



Sustainable School Travel Strategy

Updated August 2016

1. Introduction

The Sustainable School Travel Strategy sets out how Shropshire Council promotes sustainable travel to, from and between schools. It highlights the work the authority has undertaken to date to promote sustainable transport and shows how effective this has been in achieving modal shift away from car use on the school journey.

This document is updated annually.

2. Why are we promoting sustainable travel to school?

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 requires local authorities to promote sustainable modes of travel and transport and provide extended provision of free school transport for the most disadvantaged families. The Act defines 'sustainable modes of travel' as those which the authority considers may improve either or both of the following:

- The physical well-being of those who use them, and
- The environmental well-being of the whole or part of the area.

Local Authorities must undertake the following to comply with their duty to promote the use of sustainable travel and transport:

- Assess the travel and transport needs of children and young people;
- Audit the infrastructure to support sustainable school travel;
- Have a strategy to develop infrastructure to support travel needs of pupils;
- Promote sustainable travel and transport to and from school and,
- Publish a Sustainable Modes of Travel Strategy on their website by 31 August each year.

The promotion of sustainable travel to school contributes towards many current priorities including:

- The reduction of carbon emissions and improvement of air quality;
- The improvement of public health and reduction of child obesity levels, and
- The reduction of congestion and of road traffic casualties.

These are reflected in a number of Shropshire Council policies (links are shown in Section 6: Further information):

- Local Transport Plan
- Shropshire Local Development Framework: Adopted Core Strategy
- Sustainability Environmental Climate Change
- Shropshire Council Admissions Policy
- School Transport Policy
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Road Safety Policy

The following table shows the current breakdown of Schools and Nurseries in Shropshire:

Table 1: Schools and Nurseries in Shropshire

Total State funded Schools	153
Local Authority Maintained Schools	128
Primary Schools	108
Infant Schools	5
Junior Schools	5
All Through Schools	1
Secondary Schools	7
Special Schools	2
Directly funded by the Department of Education	25
Academy Schools	24
Primary Schools	10
Secondary Schools	13
Special Schools	1
Free Schools	1
Local Authority Maintained Nurseries	41
Independent Schools	27

Shropshire has a mix of urban and rural schools which poses particular challenges in providing opportunities for sustainable travel to school. Many children live more than the statutory walking distances (two miles each way for children of eight years old or younger and three miles for children over the age of eight years) from school, and in some cases are eligible for free home to school transport.

Rights to free school transport in Shropshire have been extended for low income families:

- The two mile limit is extended for those aged between eight and eleven years old so that there is no requirement to differentiate between those who are from low income families and those who are not.
- For secondary school pupils, assistance (normally a bus pass) is provided to the three nearest schools that fall within a two to six mile distance from a pupil's home, as measured by the shortest walking distance.

Links to information on Shropshire Council's School Transport Policy can be found in Section 6: Further information. Table 2 shows the numbers of pupils that received free home to school transport in Shropshire in 2016.

Table 2: Numbers of Shropshire pupils receiving free home to school transport in 2016

Pupil group	Number
Primary school	1,185
Secondary school	3,909
Post-16 years education	342

In 2015, the split of modes of travel for the journey to school in Shropshire was as follows:

