

Active School Travel Policy

At **St Patrick's Primary & Nursery School**, we encourage our children, parents and carers to travel to school by walking, cycling or scooting wherever possible. We liaise appropriately with the UK charity Sustrans for advice and support to make sustainable and active travel easier for everyone.

This School Travel policy explains how we positively encourage **active travel** to school. We will discuss the policy with all stakeholders and monitor it appropriately on an on to ensure its relevance and effectiveness. For children unable to come by foot or bike, we encourage use of public transport or car-share.

We welcome any ideas to improve safe travel and arrival/departure procedures at or around the school entrances i.e. for pedestrians and cyclists, or issues related to travelling to/from school. Please contact the school office promptly as early intervention helps to keep everyone safe.

Some of the benefits of active travel:

- 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 our children to walk, cycle or scoot to school frequently the school will:

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

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

- Walk and ride 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 both themselves and the school in the best possible light
- Consider the needs of others when cycling or scooting
- Consider wearing a cycle helmet
- Ensure they can be seen by other road users by using lights and wearing high-visibility clothing as appropriate.

To promote the well-being of our children, we expect parents and carers to:

- Encourage their child to walk, cycle or scoot to school whenever possible
- Encourage their child to avail of opportunities to develop their competence and confidence in cycling or scooting
- Consider walking, cycling or scooting and with their child on the school run; possibly joining with other families as a 'cycle train'
- Provide their child with suitable equipment e.g. high-visibility clothing, lights, a lock and cycle helmet as appropriate
- Ensure that bicycles and scooters ridden to school are roadworthy and regularly maintained. A parking facility for Bikes and Scooters is available near the Front Entrance and is readily accessible.

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.

Implementation of this Policy will be monitored by the Principal and Senior Leadership Team, in consultation with staff, parents and children. Feedback from ongoing monitoring will inform amendments. New ideas and strategies will be incorporated accordingly. This policy will be formally evaluated and reviewed every two years i.e. November 2018.

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**Signed: M. Ryan (Principal)
N. Lynchehaun (Chairperson of Governors)**

Nov. 2016