
Sustainable Modes of Travel Strategy 2023



City of Westminster

Contents

City of Westminster has a statutory duty under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to promote sustainable travel to and from school, and between schools and other institutions.

This strategy document, along with the work that is delivered and commissioned by the Road Safety Officer at City of Westminster, meets the statutory duty.

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Executive summary

City of Westminster has developed a Sustainable Modes of Travel Strategy (SMoTS) in line with the requirements outlined in the Education and Inspections Act 2006 which incorporates five main objectives:

- An assessment of the travel and transport needs of children, and young people within the authority's area;
- An audit of the sustainable travel and transport infrastructure within the authority that may be used when travelling to and from, or between schools/institutions;
- A strategy to develop the sustainable travel and transport infrastructure within the authority so that the travel and transport needs of children and young people are better catered for;
- The promotion of sustainable travel and transport modes on the journey to, from and between schools and other institutions; and
- The publication of Sustainable Modes of Travel Strategy.

SMoTS outlines how City of Westminster are assisting schools to produce and maintain approved School Travel Plans and promote and encourage sustainable travel and transport for children and young people from the age of 5 through to 16.

This Strategy will set out all the proposals and programmes that will be undertaken to encourage school communities to choose safer, healthier, and more environmentally friendly modes of travel.

To achieve the objectives of this Strategy, the following aims of WCC are:

- To encourage all schools in the City to have a School Travel Plan and level of accreditation in place with a view to monitor and evaluate in accordance to the Transport for London (TfL) [STARS](#) programme on an annual basis.
- To make Westminster a safer, healthier, more enterprising and more connected city.
- To investigate areas that have been identified as a road safety concern and where deemed feasible and funding available, improve the City's infrastructure for walking and cycling. This can help increase walking and cycling, and enhance the skills needed for safe and independent travel.
- To ease vehicle congestion and improve air quality outside schools in consideration of the [Mayor's Transport Strategy 2018](#) and [Fairer Westminster](#) objectives.
- To contribute to the long-term health and wellbeing of children and young people by choosing a sustainable mode of transport via [Westminster's Walking Strategy](#) and [Cycling Strategy](#).
- To provide support, guidance and educational resources to encourage sustainable transport choices.

City of Westminster have circa 31,141 pupils that attend the 91 schools across 101 sites¹. The education establishment types are academies, independent, local authority, and special/alternative provision education establishments.

We have 36 local authority, 5 free, 15 academies and 4 special/alternative provisions.

This Strategy builds upon the work already being undertaken by Westminster City Council and its partners to increase sustainable transport in the borough with the resources available. Priority will be given to groups of schools where the potential for achieving beneficial change in terms of safety, congestion, health and the environment is greatest.

Westminster City Council's Strategy is a living document and will be reviewed and published by 31st August annually.

For more information, please email Askhighways@westminster.gov.uk

¹ Some education establishments have more than one site.

What is a School Travel Plan?

A School Travel Plan aims to encourage healthier and more sustainable travel for journeys to and from school (i.e. walking, scootering and cycling) away from private car trips and contributing to the 'school run'. They identify practical measures to shift travel behaviour towards more sustainable and healthy modes.

School Travel Plans are online documents which are produced by schools in response to their own community, road safety and sustainable travel needs and issues.

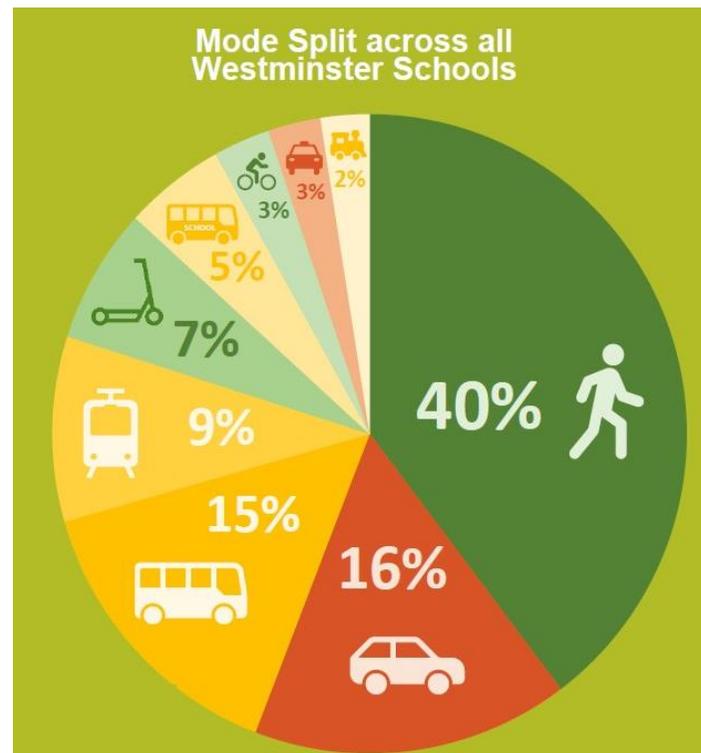
They are reviewed annually along with completing a school Hands Up travel survey which is used to inform any initiatives the school can implement to increase sustainable travel and improve road safety.

