



School Travel News December 2022

Welcome to our latest edition of 'School Travel News'. We have been busy working with schools supporting the delivery of successive School Streets schemes. Many thanks to everyone who has partnered with us, giving opportunities for children, parents, carers, and staff to learn more about the benefits of active and sustainable travel.

In the current 2022/23 school year we will focus on providing further support to the existing and upcoming School Streets schools. This will include continuous assistance in preparing and updating their School Travel Plans and delivering School Travel Assemblies on sustainable travel, climate change, and road safety. We will also run our yearly Sustainable Mode of Travel to School survey (SMOTS) across all schools in Brighton & Hove, so get ready for our hands-up survey coming in early spring! Newly established partnership with colleagues from the Public Health team means that the SMILE project will hopefully come back to all eager infant and primary schools within the city. All schools which have not yet become or are not eligible to become School Streets schools are also welcomed to benefit from our campaign materials for 'Walk to School Week', our safe parking resources, and expert active travel advice.

While our focus has now shifted, our priorities remain the same and include:

- encouraging families to choose safer, more active, and sustainable travel options as an alternative to driving,
- reducing road traffic, easing congestion, and reducing carbon emissions, especially on routes to schools,
- contributing towards the immediate and long-term health and well-being of children and young people,
- providing guidance and support to schools which, by updating their School Travel Plans, are actively promoting walking, wheeling, and cycling to schools,
- allocating Road Safety resources to those schools which, through their School Travel Plan, have highlighted a specific need.

School Travel, Transport Projects and Engineering Team, Brighton & Hove City Council

transport.projects@brighton-hove.gov.uk

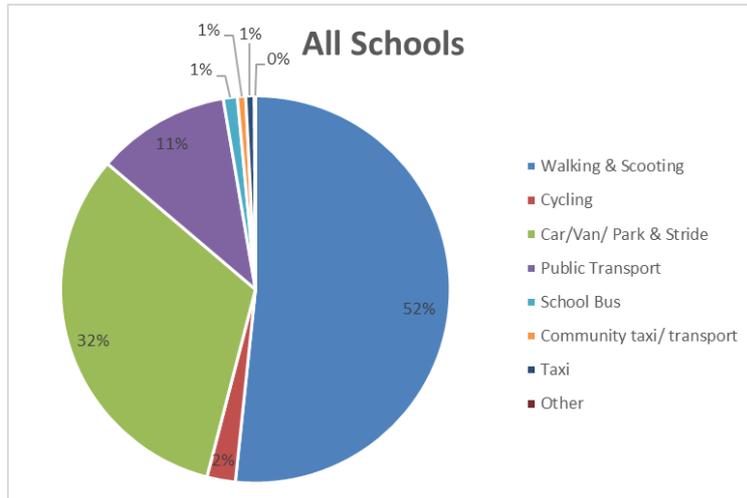
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How do you travel to school?

There are over 90 schools in Brighton & Hove (including independent and free schools, academies, and colleges). The chart below gives a snapshot of how children travelled to school in 2021/2022.*



Each year we gather data for how children travel to school across the city. The Brighton and Hove City Council Sustainable Mode of Travel to School survey shows that almost a third of children travelled to school by car in 2021/2022, with over half of journeys walked, wheeled, or cycled.

Thank you for your on-going support in completing the travel to school survey each year.

*Source: BHCC Sustainable Mode of Travel to School survey 2021/2022

School Streets

School Streets schemes are designed to address issues on the roads around schools at drop off and pick up times, including congestion, illegal or unsafe parking and air quality issues immediately outside of school. School Streets support the safe movement of children and families travelling to and from school by creating an environment that enables and encourages more walking, wheeling, cycling and scooting.

Public consultations have just closed for next six School Streets schools to be delivered across the city in 2023. The schools which we hope will become School Streets schools next year are:



- St Nicolas CE Primary School,
- Hertford Infant and Nursery School,
- Hangleton Primary School,
- Balfour Primary School,
- Aldrington CE Primary School,
- Stanford Junior School.



Walking to school

If you don't walk to school already, why not consider trying it out, or at least walking part of the way? If you need to drive, why not park your car away from the school and walk the last five minutes?

Walk to School Campaign - Many schools across the city take part in the Walk to School campaign which take place in May/June. The campaign is aimed at encouraging children and their families to travel to school more actively. More details about the 2023 WTSW campaign will be sent in Spring 2023.

Park & Stride - 'Park & Stride' simply means driving some of the way to school, parking away from the school entrance and walking the rest of the way. It is particularly good for families who live some distance from school and can't walk the whole way. It has the added benefit of reducing congestion around the school entrance, making it safer for children to enter their school.

