

## Ashton Gate Primary School Active Travel Policy

We actively encourage our pupils and staff to walk, scoot or cycle to school. There are many benefits of active travel:

- Keeps us fit and healthy, both mentally and physically
  - Better mental health leads to improved mood, attendance, behaviour and academic success
  - Helps pupils to achieve the recommended minimum of 60 minutes of physical activity per day
- Develops road safety skills which will keep them safe as they travel further
- Reduces congestion and noise in the community
- Improves air quality around the school Improved air quality benefits the whole community when more children walk to school.
- Develops life skills that everyone should be able to benefit from

In order to ensure as many pupils as possible are given the opportunity to realise these benefits, we each have an important role to play:

### What we do as staff

We will encourage all members of our school community (pupils, parents and staff) to travel to and from school more actively by:

- Using Modeshift STARS to update and monitor our school travel plan
- Promoting the benefits of active travel by using our noticeboard, displays, the school newsletter and website at [www.ashtongate.bristol.sch.uk](http://www.ashtongate.bristol.sch.uk)
- Celebrating the achievements of those who travel actively to school
- Raising awareness of the air quality benefits of active travel
- Providing cycle and scooter storage on the school site
- Providing cycle and scooter training to all pupils who wish to participate
- Working with Bristol City Council school travel and road safety officers to deliver interventions and activities that promote active, safe and responsible travel to school
- Providing public transport information
- Establishing easier drop/off and pick/up zones within a 5-10 minute walk of the school
- Letting all new pupils and their parents/carers know that we promote healthy and sustainable travel to school before the child starts at our school.

### What we ask of parents

- Please encourage your child(ren) to walk, scoot or cycle to school whenever possible. Please note that the decision on whether a child is competent to cycle or scoot to school is for the parent(s) or carer(s) to make. The school has no liability for any consequences arising from this decision.

- Ensure your child(ren) walks or rides sensibly and safely on the way to and from school, and remembers to push bikes and scooters on school grounds
- Ensure that bicycles and scooters are roadworthy and properly maintained - if in doubt consult a qualified mechanic
- Consider providing your child(ren) with a cycle helmet
- Ensure your child(ren) can be seen by fitting lights to their bike and by supplying them with high-visibility clothing
- Make sure your child(ren) has a lock for their bike or scooter and that they know how to use it
- Ensure you have appropriate insurance cover for your child(ren)'s bicycle or scooter as the school is not liable for any loss or damage to cycles or scooters on the premises or being used on the way to or from school
- If you travel by bus, can you get off the bus at least two stops early and walk the last part of the journey?

We understand that sometimes there is no alternative to driving to school. Where a car must be used we ask parents to drive only part of the way, and drop their child(ren) off away from the school so that some of the journey can be walked or scooted. We have a park and stride site at Aldi on North Street.

If you do have to drive your child(ren) and stop in the near vicinity please do so legally, safely and with respect for our neighbours and local residents. **It is not acceptable to park or wait on double yellow lines, on the school zigzags or across residential driveways for any period of time.** It is also not legal to park in the bus stop even if you are a blue badge holder.

#### What we ask of pupils

- Ask your parents if you can walk, scoot or cycle to school
- Behave in a way that shows you and the school in the best light whether walking, scooting, cycling or using public transport
- Ride or walk courteously, sensibly and safely on the way to and from school
- Push bikes and scooters on school grounds
- Check that your bike or scooter is roadworthy and properly maintained
- Consider wearing a cycle helmet
- Make sure you can be seen by using lights in the dark or bad weather and by wearing high visibility clothing
- Make sure you have a lock for your bike or scooter and that you use it

**Date** July 2025

**Due for review:** July 2028

**Person responsible:** School Business Manager