



St Mary's CE Primary School

Date of policy: Autumn Term 2024

Review date: Autumn Term 2026

School Travel Policy

Introduction

It is a requirement for Modeshift Stars that all schools have a School Travel Policy. To actively encourage pupils and parents to walk, scoot or cycle to school as they:

- keep us fit and healthy.
- help our pupils develop road safety skills which will keep them safe as they travel further afield and more independently.
- help keep our local air clean, and our streets free from congestion.
- are life skills that everyone should be able to benefit from.

Aims and Objectives

St Mary's CE Primary School, School Travel Policy outlines what our school will do to ensure pupils safety whilst travelling to school. The policy has been drawn up through the involvement of all staff. We aim to develop a school ethos in which walking/cycling/scooting is regarded by all the school community as the preferred mode of travelling to school. We aim to encourage a safe and secure environment where children can walk to school without the anxiety of cars and congestion near the school entrance. We aim to make clear each person's responsibilities with regard to improving ways pupils, parents and staff travel to school.

Our school community

- We use Modeshift STARS to update and monitor our school travel plan.
- We promote safe and active travel as much as possible by using our noticeboard, displays, newsletter and class dojo platform.
- We encourage all members of our school community to walk, cycle or travel by public transport for the journey to school. To support this we will provide:
 - Cycle training (Bikeability)
 - Pedestrian training
 - Cycle parking
 - Scooter parking
- Local school trips are made on foot if the destination is close by.
- We let all new pupils and their parents/carers know that we promote healthy and sustainable travel to school before children start at St. Mary's (see: Starting School – Getting there safely leaflet).

Driving to School

If you use your car for the school run, here is how you can help:

- Keep the school entrances clear.
- Don't cause congestion outside school, park a little further away and walk.
- Avoid stopping on/ or opposite 'School Keep Clear' zig zag markings. They are there to provide a clear area for children to cross the road safely.
- Ensure children get out of the car on the pavement side.
- Always make sure everyone wears their seat belt.
- All children need a car seat or booster until they reach 135cm or 12 years old.
- Booster cushions should be avoided if possible, the use of high back boosters is recommended as they offer better protection.



Travelling by bus or taxi



- Ensure your child gets safely to the agreed pick-up point; arriving in good time.
- It is essential that your child understands the importance of good behaviour.

Park and Stride

These schemes are suitable for children who live too far away to walk to school. Parents park at an agreed location and complete the journey on foot.



The wording in this publication can be made available in other formats such as large print and Braille. Please call the Road Safety Team: 01942 488250.

Wigan Council

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Starting School

Getting there safely



Wigan Council

Walking to school

Good for you, good for everyone

Do you really need the car?

- Children who walk to school are more alert and more attentive than those who travel by car.
- Walking to and from school helps to keep children fit.
- The exercise will be good for you!
- The walk to school can be used to help children develop the necessary skills to stay safe when out and about.



A walking start means a healthy heart



Safer places to cross

- A traffic island
- A zebra crossing
- A pelican or puffin crossing
- A school crossing patrol



Set a good example by using safer crossing places correctly with your children and always hold their hand.

The Green Cross Code

- First find a safe place to cross then **stop**.
- Stand on the pavement near the **kerb**.
- **Look** all around for traffic and **listen**.
- If traffic is coming, let it pass and look all around again.
- When there is no traffic near walk straight across the road.
- Keep looking and listening for traffic while you cross.



Make sure your child can be seen.

Fluorescent materials are good for daytime.

Reflective materials are good in the dark.



Children should always walk on the side of the pavement furthest away from the road.



Hold your child's hand and don't allow them to run ahead or lag behind.

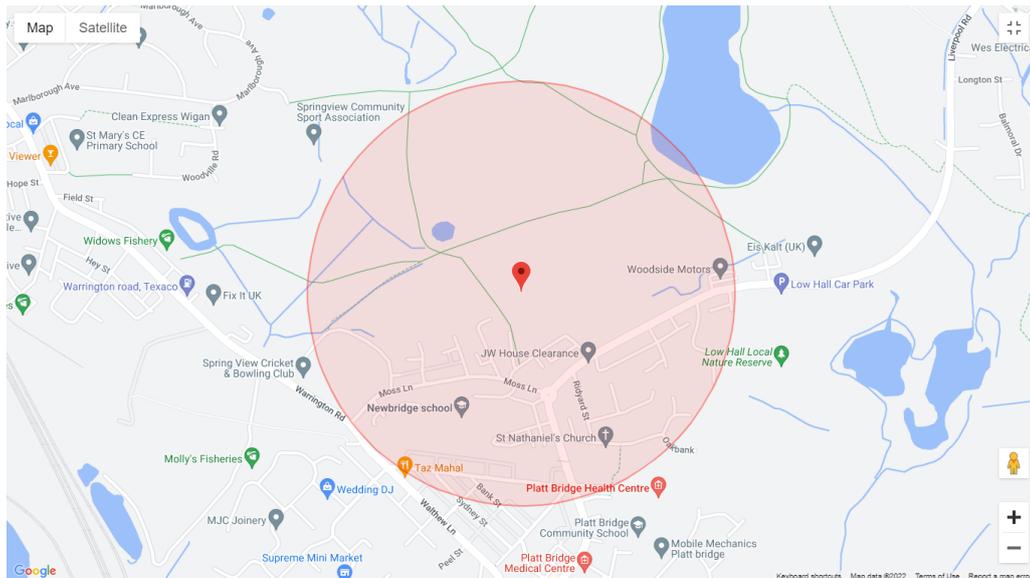
Involvement of parents.

- Please encourage your child(ren) to walk, scoot or cycle to school whenever possible.
- Ensure your child(ren) walk or ride sensibly and safely on the way to and from school, and to push bikes and scooters on school grounds.
- Ensure that bicycles and scooters are roadworthy and properly maintained.
- Consider providing your child(ren) with a cycle helmet.
- Ensure your child(ren) can be seen by fitting lights to their bike 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.

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 5 /10 minute walk zone we encourage parents to park outside of (see: map).



- 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.

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.

Involvement 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.
- Wear 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.

Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored on a regular basis by the head teacher, who reports to the governors on request about the effectiveness of the policy, ensures the strategies are implemented, and cultivates a school ethos in which it is safe for children to walk to school.

This policy will be reviewed at least once every two years. The policy will only be effective if it ensures that the whole school community understands how we can reduce car congestion around school and promote a safer and environmentally friendly way of travelling to school.

Signed _____ Chair of Governors

Date _____