who have an accredited School Travel Plan, along with many other schools that have just started their Travel Plan journey. This is a fantastic achievement and congratulations to you all! We have many more schools who were close, so please keep up the amazing work! We really appreciate all the challenging work undertaken.

School Travel Plan Coordinator Meeting (Consultation LA1, S2, SM1)

If your school is already working on your STP, please contact;

emma.jackson@buckinghamshire.gov.uk who can help with March submissions.

If you would like to register, please go to the website <https://www.modeshiftstars.org/> and request a login. Emma can be contacted for one-to-one meetings at a time that is convenient to you.

Announcements



TravelWise Week was an enormous success and now it was the time to celebrate just how great it had been and the activities everyone did in the interest of travelling wisely.

These TravelWise Week Awards recognise organisations that have excelled in raising awareness of sustainable transport options and delivering activities during TravelWise Week 16 – 22 September 2023, and World Car Free Day. See [TravelWise Week – Modeshift – Sustainable Travel](#).

The shortlisted organisations were invited to the Team Modeshift National Sustainable Travel Awards event on Thursday 23 November, at York Racecourse where the winners were announced. It was a difficult job for the judges, but we are thrilled that Tylers Green Middle School, Buckinghamshire were in the running.

TravelWise Week Awards finalists 2023, Best TravelWise Week Campaign (Schools):

- Ashlyns School, Hertfordshire – Hannah Dormer-Bolton
- Chew Stoke Church School, Bath, and North East Somerset – Vicki Hennessy
- St Joseph's Catholic Primary, Blaydon, Gateshead – Shereen Douglas
- **Tylers Green Middle School, Buckinghamshire – Lucy Baker**

Congratulations to all the staff and pupils at Tylers Green Middle School who WON!

And here is why...

<https://tylers-green-middle-school.primarysite.media/media/travelwise-week>

Initiatives To Try

Bikeability Cycle Training (Road Safety & Training - Travel R1, Promotion- PR1, 3, 9 Consultant SM1, S2, P4)

Bikeability is today's cycle training programme. It is about gaining practical skills and understanding how to cycle on today's roads. Bikeability gives everyone the skills and

confidence for all kinds of cycling. The Council receive funding from the Bikeability Trust for its schools so apart from an administrative fee it is free.

The following link is to a suite of tools to help your school maximise the impact of Bikeability. [Tools for Schools - Presentations and leaflets | Bikeability](#)

All schools in Buckinghamshire are invited to apply for places a term ahead of when the training is planned to happen. All schools will be sent an email which will include the link to the Bikeability application form. Please book your places for the Summer Term by 23rd January 2024 if you can.

Full Bikeability terms and conditions can be seen at the following link - [Cycle training for schools | SchoolsWeb \(buckscc.gov.uk\)](#)

For more information, please contact Georgina Longley at georgina.longley@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Funding Available for Living Street's WOW Travel Tracker

The Council has a limited amount of funding from Active Travel England for primary schools to register to use Living Streets' WOW Travel Tracker. See [Walk to School | Primary schools | Living Streets](#).

WOW is a pupil-led initiative where children self-report how they get to school every day using the interactive WOW Travel Tracker. If they travel sustainably (walk, cycle, or scoot) once a week for a month, they get rewarded with a badge. It is that easy!

It is simple to run, and children love taking part. Each year, the collectable WOW badges are designed by pupils in the annual badge design competition. On average, WOW schools see a 30% reduction in car journeys taken to the school gate and a 23% increase in walking rates. Schools will need to undertake a baseline survey before participating in the challenge so that we can monitor the results and report back to Active Travel England. The welcome packs will include information about how to do this. The survey is really quick and easy to complete, it is just a hands up survey that needs to be completed for each class. It should only take 2 minutes.

The WOW Travel Tracker is an initiative on Modeshift STARS and will fulfil a number of requirements towards your school travel plan.

If you are not already using WOW and would like to start using it, please contact: amanda.hayes@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Please include your school's name, address, lead contact for WOW at the school, their email address and also the pupil numbers, with WOW Travel Tracker in the subject line. We will allocate resources on a first come first served basis.

BetterPoints - Move More in '24.

For children over 14 and adults, Move More in 24 is the new year focus for the [BetterPoints Bucks](#) programme. The aim is to encourage people to incorporate more physical activity into their lives which will have the benefit of improving fitness, health, and wellbeing.

By signing up to the App, you could even get rewarded for travelling sustainably to school. Just doing something to increase your heart rate for a short time can have so many benefits.

BetterPoints is a free mobile app that works as a motivational tool to encourage people to take part in more physical activity by offering rewards. The points earned can be converted into vouchers to spend in local and national high street shops or given to local charities as a monetary donation. If you want to find out more and 'Move More in 24', download the [BetterPoints](#) app today.

