

CAN YOUR SCHOOL COUNCIL MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Aims:

- To encourage pupils to consider what would make it easier and safer to walk, cycle or use public transport to travel to school.
- To create a dialogue between the school council, other pupils and outside agencies (**see link with mapping activities lesson**).
- To involve pupils in active research on issues that affect them.
- To reduce traffic congestion outside school.

Reasons for completing the School Council Challenge:

- Most schools already have a School Council
- Travel and Traffic offers the opportunity for the School Council to get involved in a real issue.
- Gives pupils the opportunity to contribute towards the School Travel Planning process

School Council Meeting 1

You will need:

Survey sheet (included in pack).

Agenda:

- Discuss the reasons for coming to school by car instead of walking, cycling or using public transport.
- What are the local problems?
(Some pupils will have highlighted these in the mapping activity lesson)
- Discuss that everyone in school might not hold these views and that some real research would give a more accurate picture.



- Explain that the School Council could issue a survey to find out how pupils travel to school now and what changes would encourage people to use their cars less.
- Distribute **Survey Form** and discuss whether this format is relevant and suitable or if any changes need to be made.
- Decide how the survey is to be carried out and how the results will be collated.

If appropriate, additional or alternative methods to the survey form can be used e.g. a graffiti wall posing questions where pupils record their views.



SURVEY FORM SHEET 1 What do you think?

1. How do you usually travel to school? (for the main part of the journey)	TICK 1
walk	
car	
car share	
bike	
school bus	
public transport	
other	

2. What would make walking to school better?	TICK 1
Improved pavements	
People to walk with	
Less /slower traffic	
Safer places to cross the road/more crossing patrols	
Nothing- it's too far to walk	
Nothing- my parents won't let me	
Other ideas:	

SURVEY FORM SHEET 2

What do you think?

3. What would make cycling to school better? (Tick the three things that are most important)	TICK
More cycle lanes/people to cycle with	
Less/slower traffic	
A safer place to leave my bike and belongings	
Cycle training	
Nothing - I don't have a bike	
Nothing - my parents won't let me	
Other ideas:	

4. What would make using public transport better? (Tick the three things that are most important)	TICK
A bus stop closer to home/school	
Buses/trains running more often	
People to travel with	
A shelter at the bus stop	
A safer route to the bus stop/train station	
Nothing- I live too near school	
Nothing- my parents won't let me	
Other ideas:	

School Council Meeting 2

Aims:

To make recommendations for change based on the survey results.

To prepare to present the recommendations to policy makers.

You will need:

Prompt Sheet (included in pack)

Agenda

- Discuss the results of the survey and the issues that significant numbers of the school community want to be changed or improved.
- Debate which issues are to be recommended (a small number, about three) - these must be realistic and feasible.
(Policy makers need to be identified by the teacher as appropriate to each school.) **see mapping lesson**
- Decide how to present the recommendations - letter/ presentation at a meeting etc.
- Decide how to organise an awareness raising campaign within school - see **prompt sheet** *Campaign Ideas*.
- Which of these would be most appropriate?
- Pupils will find helpful ideas and background information on the Sustrans websites:
- www.sustrans.org.uk
- www.saferoutestoschools.org.uk

Prompt sheet for possible solutions

Please consider the following suggestions and agree on which is the top priority for your school locality. Place the rest of the suggestions in order of importance, finishing with the lowest priority suggestion.

• 5 minute Walk Zone
• Park and Stride Scheme
• 20 mph zones around school
• Brightly coloured school uniforms visible to drivers.
• Car sharing to reduce the number of cars.
• Traffic calming devices to slow down the traffic
• Create a car-free school entrance
• A school shop selling reflective accessories and cycle helmets at discount prices.
• Cycle sheds where bikes can be stored securely.
• Posters in school showing bus routes, times and fares.
• Cycle lanes between school and housing areas
• More crossings
• More school crossing patrols
• Training courses for cyclists and pedestrians
• Posters around school showing the benefits of walking and cycling.
• PUFFIN Scheme (Park Up at a Friend's house and walk with them INstead of driving all the way to school.)

Prompt Sheet Campaign Ideas

What do we need to tell people?

- Explain the issue of congestion, pollution and risk of accidents.
- Display the survey results:
 - How people travel to school
 - Changes/improvements that people want

Where could we present the information?

- Assemblies
- School notice board/website
- Special displays in foyer/hall/corridors
- School newsletter
- Local shop windows
- Local newspaper/radio
- Public meetings

How could we present the campaign information?

- Graphs and charts
- Photos
- Maps

- Speech bubbles/quotes
- Posters
- Letters
- Leaflets/articles

PHOTOCOPIABLE PAGE

Curriculum Links

Citizenship

KS2

Taking part-developing skills of communication and participation.

Pupils should:

- Make suggestions for dealing with a real-life issue, and cooperate with others in a group to reach a resolution.
- Contribute to a simple debate listening to the views of others.
- Make a decision and vote on an issue.
- Participate actively in a group discussion and problem-solving activity.
- Represent the views of others when sharing information.
- Understand how democratic decisions are taken and recognise the importance of participation and communication skills in this.

KS3

Pupils should learn:

- To reflect on ways in which the pupils are already citizens, participating in their school and communities.
- About democratic processes and how these help us to have our say.
- That having discussions and forming opinions about issues and current events are central to citizenship.
- That groups and individuals can make decisions in different ways within a democratic society.

KS4

Pupils should learn:

- About how to take part responsibly in aspects of policy making in their school and local community.