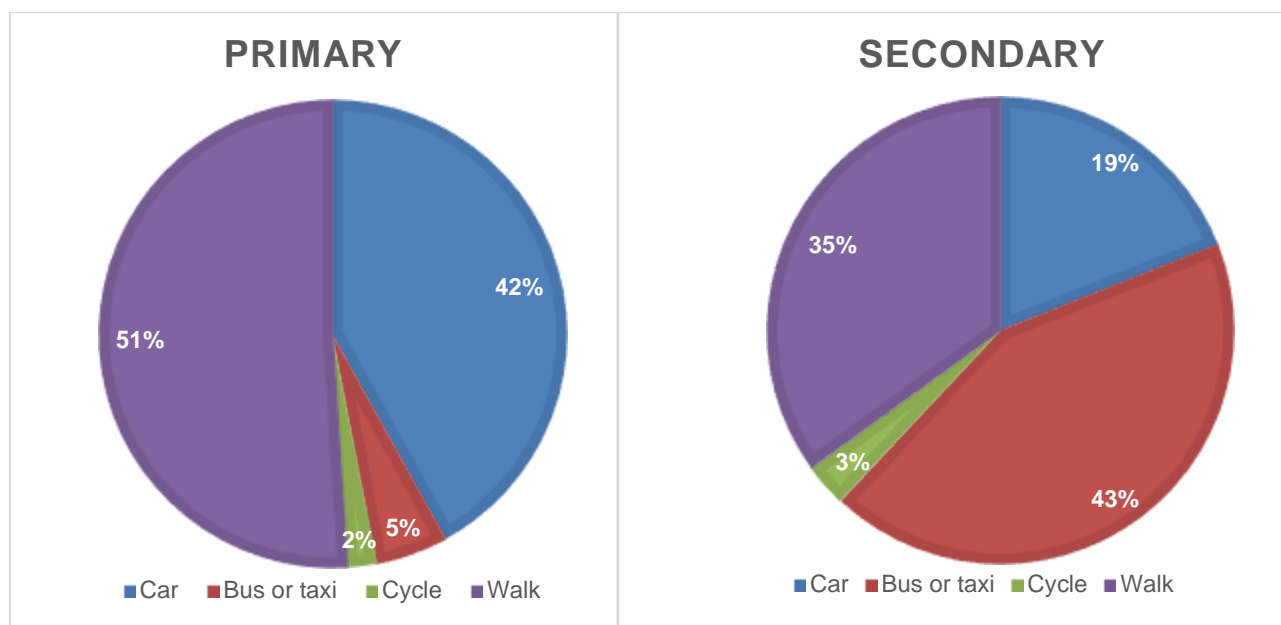


Figure 1: Modal split for journey to school (May 2015)

Future housing developments that are proposed through Shropshire Council's SamDev Plan 2006-2026 are likely to present notable challenges in terms of capacity at some schools in Shropshire from 2020-21 onwards.

In general there has been a downward trend in both child pedestrian and cyclist casualties in recent years, however addressing road safety remains a core element of this strategy. The following table provides a summary of reported road traffic accident casualties relating to children on Shropshire roads in 2015¹:

Table 3: Reported road traffic accident child casualties in 2015

Pupil age group	Pedestrians: severity			Cyclists: severity		
	Fatal	Serious	Slight	Fatal	Serious	Slight
0 – 4 years	-	2	2	-		
5 – 15 years	-	-	10	-		

¹ Shropshire roads include both Shropshire Council and Highways England managed roads

3. Our vision, aims and objectives

Our vision is as follows:

Where schools, transport infrastructure and public transport can reasonably facilitate, support children and young people being able to access education in a healthy, sustainable and safe way.

Our objectives are:

Objective 1	Increase levels of walking, cycling and public transport usage to schools and support the promotion of healthy, safe and sustainable travel choices for children and young people
Objective 2	Improve infrastructure and facilities on and around school sites to encourage safer and sustainable travel choices
Objective 3	Provide safe, sustainable and independent travel choices for parents and young people and equality of access for children with special educational needs
Objective 4	Maintain strong links with schools, local transport teams and services through the development of this strategy
Objective 5	Influence and inform the design and development of new build and extensions to schools to support safe and sustainable travel.

4. What have we been doing?

The following section provides an overview of our activities over the last year (2015/16) and Table 4 shows how these link to our objectives.

School Travel Planning

Shropshire Council offers schools support in reviewing their School Travel Plans and in with a range of travel initiatives such as park and stride, waking buses and specific promotions. School Travel Plans can also be a useful tool for identifying potential highway infrastructure requirements and they remain a requirement for schools making planning applications for new or redeveloped sites.

Highway infrastructure improvements

Shropshire Council's Road Safety Policy enables us to consider which measures will best address defined problems. Schools are required to liaise with their Town or Parish Council regarding any perceived improvements.

'Stepping Out' child pedestrian training

In 2015/16 Shropshire Council delivered 'Stepping Out' child pedestrian training to 63 primary schools (55 schools in 2014/15). Schools with no previous involvement were targeted and 17 schools took part in the scheme for the first time.

"This was fantastic training. My class loved it and learnt valuable life skills. Many thanks for the course. It has helped children to be safe in the local area. Great way of making children (and us) focus on road safety education".

Stoddeston Primary School

'Bikeability' and cycling promotion

Bikeability is a government recognised cycle training programme.

During 2015/16 Bikeability Level 1/2 was made available to primary and Level 3 to secondary school children. Shropshire Council's Bikeability Feedback Survey (July 2016) revealed extremely high levels of satisfaction with the service provided by training provider Cycle Experience.

Road Safety Education

In 2015/16, two road safety officers engaged with pre-school, primary children, secondary school pupils and college students and their staff, delivering road safety education through their talks, presentations and provision of a variety of road safety education resources.

