



Sustainable Travel to School Strategy

Parents Guide



Cutting Child Miles

The school journey in Bournemouth

Bournemouth has the highest percentage of car journeys to school out of all the authorities in the South West Region. 36 % travel by car.

This leaflet is to introduce parents to our Sustainable Travel to School Strategy. The strategy promotes a move away from private car use for travel to school and encourages more **walking, cycling or travelling by bus.**

The move to sustainable travel options is an important step towards improving the health of our children, our environment and the quality of life in our community.

Parental choice in Bournemouth has led to **68% of our children not attending their nearest school.**

This is one of the main reasons why Bournemouth has the highest rate of **'car journeys to school'** out of all the authorities in the South West region.

This represents a major obstacle for the strategy as many pupils live too far away to walk or cycle to their preferred school. Many children not only cross



the borough, but also borough and county borders to travel to their chosen, faith or selective school.

Although we have already achieved our government target to reduce car use by 3% in the 5 years to 2011. Our aim with your help is to continue this downward trend.

The strategy, accessible via our website, is a comprehensive working document that will be reviewed annually. It contains data and policy initiatives and provides



“The journeys people make when young will influence their preferences and habits in adulthood.”

Louise Ellman MP

a resource for schools and information for parents making decisions about travel choices.

We would like to encourage parents to consider the implications of travel when deciding on a new primary or secondary **before** expressing a preference.

We are fully committed to promoting walking, cycling, and for longer distances greater use of buses. Walking represents the greatest scope to reduce car journeys to school. We have evidence from our postcode data analysis that 2569 pupils (26%) who live within the walk thresholds, still travel by car! We believe it is reasonable on health grounds alone that all parents and pupils who live within these practical walking & cycling thresholds choose these as their normal travel to school options.

The recognised cycle threshold at Secondary is 3.2km/2 miles

In the short term, success can be measured as a decrease in the number of car trips being made by pupils who live **within** walking distance of their school.

In the longer term success would be measured by an increase in the number of pupils choosing a school **within** walking or cycling distance of home and to use/take up bus travel for unavoidable longer journeys.

Recognised walk thresholds

- 800m/ ½ mile for Infant and Primary Schools.
- 2km/¼ miles for Secondary Schools.



The provision of school transport is becoming more complicated

The positives are that the majority of those living within walking or cycling distances of their school **do** walk or cycle. During the school travel plan process pupils expressed a preference to walk or cycle to school with friends which indicates a big potential for sustainable travel.

It has also emerged that parents' main desire is for a good school close to where they live. Consequently, if there are sufficiently attractive schools located where people live, sustainable travel becomes the default choice. We will work towards making local schools more attractive to local people.

Data collected for travel modes from School Census 2009 (Compulsory School Age 5-15) shows

Aged 5-15	Jan 2009	car (including vans and taxis)	car share	public transport	walking	cycling	other
Bournemouth		36.8%	1.6%	14.4%	40.8%	5.7%	0.6%
National		27.2%	2.9%	17.5%	49.5%	2.1%	0.7%
South West		28.7%	3.4%	16.8%	47.6%	2.7%	0.8%

In the 11-15 age secondary school category the travel mode data reveals cycling to our schools in Bournemouth at 10.1% which is fantastic! This compares to the national figure of 3.2% and shows the demand for good cycling infrastructure on the journey to school.



“ Young people deserve safe and affordable travel to education, leisure and employment. ”

Louise Ellman MP



The challenges faced in the provision of school transport are, however, complex, with various initiatives such as personalised learning options for 14-19 year olds and extension of school hours expanding educational opportunities to young people.

In this 'anywhere to anywhere' environment the most realistic solution is the provision of a comprehensive public transport network that meets the needs of the majority, and is affordable to users. One encouraging sign is that recent local transport studies and some secondary school travel plans have identified students would support use

of public transport where a discounted pass is available.

