

Somers Heath Primary School



Active Travel Policy

At Somers Heath, we encourage pupils, parents and staff to travel actively to school by walking, cycling and scooting wherever possible. This school travel policy explains how Somers Heath will be encouraging active travel. We will discuss the policy with the pupils and re-visit it periodically to ensure its relevance. 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.

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

To ensure as many pupils as possible are given the opportunity to receive 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 (parents/carers must provide their own lock)
- Arranging *Bikeability* training for pupils in upper KS2 and *Scooterbility* training for pupils in KS1
- Ensuring we update our school travel plan annually and that it is accredited under TfL STARS (Sustainable Travel: Active, Responsible, Safe) scheme
- Working with our borough school travel advisor and road safety officers to deliver interventions and activities that promote active, safe and responsible travel to school

Pupils

To make active 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

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
- If you must drive, being considerate of how you park

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

Somers Heath would like to thank you in advance for supporting our travel policy. If you have any ideas on how to further promote or provide new opportunities for active travel, please let us know. Additionally, we would be interested to hear your ideas of how to improve safety or air quality around our school.

Policy adopted:

September 2024

Review

September 2026