

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

Sustrans Active School Programme



We have exciting news to share - our school has been chosen to be part of the **Sustrans Active School Travel Programme**, starting this term! We are teaming up with the country's leading sustainable transport charity, Sustrans, to encourage more journeys to school by foot or wheels. Active travel, such as cycling, walking and scooting to and from school, has a range of benefits including:

- improving health through physical activity
- promoting independence
- improving safety awareness
- benefiting the environment
- reducing the number of cars around the school gates, making our school safer for everyone

We will be working closely with Beverley Gaston, our Sustrans Active Travel Officer, who will help us promote active travel throughout the year:

- organising **activities and events** to encourage pupils to cycle, scoot and walk to school;
- offering **cycling training** to help pupils ride safely and feel more confident on their bikes;
- working to get **better facilities**, including bike and scooter parking;
- **working with parents and carers** so that they can help support the programme.

We understand cycling or walking to school is not easy for every family, and there will be opportunities for all children to participate in the programme.

**SAFETY IS VERY IMPORTANT TO OUR SCHOOL;** for more information and advice Active Travel Policy on the reverse of this page or go to the school website for our Active Travel Policy. Parents can help by accompanying their children to and from school and ensuring children are wearing helmets and bright clothes to help them be seen by other road users. The decision as to whether a child is competent to cycle, scoot or walk to and from school rests with the parents/carers.

If you are interested in helping out or have any questions about the project, please get in touch. You can also support this initiative by watching out for cyclists and pedestrians on your journey to school.

We look forward to seeing more children and parents/carers cycling, walking and scooting to school this year!

Many thanks,

R Smith  
Miss McDowell - Active Travel Champion

Beverley Gaston  
Sustrans Active Travel Officer  
Beverley.gaston@sustrans.org.uk

The Active School Travel Programme is funded by the Department for Infrastructure and the Public Health Agency

## ACTIVE TRAVEL POLICY 2017



At Ashgrove Primary, we encourage pupils and parents to travel to school by cycling, scooting and walking wherever possible. To help with this we are working with UK charity Sustrans to make sustainable and active travel easier for everyone.

This school travel policy explains how we will be encouraging active travel to school. We will discuss the policy with the pupils and re-visit it periodically to ensure its relevance. For pupils unable to come by foot or bike, we encourage use of public transport 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 or your Sustrans Schools Officer.

### **Some of the benefits of active travel:**

- Improving both mental and physical health through physical activity
- Establishing positive active travel behaviour
- Promoting independence and improving safety awareness
- Reducing congestion, noise and pollution in the community
- Reducing the environmental impact of the journey to school.

### **To encourage pupils to cycle, scoot or walk to school frequently the school will:**

- Actively promote cycling, scooting and walking as a positive way of travelling
- Celebrate the achievements of those who cycle, scoot and walk to school
- Provide cycle and scooter storage on the school site
- Provide high quality cycle training to all pupils who wish to participate.

### **To make cycling, scooting and walking to and from school a positive experience for everybody concerned, we expect our pupils to:**

- Ride and walk sensibly and safely and to follow the Highway Code and Green Cross Code
- Check that their bicycle or scooter is roadworthy and regularly maintained
- Behave in a manner which shows them and the school in the best possible light and to consider the needs of others when cycling or scooting
- Consider wearing a cycle helmet
- Ensure they can be seen by other road users, by using lights and wearing high-visibility clothing, as appropriate.

### **For the well-being of our pupils, we expect parents and carers to:**

- Encourage their child to walk, cycle or scoot to school whenever possible
- Encourage their child to take up opportunities to develop their competence and confidence in cycling or scooting
- Consider cycling, scooting and walking with their child on the school run; possibly joining with other families as a 'cycle train'
- Provide their child with equipment such as high-visibility clothing, lights, a lock and cycle helmet as appropriate
- Ensure that the bicycles and scooters ridden to school are roadworthy and regularly maintained.

**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.