A School Travel Plan is a whole school project which can be linked to the curriculum and address a range of issues around school travel; from environmental education to health benefits, from skills and safety training and school-based activities to streetscape measures.

What modes of transport are used by pupils in Westminster?

Due to reduced schools providing hands up survey data, the baseline remains the same at 71 schools participating in a hands up survey in 22/23 which amounted to 16,178 pupils.

Students were asked two questions: 1) *What mode of transport do you use to get to school* and 2) *What mode would you prefer to use*. Data previously collected is shown in the following formats.



Walking remained the most popular mode of travel for the surveyed pupils in Westminster when travelling to and from education establishments in Westminster.

50% of pupils travelled to school using an active mode e.g., walking, cycling and by scooter.

A third of pupils travel to school by public transport: 15% by public bus, 9% by Tube, 5% by school bus and 2% by train.

Car use remained the second most common mode of transport overall in Westminster schools.

In the STARS programme, a sustainable transport mode is any mode of transport that is not a private motor vehicle. This includes ‘Park and Stride’, where students are driven but walk or scoot the final ten minutes of the journey along with Public Bus, School Bus, Tube, Cycling, Walking and Scootering.

Overall, 84% of Westminster students travelled to school using a sustainable mode.

The greatest sustainable mode split was 100% and was achieved by four schools in academic year 2022/23:

- Harris Westminster Sixth Form
- Portland Place School
- Tachbrook Nursery School
- All Souls CofE Primary School

School Streets data collected in 2022 suggests that **active travel modes** (walking/cycling/scooting) during the times of operation across all school locations averaged at **91.6%**.

Transport for London STARS Accreditation Levels

STARS accreditation which recognises the work, time and effort schools have made to increase use of sustainable modes of travel and road safety awareness.

There are three levels of accreditation: Bronze, Silver and Gold.

There are currently 2 Silver and 9 Gold accredited schools. So as of July 2023, the new accreditation applications submitted to TfL stand at:

Bronze – 1

Silver – 1

Gold – 6²



² The accreditation levels are confirmed by Transport for London in October 2023.

Sustainable Travel and Road Safety Education

Walk to School Campaign

Walk to School Week in May and *International Walk to School Month* in October are usually promoted to all education establishments. At both times of the year, schools are encouraged to take part in activities that promote the benefits of walking, which in turn will encourage children, parents and staff to travel to school by a more sustainable and active mode of transport. Walking is the preferred mode of transport for pupils in City of Westminster.

Westminster Wiser Walking Scheme

This child pedestrian training scheme is offered to Year 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 pupils at all Westminster primary schools and takes place throughout the academic year during term time. It consists of two sessions; a 20 minute classroom session and a 30 to 60 minute on-road session in groups of up to 6 pupils.

Years 2, 3 and 4 learn road safety skills to use with the help of an adult. We strongly recommend that this age group are always supervised by an adult when crossing roads. The scheme is based off of the Department for Transport's Kerbcraft model.

Years 5 and 6 are provided with training that is intended to give them the skills for independent travel in the future.

The scheme did not train any participants this academic year.³

Park & Stride

This initiative requires parents/carers to park a short distance away from the school entrance and then walk the rest of the way. This is an easy and gradual

³ No delivery due to review of programme after the pandemic.

step for parent/carers to increase their families' amount of active travel and physical activity every day.

It also reduces vehicle idling, congestion around the school entrance and improves air quality.

Parking legislation

For all education establishments, City of Westminster allows for a ten-minute window for drop off/collection of pupils at the start and end of the school day on single and double yellow lines during term time, whilst this activity is taking place.

This is to help reduce inappropriate parking behaviour and practices which can impact on road safety around the immediate vicinity of a school such as double parking, engine idling footway parking and blocking of residential driveways. Other road safety and school travel initiatives are offered to schools in conjunction with this scheme. Travel plans are encouraged so road safety and travel concerns can be addressed.

School Crossing Patrol Service

City of Westminster adopted the *School Crossing Patrol Service* from the Metropolitan Police in 2001 and continues to maintain a service at sites which meet the recommended criteria to help both children and adults alike to cross the road safely.



There are currently 7 School Crossing Patrols operating at various sites across the City of Westminster.