Footsteps New online Training Programme launching January 2024. (Travel initiative R5 supporting PR1, 3, 9 and CU7 Consultation SM1, S1, P4)

As Parents or Guardians, we are very protective of our children and sometimes make all the necessary decisions about crossing roads without involving them in the thought process or providing no guidance at all. Many children get driven by car rather than walking and therefore have little exposure to traffic. Footsteps is the Council's refreshed training programme for children aged 4 to 7 years old which is designed to help children become more aware of their surroundings when out and about, including walking to and from school.

What is Footsteps?

Footsteps is a sequential progressive, three stage road safety training programme. It is designed to help children to learn to think for themselves and to improve their awareness of and how to stay safe around roads and traffic. It is important for Parents/Guardians to reinforce this learning.

Footsteps teaches children to make their own choices and decisions about what they see and hear through open questioning. With progression they will get better at deciding what they must do to keep safe in various traffic situations. This reinforces the need for parents and schools to take every opportunity to train their children, as they grow up, to be safe road users. ***The Programme incorporates a separate Parents' Guide for Children which introduces parents to the Programme and encourages their participation in their child's training.***

Although it is important for children to be near traffic in a safe manner, we understand that it may be difficult for schools to find the time to progress all the stages, and sometimes it may prove difficult to recruit volunteers. Schools may wish, instead, to set up a road safety scene in the playground or carpark or even the school hall and encourage children, in a safer environment, how to understand for themselves why we do, or don't do, a particular action and teach children about the consequences of their actions.

Why not have a Road Safety Afternoon for the whole School and invite your local police/fire brigade or even your School Crossing Patroller, if your school has one, to share their knowledge with the children?

There are **three stages** in the programme; each stage builds on the last. Stage 1 is the essential building block for learning how to become a safe pedestrian and includes lessons in 'near and far', 'fast and slow', dropped kerbs, and vehicle lights.

Stages 2 and 3 are further steps but are not essential for schools to undertake if they are short of time, because they can be sent to parents to teach and guide their own children whilst out in the local community.

Each Stage covers the basic "Green Cross Code" with additional aspects of road safety. Footsteps does not teach children how to cross roads on their own, **one of the key safety messages of the Programme is that they must hold a grown-up's hand to cross the road.**

There are **Footsteps Certificates** available for each stage. On the reverse they say what the children have been taught so this will further aid parents when helping their own children with the next stages.

For more information and details of the Programme please contact:

Corinne.randall@buckinghamshire.gov.uk or call 01296 383432

Further useful websites:

[Explore education resources – THINK!](#)

Brake Road Safety - [Brake | The Road Safety Charity](#)

The AA Motoring Trust [The Facts About Road Accidents and Children \(theaa.com\)](#)

For more guidance refer to: [Tales of the Road \(think.gov.uk\)](#)

Modeshift Walking Bubble Maps

(Walking & Scooting - Travel W8; Promotions - PR7, 9, 17, Consultations - SM1)

Walking Bubble maps 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. Schools can generate them for free when they register with Modeshift STARS.

Parents' Parking Promise (Promotions - PR13, 16, 17, Air Quality-Travel AQ8)

The Council's 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.

We also have images you can use on your social media channels and newsletters to support considerate parking:



#BeConsiderate

Image demonstrating that parking on zig zags endangers school children.



#BeConsiderate

Image requesting people not to park across drop kerbs.



#BeConsiderate

Image demonstrating that bad parking can block access for emergency vehicles.



#BeConsiderate

Image demonstrating that parking in bus stops backs up traffic and causes delays.



#BeConsiderate

Image suggesting avoiding bad parking, walk, cycle or scoot to school instead



#BeConsiderate

Image demonstrating that parking on the kerb forces pedestrians into the road.

Banners (Promotion PR19)

We are encouraging everyone to think about walking, cycling, scooting, or catching the bus or train to school. If driving is the only option, please park further away from school and walk instead of driving all the way.



Primary School Banner



Secondary School Banner

Why not borrow one of our parking banners, and, along with the Parents Parking Promise and social media pictures run your own parking campaign?



Considerate Parking Banner

We also have banners that let your school community know you are working on your School Travel Plan or that you have a School Travel Plan.



School Travel Planning Contacts

The School Travel Planning Team is part of the Schools' Sustainable Travel Team. If you have any queries, please contact:

Amanda Hayes – Amanda.Hayes@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

School Sustainable Travel Team Leader and WOW

Emma Jackson – emma.jackson@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

School Travel Plan Advisor

Corinne Randall – Corinne.Randall@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

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

Georgina Longley – Georgina.Longley@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

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

You may also find information on our website useful www.schooltravelplanning.com or you can email schooltravelplanning@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Other Council Initiatives

Be Bright Be Seen (Travel initiatives R10 Promotions PR1,9 Consultation SM1, P4, S1)

Buckinghamshire's Road Safety team would like to remind parents and carers that when buying new winter coats for their children, please look for reflective piping or bright, contrasting colours to help them be more conspicuous on the roads.

