

Acomb Primary School

Active Travel Policy

Here at Acomb we believe passionately that sport and healthy living is a fundamental part of a child's education. As part of this we encourage pupils and parents to travel to school by cycling, scooting and walking (active travel).

This school travel policy explains how and why we promote safe and active travel and the ways in which this will be communicated to those affected.

For those who are unable to travel to school actively, we encourage the use of public transport, car share or the use of the 'park and stride' at the nearby Latter Day Saints Church on West Bank.

Updates, events and expectations will be communicated to parents and carers through the newsletter, online media (twitter) and in event posters/handouts.

If anybody has any ideas on how to improve travel to school then they will be directed to speak to the sports and healthy lifestyles coordinator Mr Dennis in the first instance, or the schools' Sustrans Schools officer Erin Gray (erin.gray@sustrans.org.uk).

The benefits of active travel are:

- 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 and pedestrian training to all pupils who wish to participate.

For the safety of pupils:

- the staff car park will be locked from 8:30am and 2:45pm to increase safety for children crossing
- all bays not allocated for parking will be double yellow lined and parents/carers will be reminded regularly of the expectation not to park on these
- parents/carers will be asked not to park on West Bank as this increases congestion, causes inconvenience to residents and reduces pupil safety

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

- ride sensibly and safely and to follow the Highway 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 – this will be mandatory when children are completing sessions on school site
- ensure they can be seen by other road users, by using lights and wearing high visibility clothing, as appropriate.

For the wellbeing 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
- 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 that:

- 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
- this policy covers the journey to and from school where the school has no responsibility or liability
- when walking, scooting and cycling activities are being led by the school there may additional rules and guidance concerning equipment such as use of helmets, high visibility clothing, etc.
- parents are advised to consider appropriate insurance cover (check home insurance) as the school is not liable for, and its insurance does not cover, any loss or damage to bicycles and scooters being used on the way to or from school.

Further details of the schools commitment to Active Travel can be seen in the yearly 'Travel Plan' completed for ModeShift stars and this can be viewed on request.