

**Is your school a STAR?**

North Yorkshire County Council has signed up to Modeshift STARS. This is a National school’s awards scheme that has been established to recognise schools that have demonstrated excellence in supporting walking, cycling and other forms of sustainable transport. The scheme encourages schools right across the country to join a major effort to increase levels of sustainable and active travel and in doing so, improve the health, safety and well-being of children and the whole school community.

The nature of STARS is that it allows any type of school to gain a national award, so long as you show commitment to supporting walking, cycling and other forms of sustainable transport. In doing so you will be eligible to work towards achieving national accreditation. There are three levels, Bronze Silver or Gold and those schools achieving accreditation will receive a special plaque and a dated certificate every year, plus dated logo to add to their headed paper or school merchandise. Most schools that actively encourage walking, cycling and scooting may find that they are well on the way towards the Bronze award already. Bikeability and walk to school weeks definitely count as does walking activities as part of the curriculum. Through participating in the scheme you automatically keep your travel plan up to date.

 Archbishop of York Junior school in City of York has already earned a Gold STAR. The school has achieved national recognition for the hard work the whole school community has put in to travel planning and reducing the number of cars being brought to school, making it so much safer around the school for those who do walk, cycle or scoot to school. Some schools in North Yorkshire have already started working towards their award; will your school be joining them?

The Sustainable Travel team are available to support your school to help you to get going on the scheme. Just let me know if you would like to participate, or simply would like to have more information.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

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