Data review

Shropshire Council undertakes an annual review of accident cluster sites in Shropshire and makes funding available for highway infrastructure interventions where necessary.

A number of data sources are available to help inform decisions regarding sustainable travel to school provision. These data sources include, but are not exclusive:

- Collisions and Casualty data.
- Active travel counters.
- School SIMS pupil mode of travel data.
- Data from individual school travel plan surveys and walk and cycle to school challenges.
- Review and evaluation of school transport arrangements and services.

Table 4: Sustainable School Travel Activities 2015/16

Theme	Activities	Objectives met
School Travel Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistance provided to 18 schools in reviewing their School Travel Plans. Contact with schools in Broseley and Shifnal to develop sustainable travel options in response to new housing developments. Park and stride scheme set up in Market Drayton 9 schools were supported to operate walking buses. Pontesbury Primary School launched their new Walking Bus in July Independent Travel Training for children and young people with special needs, improving independence to and from school whilst developing communication skills and confidence and a reduction in the number of children travelling in single occupancy taxis. 	1, 3 and 4
Highway infrastructure improvements	<p>Road safety/speed management schemes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outside Coleham Primary School, Shrewsbury. Longden Road and Bank Farm Road serving Priory and Meole Brace Schools, Shrewsbury Outside Harlescott Junior School on Featherbed Lane, Shrewsbury. A new zebra crossing and pedestrian refuge on Park Street in Shifnal. Outside John Wilkinson Primary School in Broseley. St Martins. A new zebra crossing near Spars on Salop Street, Bridgnorth benefitting school children walking to a number of schools. A new Zebra Crossing on Bromfield Road, Ludlow, benefitting school children from Ludlow C of E School. 	1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
'Stepping Out' child pedestrian training	In 2015/16, Stepping Out pedestrian training was delivered to 3,043 children in Shropshire compared to 2,566 children in 2014/15.	1, 3 and 4
'Bikeability' and cycling promotion	<p>Level1 delivered to 916 children in years 3 and 4</p> <p>Level 1/2 delivered to 3,622 children in years 5 and 6</p> <p>Level 3 delivered to 94 secondary aged pupils.</p>	1, 3 and 4
Road Safety Education	Engaged with over 2,200 primary and pre-school children, and some 9,200 secondary school pupils, college students.	1, 3 and 4

5. What will we doing over the next year?

In 2016/17 Shropshire Council will:

1. Continue to make road safety and sustainable travel education available to all Shropshire schools and colleges.
2. Maintain support for schools who require help with their school travel planning and the development and operation of school travel schemes and initiatives. .
3. Continue to encourage and promote sustainable travel choices
4. Continue to promote awareness of entitlements to free school transport
5. Continue to promote school transport route reviews to ensure best value for money and that routes are accessible to pupils.
6. Continue to influence and inform the design and development of new build and extensions to schools to support safe and sustainable travel
7. Retain the two remaining school crossing patrol sites in Whitchurch and in Ludlow.
8. Review the Road Safety and Sustainable Travel Education service delivery to ensure provision of a clear direction to schools.
9. Ensure that new developments likely to generate significant levels of traffic be located in accessible locations where opportunities for walking, cycling and use of public transport can be maximised.
10. Promote and monitor residential travel plans for all new developments when appropriate.

All activities are subject to the continuation of available funding and resource.

6. Further information

Information on **school travel and transport initiatives in Shropshire** and information relating to your school can be found on our website:

<http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/school-transport/>

Additional information can also be found in the **Shropshire Parent's Guide to Education**:

<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/school-admissions/parents-guide-to-education/>

Supporting policy documents can be accessed via the following web links:

Local Transport Plan

<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/public-and-passenger-transport/local-transport-plan/>

Shropshire Local Development Framework: Adopted Core Strategy

<http://shropshire.gov.uk/media/830904/shropshire-core-strategy-2011-reduced.pdf>

Local Plan

<https://shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy>

Road Safety Policy

<http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/highways-and-traffic/road-safety-in-shropshire/shropshire-council-road-safety-policy/>

Sustainability Environmental Climate Change

<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/sustainability/sustainability-policy-communications/sustainability-environment-climate-change-strategy/>

Admissions policy and arrangements for primary and secondary schools

<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/school-admissions/>

School transport policy

<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/school-transport/>

Health and Wellbeing Strategy

<http://www.shropshiretogether.org.uk/health-wellbeing-board/>

Independent Travel Training

<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/enable/our-services/travel-training/>