Go Drive - Interactive Road Safety film for Year 12/13

Although our primary aim is to encourage pupils to travel actively and sustainably to school, for those who do drive help young drivers and passengers make the right choices in keeping safe, so usually around November each year, your Year 12/13 students would have been scheduled to attend one of our **Safe Drive Stay Alive** theatre productions.

Instead, Buckinghamshire's Road Safety Team have been working hard to develop **GoDrive**, a new and exciting, user-friendly resource to benefit young drivers. It has been created following extensive new research by leaders in the Road Safety industry and will help young drivers and passengers make the right choices in keeping safe.

The main launch is in **March 2024**, but some schools were chosen to be part of an evaluation and have already been contacted. If your school is part of the evaluation process, please help us by completing the registration and delivery of the film. You can register for the film after March 2024 and have access as and when you want to use it with your students. Further information will be issued nearer the time. We propose to continue using **GoDrive** in 2024 subject to the evaluation.

Winter Driving.

Driving in the winter can be quite 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 Road Safety are promoting their online winter driving e learning module. The module can be accessed by visiting: <http://buckinghamshire.edrivingsolutions.com/ModuleList.aspx>

For more information contact June Howlett: June.Howlett@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Mobile Phone campaign

February 2024 starts the National campaign against driving whilst distracted and the Road Safety Team will be promoting the 'Driver Distraction' message with a focus on mobile phones.

As pedestrians, remember "Eyes Up," "Earbuds out" so that you can look and listen for any vehicles when crossing the road and keep looking and listening until you have safely reached the other side of the road.

Play Streets Bucks

Children across Buckinghamshire have the opportunity to discover the joys of playing safely outside their homes as part of the Play Streets scheme.

Residents can apply for a Play Streets session to close their road for a few hours at a time, so that communities can come together, and children can meet up and have fun outdoors. Play Streets already take place in many other areas across the UK and have proved very popular, encouraging children to get active in the fresh air and also helping to tackle social isolation by connecting neighbours.

Residents can apply free of charge to see if their street is suitable for a Play Streets session on Buckinghamshire Council's [Play Streets webpage](#)

Love Exploring App

The free app enables users to get out and about exploring the local area, parks, and green spaces – keeping active whilst hunting for characters using the augmented reality games. Answer questions in the fun quizzes and even have your photo taken with the characters that you find!

Great for all ages, our popular 'Dinosaur Safari' game and Mindfulness Trails are available to help you get your steps in.

[Download the app](#) on your smartphone, select the local park and get exploring!

Partner News

Here is some additional information from our partners relating to school travel.

Promote your School Travel Plan (Promotion- Supporting PR3 Consultation SM1, S1, P4)

If you are doing anything in your school and want to get noticed in Bucks you can promote your School Travel Plan through [Bucks Radio](#) . Get in touch by emailing news@bucks.radio. Bucks Radio broadcast online and via smart speakers.

They are especially keen to report on and promote any events and activities or positive news stories from schools across Buckinghamshire and visit when they can! See: [Bucks Radio](#)

Safety Education Workshops Delivered in Your Classroom- Book Now for The Spring Term (Travel Initiatives R9,11, PT4 Supporting PR1,9, CU7 Consultation SM1, P4, S1)

Start conversations about safety with your students today. Invite the Safety Centre's Education Team into your school for interactive, age-appropriate safety education workshops for KS1 upwards. Safety workshops support and enhance the PSHE curriculum. Covering topics including online safety, early knife crime intervention, drug and alcohol safety, gas safety, emergency first aid and the emergency services.

Sessions are suitable for students from KS1 and can also be delivered to teachers and parents from the comfort of the classroom. All workshops are tailored to meet the age group and needs of each class. Contact the team now on 01908 263009 or email educationteam@safetycentre.co.uk. Or <https://www.safetycentre.co.uk/sessions-in-schools>

Coombe Bikes

(Travel initiative C12,16, supporting CU5,10 and PR1 Consultation SM1,S2,P4)

Coombe Bikes are offering a chance to run 4-hour repair workshops, ensuring all children in the Buckinghamshire area are safely riding (or scooting!) to school. As safety is our top priority, we offer a full-on site workshop that works around you.

A 4 hour on site workshop costs £100. Simply bike to school, park up and we will do the rest. This includes safety checks and minor repairs, cables, and inner tubes only (other parts extra), expert knowledge and advice, and thorough safety checks. Please note should any further repair be required an advisory will be given on the day of workshop. Additional cost(s) may occur.

We recommended up to twenty children's bicycles per 4-hour workshop to allow all bikes to be examined and safety checked. For more information visit our website [Work With Us | Coombe Bikes](#)