

SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL TRAVEL

Background

The Travelling to School Initiative, a Department for Children Schools and Families (DCFS) and Department for Transport (DfT) joint project, aims to develop a strategic approach to school travel issues, promoting the use of walking, cycling and public transport, and reducing car dependency for journeys to school. It has also set a target for all schools to develop a school travel plan by 2010.

In addition, The Education and Inspections Act 2006 places on local authorities a duty to promote sustainable school travel and consider and facilitate improvements to the available infrastructure.

The Government would also like all schools to be models of sustainable travel by 2020. This follows the launch of the Sustainable Schools Framework, which has been designed to highlight to schools how all the broad issues of sustainability interlink through the whole school and the values that the school holds.

An integrated approach to the "doorway" of *Travel and Traffic* is suggested, to include:

Curriculum - Schools can use the curriculum to cultivate the knowledge, values and skills needed to address travel and traffic issues, and reinforce this through positive activities in the school and the local area.

Campus - Schools can review the impact of their travel behaviour and establish policies and facilities for promoting safe walking and cycling, car sharing and public transport to lessen their environmental impact and promote healthier lifestyles.

Community- Schools can use their communications, services, contracts and partnerships to promote awareness of travel decisions.

The Travel to School Initiative addresses the Campus and Community strands very well but schools sometimes need help to embed and develop the sustainability issues related to school travel in the curriculum. The following lessons/activities have therefore been designed by teachers, for teachers,.

They are intended to be fun, interesting, relevant and easy to use!