Holmer Green First School and Pre-School
School Travel Policy

Aim

Through this school travel policy, we aim to:

- Assess the travel and transport needs of our pupils and staff.
- Implement sustainable travel options that can be used when travelling to and from school.
- Promote sustainable travel options to staff, pupils, parents/carers and the wider school community.
- Promote and develop road safety.
- Have a designated and active School Travel Plan (STP) co-ordinator.

Objectives

- To improve safety and reduce car use.
- To improve fitness and health through active travel.
- To reduce congestion caused by school runs.
- To improve local air quality.
- To embed life skills to benefit all.
- To involve all staff, governors, pupils, parents/carers and members of the wider school community in school travel discussions.
- To achieve and maintain an accreditation for our School Travel Plan.

Rationale

All members of the school and local community will benefit from pupils, parents/carers and school staff making informed choices when travelling to and from school.

Adopting a sustainable travel approach will have a broad impact, including providing health benefits for children, and their families, through active journeys, such as wheeling, walking, cycling or using a scooter. It could also bring significant environmental improvements through reduced levels of congestion and noise plus improvements in air quality to which children are particularly vulnerable.

Other benefits include increased road safety awareness among our pupils and arriving at school more alert and engaged.

Initiatives

We have developed and adopted a number of whole school initiatives and are engaged with local and national organisations to ensure we are maximising our impact.

We use Modeshift STARS (Sustainable Travel Accreditation and Recognition for Schools) to update and monitor our school travel plan. This is a national school awards scheme that recognises schools that have demonstrated excellence in supporting cycling, walking and other forms of sustainable travel. Our current accreditation is silver which represents a 'very good travel plan'.

We promote safe and active travel using school displays, the school newsletter, emails and the school website.

We encourage all members of our school community to walk, scooter or cycle for their journey to and from school. To support this, we provide:

- Balance bike training.
- Secure cycle storage.
- Secure scooter storage.
- Public transport information.
- Living Streets WOW rewards.

All reception children take part in Balance Bikeability training. The children learn the skills of using a pedal bike such as braking, road safety and hazard awareness.

Throughout the year, we hold Walking Crocodile events to encourage more children and parents/carers to walk to school. These 'walking buses' are themed to encourage participation – for example, funky feet, silly sunglasses.

Annually, we aim to participate in a number of national road safety events, for example, Brake's 'Beep Beep! Day' and Sustran's 'Big Wheel and Walk'. The aim is to help children start learning the basics of road safety through fun activities and to raise awareness among parents/carers and the local community about protecting children on roads.

Living Streets is a UK charity for everyday walking. WOW is Living Streets' flagship incentive-based walk to school challenge to encourage children and their parents/carers to use sustainable travel modes for the school journey. All children in the school, from Pre-School through to Year Two, log their daily journeys to school on the WOW Travel Tracker. Those who walk, wheel, cycle or scoot to school or use park and stride at least twice a week for a month earn a WOW badge with a new one to collect each month across the year.

We understand that sometimes there is no alternative to driving to school. Where a car must be used, we ask parents/carers to drive only part of the way so that some of the journey can be completed by walking or on a scooter or bike. We have published a 'walking bubble' reflecting a 5-minute walking zone

from the school where parents/carers can park and finish their journey to school in a sustainable way. Pupils starting their active journey from outside the 'walking bubble' zone also qualify for the Living Streets WOW rewards under park and stride.

If parents/carers have to drive their children directly to school and park near school, we request that they do this legally, safely and with respect for our local residents. We explain that it is not acceptable to park or wait on double yellow lines, on the school zigzag lines or across residential driveways.

We frequently open our reflector shop after school to enable parents/carers and children to buy reflective items to reinforce our 'Be Bright, Be Seen' message to keep them safe and visible when outside.

The decision on whether a child is competent to cycle or scoot to school is the parents/carers to make. The school has no liability for any consequences arising from this decision.

Local school trips are made by public transport, where possible, or on foot if the destination is close by.

We inform all new pupils and their parents/carers that we promote healthy and sustainable travel to school before their child starts at school.

Curriculum

In addition to the whole school initiatives, we also focus on helping our pupils to develop healthy, lifelong habits through the curriculum. Classroom work focused around school travel and road safety helps to make the travel plan sustainable and allows for regular monitoring and assessment of travel issues.

Within the curriculum, teaching around health and wellbeing explores and explains the importance of good physical and mental health and the links to taking part in daily physical activity. The health of our environment and the links to the use of transport can also be investigated.

All pupils are taught road safety skills. Although they cannot make their own choices when using roads, they are taught the rules and encouraged to follow them. It is important to develop their knowledge of road danger and how it can be avoided. This will ensure that as they start to gain independence, road safety is already well engrained. We emphasise the importance of being visible to others by teaching 'Be Bright, Be Seen' lessons.

Roles

All members of the school community – staff, parents/carers, governors - have a role to play in developing, implementing and supporting initiatives concerning school travel.

The role of the **headteacher** is to:

- Identify and develop sustainable travel options.
- Promote the use of sustainable travel to the school community.
- Publish sustainable travel and other transport options for the journey to and from school.
- Inform the school community about the benefits of sustainable travel.
- Ensure a current school travel plan is in place.
- Ensure a school travel plan co-ordinator is in place.
- Incorporate road safety into the school curriculum.
- Maintain an audit of travel options being used through surveys.
- Support partnerships with the local community and local authority.

The role of the **school travel plan coordinator** is to:
- Liaise with the headteacher and other members of staff to understand the current and future sustainable travel initiatives.
- Review and maintain the school travel plan on Modeshift STARS by adding/updating initiatives and upload supporting evidence.
- Undertake travel surveys and ensure travel initiatives are implemented.
- Identify and record all relevant issues.
- Liaise with local School Travel Plan Advisor to identify new initiatives and gain/retain accreditation on Modeshift STARS.
- Promote the use of sustainable travel to the school community.
- Set up and run the Living Streets WOW scheme within the school.

The role of members of **staff** is to:
- Foster an ethos of sustainability within the classroom.
- Be engaged with current campaigns and initiatives.
- Promote the use, benefit and impact of sustainable travel options to the children through the curriculum.
- Use sustainable travel options for their journey to and from school if possible.

The role of **parents/carers** is to:
- Be engaged with current campaigns and initiatives.
- Discuss and promote the use, benefit and impact of sustainable travel options with their children.
- Participate in travel-related consultations and surveys.
- Use sustainable travel options for the journey to and from school if possible.

The role of **governors** is to:
- Understand the sustainable travel options available to the school community.
- Support the school to pursue additional initiatives.
- Use sustainable travel options for the journey to and from school if possible.

Further Information

For more detailed information about the school's travel initiatives, please refer to the relevant section of the school website – link below.

https://www.holmergreenfirst.co.uk/school-travel-plan-1/