Our intention is to maintain the existing public transport network, supplement or subsidise the public transport network as far as possible where commercial services are not available, seek improved quality and reduce cost of travel to students. "Fear factors" mean this option is less likely to lead to significantly greater numbers travelling to primary schools by bus and therefore options for dedicated bus transport to primary school sites (similar to the USA's yellow bus system) will only be considered in the long term, and subject to Central Government Funding.

Facts & Figures



- There are currently 20,290 pupils attending schools in Bournemouth. 10,259 Primary, 9773 Secondary and 258 Special¹.
- 13,811 or 68% of pupils do not attend their nearest school².
- Approximately 7,236 pupils (36%) are driven to school on a daily basis².
- The journey to school largely coincides with peak commuter traffic and represents 20% of all vehicles at these times.
- Percentage of Year 6 school population aged 10/11 in 2009 undertaking the Bournemouth Level 2 cycle training scheme is 38.5% i.e. 590 pupils.
- As at March 2010 we have 37 LEA schools out of 39 schools who have a School Travel Plan (STP) plus 1 Independent school.
- 20.8% of Bournemouth & Poole reception age pupils are overweight or obese and by Year 6, 28.7% are in this category. (NHS Bournemouth & Poole Healthy Weight Management Programme 2008/9).

- We provide a School Crossing Patrol Service at 46 sites in the Borough.
- Child Pedestrian skills training (based on the nationally recognised Kerbcraft model) is given to 6 & 9 year olds each year. Approx 1750 pupils per year receive this training.
- We have 20 mph zones around 18 School sites in Bournemouth.

The Strategy includes:

- Programmes for minor infrastructure improvements such as safe pedestrian access, 20 mph zones and better signage.
- Continued support for specific promotions such as National Walk to School Week, Walk on Wednesday campaigns, Walky Wheely Wednesdays and Walking Weeks each term.
- Work with Sustrans (Sustainable Transport) on 'Links to Schools' projects to improve walking and cycling access to a number of schools in Bournemouth.



Further information

www.gettingabout.info

Includes accessible transport information for public transport, dedicated school bus routes, mobility, walking, cycling, community transport plus a journey planner between specific postcodes and key local destinations.

www.bournemouth.lookingahead.info

A resource for young people looking to go on to Further Education or other training.

www.bournemouth.gov.uk

The full strategy is published on the council website under Planning & Transport section. Go to the Transport and Travel tab then School Travel Plans tab to view the link. There's additional information on Road Safety, Education & Training, Road Safety Campaigns, School Crossing Patrols, Cycle Training, Local Travel, St James Home Zone, North-South Cycling & Walking Route and more.

www.bournemouth.gov.uk/localtravel

The local travel tab will take you directly to the travel section. The full strategy is published under School Travel Plans tab.

www.carsharedorset.com

The site has been designed to enable you to carshare in and around Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole.

www.travelinesw.com

UK's No 1 website for integrated public transport information.

Contact details

Sustainable School Travel

01202 454652

Road Safety Engineering, Collision Investigation and Prevention

01202 454871

Road Safety Education, Training & Publicity

01202 454654

School Crossing Patrol & Cycle Training Courses

01202 454636

Cycling Officer

01202 451194

Public Transport Officer

01202 454645

Passenger Transport – School Bus Permits & SEN Travel Assistance

01202 458944

Bournemouth Information Service – Children Services

General Enquiries number

01202 456222

Mon – Thurs 9 am – 4.30 pm

Fri – 9am – 4pm

Road Safety Team

Planning & Transport
Town Hall Annexe, St Stephens Rd
Bournemouth BH2 6EA

E: roadsafety@bournemouth.gov.uk
www.bournemouth.gov.uk/localtravel
www.GettingAbout.info

¹ Data taken from School Census Jan 2010

² Travel Mode Data – Jan 2009





“ Travelling to school by walking or cycling is a major opportunity to promote increased physical activity in children and reducing dependence on private car transport. ”

Louise Ellman MP
Chairman of the House of Commons
Transport Committee