

Active Travel Guidance

Yew Tree Primary School



Date of Policy:	September 2023
Responsibility:	Healthy Schools Leader (Lisa Adams)
Review Date:	September 2026
Consultation:	This policy was written in consultation with staff and governors.

ETHOS STATEMENT

It is the aim of the Governing Body of Yew Tree Primary School to support the implementation of policies and procedures which develop the skills our children need to achieve our vision of:

“Learning Without Limits”

Active Travel Guidance

Yew Tree Primary School encourages pupils and parents to travel to school by walking, cycling or scooting (active travel) wherever possible. We promote ‘Active Travel’ events each year, such as Bikeability. We also give children the opportunity to take part in active travel PSHE sessions during Walk to School Week each year.

This active travel guidance 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, park and stride or hop off (getting off the bus a stop earlier and walking the remaining distance).

Some of the benefits of active travel are:

- 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 active travel to school frequently the school will:

- Provide cycle and scooter storage on the school site.
- Promote active travel as a positive way of travelling within PSHE sessions.
- Celebrate the achievements of those who actively travel to school.

- Use WOW Travel Tracker to record the ways in which children travel to school and award badges monthly for those who actively travel to school regularly.

Cycling and scooting

To make cycling and scooting to and from school 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.
- Wear a cycle helmet.
- Ensure they can be seen by other road users, by using lights and wearing high-visibility clothing, as appropriate.
- Ensure they do not cycle or scoot across the playground and guide their bike/scooter to a safe storage area.

For the wellbeing 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 walking, cycling or scooting.
- Consider walking, cycling or scooting with their child on the school run.
- Provide their child with equipment such as high-visibility clothing, lights, a lock and cycle helmet as appropriate.
- Ensure that the bicycles and scooters ridden to school are roadworthy and regularly maintained.

Please note that:

- 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. **However, the school will only allow children to walk home unaccompanied by an adult in cases where the 'Safer Travel' letter has been returned to school with permission from parents/carers for Y5 & Y6 children only.**
- This policy covers the journey to and from school where the school has no responsibility or liability. When walking, scooting and cycling activities are being led by the school, there may be additional rules and guidance concerning equipment such as use of helmets, high visibility clothing, etc.
- Parents are advised to consider appropriate insurance cover (check home insurance) as the school is not liable for, and its insurance does not cover, any loss or damage to bicycles and scooters being used on the way to or from school.

This policy is to be considered in line with our Equalities Duties (published separately) and we will ensure that at all times we will seek to promote equal opportunities and good race relations, avoiding discrimination against anyone for reasons of ethnicity, disability or gender. Appropriate action will be taken in cases of harassment and discrimination.

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 the healthy lifestyle coordinator.