



Travelling to School Guidance

At Avon House Preparatory School we encourage pupils, parents and staff to travel to school by walking, cycling and scooting wherever possible.

This school Travel Policy explains how Avon House will be encouraging active travel to school. We discuss the policy with the pupils and re-visit it periodically to ensure its relevance. This policy has been agreed with the Head Teacher, the SLT and the Board of Governors. This policy links to Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

For pupils and staff who are unable to walk, cycle or scoot their whole journey to and from school, we encourage the use of public transport, car share and park and stride. The school is aware that there are key times when dropping off or collecting a child from school may create pinch points, but parking away from school and walking in is beneficial to the well-being of all.

What are the benefits of active travel?

- improves mental health leading to improved attendance and academic success
- improves physical health, helping pupils to achieve the recommended minimum of 60 minutes of physical activity per day
- promotes independence and improves road safety awareness
- reduces congestion and noise in the community
- improves air quality around the school

In order to ensure as many pupils as possible are given the opportunity to realise these benefits we each have an important role to play:

Staff

We will encourage pupils to travel to and from school more safely and actively by:

- promoting the benefits of active travel
- celebrating the achievements of those who travel actively to school
- raising awareness of the air quality benefits of active travel
- providing cycle and scooter storage on the school site
- ensuring we update our School Travel Plan annually and that it is accredited under the TfL STARS (Sustainable Travel: Active, Responsible, Safe) scheme
- working with our Borough school travel and road safety officers to deliver interventions and activities that promote active, safe and responsible travel to school
- maintaining our gold accreditation by continuing with regular active travel initiatives
- cycle safety and cycling proficiency for Years 5 and 6

Pupils

To make travel a positive experience for everybody concerned, we expect our pupils to:

- behave in a sensible, safe and respectful manner and to consider the needs of others when travelling
- use lights and high-visibility clothing where appropriate and consider wearing a cycle helmet
- check that their bicycle or scooter is roadworthy and well maintained
- follow the rules of the road (Highway Code) when travelling

Pupils travelling to and from school by themselves

Some Pupils in Year 6 are permitted to travel to and from school by themselves in preparation for secondary school. Before a pupil is allowed to travel by themselves a home school partnership agreement is signed by the Head and the parent. We will ensure that the pupil is carrying a mobile phone with emergency contact numbers on it. The pupil's mobile device is held in the school office during the day and the pupil will sign for it as they leave either at 3.40pm or after school clubs at 4.30pm. Holding a pupils mobile phone in the school office is only for those who are making the whole journey either on foot or by public transport but does not apply to those pupils who meet a parent or carer a short distance from the school site.

To aid pupils in this step as a school we have:

- Ensured the pupil has done some road safety training
- Ensure they attend Junior citizenship with the local authority
- Bikeability course (as appropriate)

If a child is travelling independently to school and has not arrived by 8.30am the office will ensure communication is undertaken with parents to establish that the child left home and the approximate time they left home.

On occasion we will allow a Year 6 pupil to walk to a designated place and meet their parent or carer, but the child will not carry a mobile device. We are aware there are risks to pupils carrying a device and so guidance is given to pupils before they start travelling independently.

Parents and Carers

For the wellbeing of our pupils, we expect parents/carers to:

- encourage their child to travel actively to school
- consider walking, cycling or scooting with their child
- encourage their child to take up opportunities to develop their competence and confidence in walking, cycling and scooting
- provide their child with safety equipment as appropriate, which may include high-visibility clothing, lights, cycle helmet and a lock
- ensure that the bicycles and scooters ridden to school are roadworthy and well maintained

Parents and carers are reminded that they are responsible for the safety of their child on the journey to and from school.



Avon House welcomes ideas on how to promote or provide new opportunities for active travel and how to improve safety or air quality around the school.

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Reviewed August 2020 AC
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