



## Writing your Active School Travel Policy



We encourage schools to adopt an Active School Travel Policy that promotes positive messages about active travel. Such a policy should include recognition of the benefits of active travel to school and set out what the school will do to support it, how pupils are expected to conduct themselves and what support the school expects from parents. It should not be restrictive though and should not put barriers in the way of people who want to travel actively. The policy should be agreed by the school's senior management team and governors. Below is a template Active School Travel Policy that has been written by Sustrans. We encourage schools to use this as a basis for writing their own.

### Template Active School Travel Policy:

At Gaelscoil Éadain Mhóir we encourage pupils and parents to travel to school by walking, cycling and scooting wherever possible. To help with this we are working with the charity Sustrans. As a school, the health and welfare of children is fundamental to everything that we do. The choices we make in the way we travel to school can benefit children's physical and mental health.

This school travel policy explains how we will be encouraging active travel to school. We will discuss the policy with the pupils and re-visit it periodically to ensure its relevance. For pupils unable to travel to school actively, we encourage use of public transport or car sharing.

If you have any ideas to improve things at or around school for pedestrians and cyclists, or questions about travelling to school, please get in touch with Múinteoir Moira or your Sustrans Schools officer via the school office.

### Some of the benefits of active travel:

- Improving both mental and physical health through physical activity.
- Establishing positive active travel behaviour.
- Promoting independence and improving safety awareness.
- Reducing congestion, noise and pollution in the community.
- Reducing the environmental impact of the journey to school.

### To encourage pupils to walk, cycle or scoot to school frequently, the school will:

- Actively promote walking, cycling and scooting as a positive way of travelling.
- Celebrate the achievements of those who travel actively to school.
- Provide a place for bikes and scooters to be stored on the school site.
- Provide opportunities to practice cycling and pedestrian skills for all pupils who wish to participate.

### To make active school travel a positive experience for everybody concerned, we expect our pupils to:

- Ride sensibly and safely and to follow the Highway Code.
- Check that their bicycle or scooter is roadworthy and regularly maintained.
- Behave in a manner which shows them and the school in the best possible light and to consider the needs of others when cycling or scooting.
- Consider wearing a cycle helmet.
- Ensure they can be seen by other road users, by using lights and wearing high-visibility clothing, as appropriate.

### For the well-being of our pupils, we expect parents and carers to:

- Encourage their child to walk, cycle or scoot to school whenever possible.
- Encourage their child to take up opportunities to develop their competence and confidence in cycling or scooting.
- Consider walking, cycling or scooting with their child on the school run; possibly joining with other families as a 'walking bus' or 'bike bus'.
- Provide their child with equipment such as a bike helmet, high-visibility clothing, lights, and a lock as appropriate.
- Ensure that the bicycles and scooters ridden to school are roadworthy and regularly maintained.
- If in a vehicle, switch off engines whenever their vehicles are stationary.

**Please note:**

- The decision as to whether a child is competent to cycle, scoot or walk safely to and from school rests with the parent(s)/carer(s). The school has no liability for any consequences of that decision.
- This policy covers the journey to and from school where the school has no responsibility or liability.
- Parents are advised that the school's insurance does not cover any loss or damage to pupil's bicycles and scooters left on the premises.