

School & Parents

back to school newsletter

When speaking to schools and parents about travel to and from school, there are three main issues that are a common thread;

- **Irresponsible parking and congestion**
- **Inappropriate speeds and careless driving (around schools)**
- **Restricted ability to socially distance**

As we all return to school it is important to make the journey as safe and enjoyable as possible. The aim of this newsletter is to identify ways in which you might be able to rethink your journey in order to make the areas outside your school a safer and less stressful environment.

If everyone takes one small change, we can make a real difference.

Over the coming months there will be some new highway measures introduced across the Royal Borough to help make your journey safer and maintain social distancing where possible. You may see cycle lanes popping up and filters to slow traffic and help cyclists and pedestrians feel safer on their journeys.



What can you do?

Active Travel keeps you fit and improves mental health. It's a convenient and cost effective way to exercise. No parking problems, no fees and no fuel required.

Cycling can be quicker and avoid traffic jams.

Walking is absolutely free; it's great exercise and you can time your journey precisely.

Park & Stride if it's too far to walk. This means parking a little further away from school and then walking,



scooting or cycling the last 5 to 10 minutes to the school gates. It reduces congestion outside the school and still provides some exercise for the day.

Tips for walking safely

Look for safer places to cross the road, eg. Zebra crossings, refuge islands, footbridge, subway or puffin, pelican or toucan crossings.

Unsafe places to cross include near bends or junctions. Avoid crossing behind parked vehicles. Mobile phones, music, balls are all distractions that should be put away while walking alongside or crossing the road. Young children should hold hands with an adult.

Always use the Green Cross Code;

THINK: Find a safe place to cross

STOP: Behind the kerb

LOOK & LISTEN: All around

Tips for cycling safely

Always wear a cycle helmet, even for a short journey.

Do not hang a cycle helmet on the handlebars where the straps can become caught in your wheel.

Check that all laces are tied securely and there is nothing dangling that can get caught in the wheels.

Consider wearing bright or fluorescent clothing so other road users can see you.

Bike lights on the front and rear are essential.

Further information and resources are available at:

<https://bikeability.org.uk/tools-for-schools>



Back to school
....but not back to normal

