

Stannington First School



Travel to and from school & Active Travel Policy

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Next review	July 2021
Chair of Governors	Keith Taylor
Headteacher	Alexandra Palmer

Statement of intent

At Stannington First School we are committed to ensuring all pupils are able to travel to and from school safely and also to promoting active and sustainable travel to and from school.

Regular physical activity is important from an early age to promote good physical and mental health. The school journey is an important opportunity to establish regular physical activity for children by encouraging, and making it possible, for children to walk, cycle or scoot to school.

It is Stannington First School's aim to normalise walking, cycling and scooting to school and to achieve this, we incorporate sustainable and active travel within our school curriculum and wider school culture. We use the Living Streets travel tracker on a daily basis, to monitor travel to and from school and we also participate with the Modeshift Stars Education accreditation scheme.

This document details the procedures that are in place to ensure pupils can travel safely to and from school and also sets out the school's aim of ensuring travel is sustainable and encourages our pupils to be active. This document accompanies our school Travel Plan.

School Travel Plan – this plan details the school's travel arrangements and outlines objectives and measures aimed at encouraging all members of the school community to make use of sustainable travel options where possible.

1. Legal framework

1.1. This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Education Act 1996
- DfE (2014) 'Home to school travel and transport guidance'

2. Eligibility for free transport provided by the LA

This section details the eligibility criteria that a pupil needs to meet to receive free transport to and from school provided by the LA. You can find further information on how an LA determines whether a pupil is eligible in the DfE's '[Home to school travel and transport guidance](#)'. Please note that a pupil will only be eligible for free transport if they attend a 'qualifying school'. Qualifying schools are:

- *Community, foundation or voluntary schools.*
- *Community or foundation special schools.*
- *Non-maintained special schools.*
- *PRUs.*
- *Maintained nursery schools.*
- *Academies, including free schools and UTCs.*
- *City technology colleges (CTCs) or city colleges for the technology of the arts (CCTA).*

- 2.1. The LA is required to provide free transport to and from school for a pupil that is of compulsory school age (5 to 16) and that meets any of the following criteria:
- The pupil is living outside of the statutory walking distance of the nearest suitable school:
 - **[Pupils aged between 5 and 7]** The statutory walking distance is 2 miles
 - **[Pupils aged between 8 and 16]** The statutory walking distance is 3 miles
 - The pupil cannot reasonably be expected to walk to school because of their mobility problems or other health and safety concerns related to SEND.
 - The pupil cannot reasonably be expected to walk the route to school because the nature of the route is unsafe to walk.
 - The pupil is entitled to free school meals or their parents are in receipt of maximum Working Tax Credit **and**:
 - **[Pupils aged between 8 and 10]** The nearest suitable school is over 2 miles away
 - **[Pupils aged between 11 and 16]** The school is between 2 and 6 miles away and there are not three or more suitable nearer schools; or
- 2.2. It is at the LA's discretion to decide whether to provide free transport arrangements for pupils that do not meet the eligibility criteria.
- 2.3. The school encourages parents to check whether their child is eligible for free transport via the government's '[Help with home to school transport](https://www.gov.uk/help-home-school-transport)' webpage (<https://www.gov.uk/help-home-school-transport>).
- 2.4. Once the LA has determined that a pupil is eligible for free transport, this transport should continue for the whole academic year, even if the pupil's circumstances change.
- 2.5. The LA arranges travel for the pupil in line with its 'Home to school travel and transport guidance'.

3. Arranged transport

- 3.1. Pupils travelling to and from school by LA arranged transport are made aware that they are representing the school when using this transport.
- 3.2. Pupils are expected to act in line with the principles within the school's Behaviour Policy
- 3.3. If a pupil behaves inappropriately during a journey, sanctions will be imposed in line with the school's Behaviour Policy

- 3.4. Pupils act in line with the driver's instructions at all times during a journey, e.g. wearing seatbelts.
- 3.5. The service provider has the right to withdraw transport services for any pupil who persistently behaves inappropriately on journeys.
- 3.6. Drivers of minibuses are subject to DBS checks and follow a code of conduct established by the service provider.
- 3.7. Parents are made aware that drivers of regular bus services are not subject to regular DBS checks.
- 3.8. In some circumstances, the LA may deem it suitable to arrange a pupil to be transported to and from school in a taxi. This will be agreed between the pupil's parents, the school and the LA.

4. Modes of travel

At Stannington First School, we encourage pupils and parents to travel to school by cycling, scooting and walking (**active travel**) wherever possible. We discuss this policy with the pupils and re-visit it periodically to ensure its relevance.

For pupils unable to travel to school actively, we encourage use of car share as public transport to the school site is impractical and infrequent. Some of 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 or scoot to school frequently the school will:

- actively promote cycling and scooting as a positive way of travelling
- celebrate the achievements of those who cycle and scoot to school
- provide cycle and scooter storage on the school site
- provide high quality cycle training to all pupils who wish to participate

Walking

- 4.1. Pupils are encouraged to walk to school where it is safe and practicable to do so.
- 4.2. Pupils are encouraged to walk with parents/carers and along safe routes that are pedestrian friendly.

- 4.3. During the winter months, pupils are advised to wear reflective clothing or accessories when they walk to and from school. This message is reinforced in school during PSHE lessons, school assemblies and themed weeks.

Driving - Park and Stride/Ride

- 4.4. Where parents choose to drive their children to school, they are encouraged to car share where practicable and to park away from the front of the school, in designated areas, and walk, cycle or scoot the remaining distance. We call this Park and Stride or Park and Ride.
- 4.5. Parents are reminded that if they are driving close to the school premises, they must drive slowly and carefully and park in designated areas.
- 4.6. The school actively encourages our 'park and stride' aim.

Cycling and Scooting

- 4.7. Pupils are encouraged to cycle/scoot where it is safe and practicable to do so.
- 4.8. Cycle and scooter parking is available on the school premises.

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
- Wear a cycle helmet
- 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
- Consider cycling or scooting with their child on the school run, possibly joining with other families
- Provide their child with equipment such as high-visibility clothing, lights and cycle helmet
- 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.*

5. Traveling to and from school alone

- 5.1. As we are a first school, our parents/carers are encouraged to arrange a responsible adult or elder sibling to collect their child from school. Requests for pupils to be allowed to travel to and from school alone should be discussed with the headteacher.

6. Drop off and collection

- 6.1. The school premises are supervised from **8:30am**. If a pupil arrives before this time, the school cannot take responsibility for the pupil as there is no supervision in place, unless the pupil is booked into our Breakfast Club - this is available from 7:30am.
- 6.2. Parents are responsible for ensuring their child is dropped off and collected by a responsible person.
- 6.3. Parents are required to inform the school of the person(s) responsible for picking up their child and keep the school informed of any changes to this information.
- 6.4. A pupil will not be allowed to leave the school premises at the end of the day if the responsible person is not there to collect them and the pupil has not been authorised to travel to and from school alone.

7. Staff travel

- 7.1 Staff are also encouraged to choose sustainable methods of travel where this is practical. The local authority offer a Cycle to Work scheme to help staff buy a bike. The school also encourages staff car share.

8. Monitoring and review

- 8.1. This policy is reviewed on an annual basis by the governing board and the school council.
- 8.2. If you have any ideas to encourage active travel, to improve the school environment for pedestrians or cyclists or questions about travelling to school, please contact the school;
admin@stannington.northumberland.sch.uk
- 8.3. The next scheduled review date for this policy is **July 2021**.