



Three Bridges Primary School

Travel Policy

Approval Date: 1st October 2018

Review Date: October 2019

Headteacher: *Temberson*

At Three Bridges Primary we encourage pupils, parents and staff to travel to school by cycling, scooting and walking wherever possible. We already have a robust school travel plan in place using Modeshift Stars online. In 2016 we received our Bronze award and in 2017 we were rewarded our silver award. We are now well on our way to achieving the gold award. We have also been nominated by West Sussex for a regional Mode Shift award for our efforts in promoting sustainable travel and road safety. We work closely with the local authority, the UK charity Sustrans and the Living Streets organisation to make sustainable and active travel easier for everyone. (At present we have our Silver award from Sustrans and we are on course for our Gold.) The school actively takes part in both the 'Bike It' program and the Wow (Walk once a week) initiative and the children are encouraged to use the online travel tracker on a daily basis.

Our sustained efforts in promoting sustainable travel and safer routes to school have helped us to secure agreement for improvements to the safety of our children's route to school e.g. school safety zone signs to be installed on North Road, improvement and repair of the pathways on Mitchells Road and a recent agreement to fund two crossing patrols outside the Upper Site (one on crossways and one on Gales Drive). In the past, it also helped us to get the traffic light crossing installed on Gales Drive).

This school travel policy explains how we encourage active travel to school. We discuss the policy with the pupils and re-visit it periodically to ensure its relevance and effectiveness. For pupils unable to come by foot, scooter or bike, we like to encourage use of public transport, park and stride or car-share.

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 office and ask for Nikki Burrows (School Travel Plan Co-ordinator).

We actively encourage our pupils and staff to walk, scoot or cycle to school as it:

- keeps us fit and healthy (A 15-minute walk or cycle to and from school will provide your child with half of the recommended daily exercise intake)
- helps our pupils develop road safety skills which will keep them safe as they travel further afield and more independently
- helps keep our local air clean, and our streets free from congestion
- develops life skills that everyone should be able to benefit from
- Provides opportunity for families, siblings and friends to talk and socialise during the journey to and from school.

What we do

- We use Modeshift STARS to update and monitor our school travel plan
- We promote safe and active travel as much as possible by using our noticeboard, displays, newsletters, themed events, visitors, the school prospectus and website at <http://www.threebridgesprimaryschool.co.uk>
- We encourage all members of our school community to walk, cycle or travel by public transport for the journey to school. To support this we provide:
 - Cycle training (Bikeability)
 - Scooter/bike skills and games sessions

- Balance Bike sessions
- Pedestrian training through assemblies and whole class activities.
- Cycle parking
- Scooter parking
- Local school trips are made by public transport where possible, or on foot if the destination is close by
- We let all new pupils and their parents/carers know that we promote healthy and sustainable travel to school before the child starts at our school
- We take part in the Big Pedal during the spring term. We came 4th in Crawley in 2017!
- We offer support for children and young people with complex special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities with home to school travel/ transport options.
- For children who come to school via taxi, we have organised a walking bus for them on a Friday. This allows them to take part in the efforts of reducing congestion and improving safety at the school gates and means that they are also able to earn their Wow badges.

Please note that the decision on whether a child is competent to cycle or scoot to school is for the parent(s) or carer(s) to make. The school has no liability for any consequences arising from this decision.

What we ask of parents.

- Please encourage your child(ren) to walk, scoot or cycle to school whenever possible
- Ensure your child(ren) walk or ride sensibly and safely on the way to and from school, and to push bikes and scooters on school grounds
- Ensure that bicycles and scooters are roadworthy and properly maintained. If in doubt consult a qualified mechanic
- Ensure that your child(ren) has appropriate safety wear and equipment e.g. a cycle helmet, appropriate foot wear.
- Ensure your child(ren) can be seen by fitting lights to their bike and by supplying them with high-visibility clothing
- Make sure your child(ren) has a lock for their bike or scooter and that they know how to use it
- Ensure you have appropriate insurance cover for your child(ren)'s bicycle or scooter as the school is not liable for any loss or damage to cycles or scooters on the premises or being used on the way to or from school
- If you travel by bus, can you get off the bus at least two stops early and walk the last part of the journey?

We understand that sometimes there is no alternative to driving to school.

- Where a car must be used we ask parents to drive only part of the way, and drop their child(ren) off away from the school so that some of the journey can be walked or scooted
- If you do have to drive your child(ren) and stop in the near vicinity please do so legally, safely and with respect for our neighbours and local residents
 - It is not acceptable to park or wait on the school zigzags, on double yellow lines, in the bus stop or across residential driveways for any period of time
 - When parking, please consider how safe it is for others to pass by your car especially young children, buggies and disability scooters.

What we ask of pupils

- Ask your parents if you can walk, scoot or cycle to school
- Behave in a way that shows you and the school in the best light whether walking, scooting, cycling or using public transport
- Ride or walk courteously, sensibly and **safely** on the way to and from school
- Push bikes and scooters on school grounds
- Check that your bike or scooter is roadworthy and properly maintained
- Wear a cycle helmet when cycling or scooting.
- Make sure you can be seen by using lights in the dark or bad weather and by wearing high-visibility clothing
- Make sure you have a lock for your bike or scooter and that you use it
- Walk with your bike or scooter when crossing roads.
- Find a safe place to cross e.g. the traffic light crossing, the traffic island, the lollipop crossing, away from parked vehicles, a clear view both ways etc.
- Do not wear headphones or use an electronic device while crossing the road.

Please note: The decision as to whether a child is competent to cycle, scoot or walk 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.

This is a new school policy – October 2018