



Through wisdom, compassion and endurance, we aim to make the best decisions for our children

TRAVEL POLICY 2016 - 2017

At Whaddon Church of England First School we encourage pupils and parents to travel to school by cycling, scootering and walking wherever possible.

To help with this we are working towards our Modeshift Bronze award by creating a useable, environmentally friendly travel plan.

We have a School Council team made up of keen pupils which work hard to encourage our families to use leg power to get to/from school. They help organise and run associated events as well as carry out surveys, reporting back to our Headteacher and team of Governors.

Our school is situated in the middle of a village which has residential parking opposite the school. The road is used by commuters as a route to and from Milton Keynes and can easily become very congested which is a danger to everyone. All families are asked to walk to school if possible, and only drive to school when absolutely necessary.

Parking – please abide by the following for the safety of everyone connected with our school and our neighbours.

Cars must not be parked:

Where any residents' access might be obstructed

On corners or junctions that affect visibility for pedestrians or drivers

On grass verges or pavements

In front of dropped kerbs, which are needed for wheelchairs and cyclists to cross

Directly opposite other parked cars as this could prevent access for emergency vehicles

Please do consider parking further away from school and walking the remaining distance. This has benefits for the safety of us all around the immediate school area and also for the health of the children.

Thank you to all who show consideration for the safety and well-being of everyone at our school and in the local community.

This school travel policy explains how we encourage active travel to school. We discuss the policy with the pupils and re-visit it periodically to ensure its relevance and effectiveness.

For pupils unable to come by foot or bike, we like to encourage use of car-share and the option to park on the outskirts of the village and walk/cycle or scooter in to school from there.

If you have any ideas to improve things at or around school for pedestrians and cyclists, or questions about travelling to school, please get in touch with staff at the school.

Some of the benefits of active travel:

- Improving both mental and physical health through outdoor 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, scoot or walk to school frequently the school will:

- Actively promote cycling, scooting and walking as a positive way of travelling
- Celebrate the achievements of those who cycle, scoot and walk to school
- Provide cycle and scooter storage on the school site
- Provide road safety training to all pupils who wish to participate.

To make cycling, scooting and walking to and from school a positive experience for everybody concerned, we expect our pupils to:

- Wear a cycle helmet
- Ride and walk sensibly and safely and to follow the Highway Code and Green Cross 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
- Ensure they can be seen by other road users, by using lights and wearing high-visibility clothing, as appropriate.

For the well-being 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, scooting and walking with their child on the school run; possibly joining with other families as a 'cycle train'
- Provide their child with equipment such as high-visibility clothing, lights, a lock and essentially a cycle helmet as appropriate
- Ensure that the bicycles and scooters ridden to school are roadworthy and regularly maintained.

Please note: 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. Parents are advised to take out appropriate insurance cover for bikes (check home insurance) as the school's insurance does not cover any loss or damage to bicycles and scooters.