Child Pedestrian Training - This scheme offers road safety skills training to children aged 5-8 in schools. The training takes place in the immediate area around the children's school. Training is offered to all schools and is free of charge. Bookings are taken annually. All instructors undertake an enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) check. Training can be booked by contacting the Road Safety Training Manager on 01273 293847 or Child Safety Training Co-ordinator on 01273 293845

School Crossing Patrol Service - Come rain or shine, school crossing patrols are there to help children cross the road safely on the journey to and from school. They have been around for over 70 years, and in Brighton & Hove we are proud to have 12 operating at various sites across the city. All School Crossing Patrol Officers undertake an enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) check.

Finding people to do this job is not always easy so if you think you could help, please call the **Road Safety Training Manager 01273 293847**



Cycling to school

Bikeability Cycle Training - This is a national on road cycle training scheme which is offered to all schools with children aged 4 to 15. All Bikeability training for schools is free. We also offer holiday courses but there is a charge. All instructors undertake an enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) check and will have successfully completed Bikeability training to the national standard.

Road Safety Training Manager 01273 293847



School travel maps and plans

5 Minute Walking Zones - Families who live within a 5-minute walking zone should be walking or cycling to school if possible. Those with longer journeys who choose to drive are encouraged to park safely outside the 5-minute zone and to walk the last five minutes of their journey. Walking is a great way to improve the general health of the whole family and will reduce traffic and congestion around the school gate, improving the local environment for the whole community. We encourage all schools to create *Walking Zone Maps* and *Park and Stride Maps* showing 5-, 10- and 15-minutes walking distances from the school.

School Travel Plans - A School Travel Plan (STP) sets out how a school will promote safer, active and sustainable travel to school, with the main emphasis on reducing the number of children being driven to and from school. A good STP should be based on consultation with parents, carers, teachers and governors and other local people. An effective school travel plan puts forward a package of measures to:

- reduce the number of vehicles on the journey to school,
- improve safety on the journey to school, and
- encourage more active and sustainable travel choices.

These measures increase opportunities for healthy exercise, reduce traffic and congestion around the school gate, and improve the local environment for the whole community.

SMILE Speak, Move, Imagine, Learn, Enjoy

The 'Smile project' is a child-friendly way of practising the '5 Ways to Wellbeing'. The '5 Ways to Wellbeing' are a set of evidence-based mental health messages aimed at improving the mental health and wellbeing of everyone. The 'Smile project' has taken parts of the '5 Ways to Wellbeing' and translated them into more child-friendly language.

'Smile' stands for: Speak, Move, Imagine, Learn, and Enjoy. The Smile project shows how you can do all these things on journeys you make every day, linking physical activity (including walking, scooting & cycling to school) with mental wellbeing.

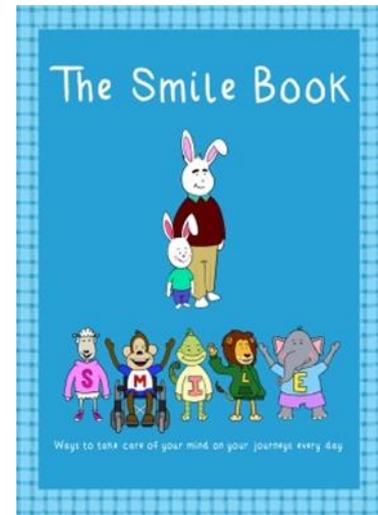
We have developed a set of PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic education) lessons and supporting resources around the themes of 'Smile'. We hope that they will come back to schools this school year. Free packs will be offered to all schools and aimed at use with reception classes.



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They include a scheme of 4/5 lessons, a copy of The Smile Book for every child, and a booklet for all parents/carers. Order forms will be sent to PSHE co-ordinators in Primary and Infant schools. Additional Smile resources are available for other year groups. This is a joint project between the School Travel and Public Health Schools teams. The project won the award for 'Best sustainable travel initiative – Education' at the '2019 National Sustainable Travel Awards' event.



Useful contacts at Brighton & Hove City Council

School Travel Team - School Travel Planning, sustainable travel initiatives, 07833480057,

Child Road Safety Training - includes Bikeability Cycle Training and Child Pedestrian Training - 01273 293847 or 293845

Road Safety Publicity & Initiatives - 01273 292258

Schools Admissions - 01273 293653

Home to School Transport - 01273 295196

Schools' Parking Enforcement - 0345 6035469

Public Transport Team - 01273 292480

Useful websites

Brighton & Hove City Council:

School travel: www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/schooltravel

School Streets: <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/school-streets-brighton-hove>

Bikeability training – www.bikeability.org.uk

Early years travel: www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/early-years-active-travel

School travel plans: www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/schooltravelplans

Transport planning, road safety, transport projects: www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/parking-and-travel

Active Lifestyles: www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/sportsdevelopment

Information about travelling by bus to secondary schools in Brighton and Hove:

www.buses.co.uk/schoolchildren-journeys