Road Safety Education and resources

Throughout each academic year, road safety education is offered to all schools. Schools can opt to book in theatre in education shows and workshops that are offered free of charge. They cover subject matter such as pedestrian and cycle safety, in-car safety and more.

Age-appropriate resources are available on the Department for Transport's THINK website at no charge.

There are also resources offered to schools throughout the academic year, such as theatre workshops, as well as general road safety support, guidance and advice from the Road Safety Officer.



Special Educational Needs (SEN) Transport

Every academic year, pupils' journeys to and from school are assessed by the SEN Travel Assistance Team. If deemed appropriate, they will be offered Independent Travel Training or a Personal Transport Budget. If these offers are not appropriate, they will be offered assistance via a travel escort (including walking and public transport).

If these travel interventions are not appropriate, then transport on a shared bus or taxi is arranged.

Assessments are carried out by the Travel Care and Support Team.

Cycle training

The City of Westminster is committed to making cycling enjoyable and one of the preferred modes of transport for children travelling to and from school.

Anybody who lives, works or studies in Westminster is eligible for free cycle training provided by the City Council.

Cycle Confident, Westminster City Council's cycling provider trained 1129 pupils from September 2022 to July 2023. This is a 30% increase compared with last academic year's training figures.



Cycle/scooter storage

Education establishments that would like cycle or scooter parking are assessed under the School Travel Plan Programme. Up to 16 schools have requested and have installed additional cycle and scooter parking inside their school site and outside the immediate vicinity.



Junior Travel Ambassadors (JTA)

The scheme encourages peer-to-peer engagement and provides schools with free toolkits and guidance in order to promote safer, active and independent travel within the school community.

Westminster schools have a mixture of JTAs, school councils or eco teams to communicate road safety and sustainable travel information to their schools.

**STARS JUNIOR
TRAVEL AMBASSADOR**
A TFL COMMUNITY PROJECT

Youth Travel Ambassadors (YTA)

**STARS YOUTH
TRAVEL AMBASSADORS**
A TFL COMMUNITY PROJECT

This is a youth-led education project developed by Transport for London delivered by the London Transport Museum.

Young people are given the opportunity to create and deliver a campaign to address a travel and/or road safety issue that affects them and their local community.

Transport for London Zip Oyster



Since September 2005 all children living in London who are 15 or under in age have been able to travel for free on London's buses and trams if they hold the relevant Zip Oyster Card. There is also a 16+ Zip Oyster photo card that allows free bus and tram travel for those that live in London.

Parents/carers could apply online via Transport for London's website.

Transport for London School Party Travel Scheme

This scheme provides free off-peak travel from Monday to Friday to schools based in London (including summer, special needs and nursery schools) that are visiting an educational or cultural venue within the city. Schools just have to register with Transport for London to take advantage of the scheme.

Safety and Citizenship

The [Safety and Citizenship Team](#) provide a free transport education service to schools in London.

There was a total of 1578 Westminster pupils that were part of the Junior Citizenship Scheme and/or participated in Safety & Citizenship workshops. **Transport for London: Schools and Young People**



There is a dedicated [webpage](#) providing schools, parents/guardians and pupils with travel advice.

This consists of links to resources such as [STARS Journey Planner](#) and signposts to [Safety and Citizenship](#).

School Travel Plan - Highway Schemes

Through the travel plan programme, schools highlight road safety and active travel concerns that they feel have a direct impact on the safety of their pupils' journey to and from school.



Through assessing these concerns, it is sometimes deemed appropriate to implement changes to the roads.

Highway schemes could include, but are not limited to; school warning signs, review of school keep clear markings, road closures and improvement of pedestrian crossings.

Highway schemes are implemented via funding from the following areas; TfL Local Implementation Fund/Department for Transport, capital funding, section 106 and/or Community Infrastructure Levy where available and approved.

The following highway schemes have been completed under the School Travel Plan Programme.

School/Location	Highway improvements
Soho Parish CE Primary School, Great Windmill Street	Kerb and footway buildouts, new paving on Great Windmill Street. One way system installation on Archer Street.

School Streets



Provides a pedestrian and cycle zones (Section 6, Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984) outside the school main entrance usually in operation at school drop-off and collection times, Monday to Friday term-time only.

The first School Street was launched on Enford Street outside St Mary's Bryanston Square CE Primary School on Tuesday 23rd April 2019 and is affiliated with the Active Streets Programme⁴.

Westminster now have 12 permanent [School Streets](#) as of 1st May 2023.

The next tranche of School Streets are being progressed.

⁴ Please refer to Page 11 for the Active Streets Programme

ActiveStreets Programme



The Fairer Westminster Delivery Plan recognises the importance of sustainable and active modes of transport for residents, workers and visitors. Work is ongoing to make sure residents can have access to active travel modes and open spaces.

The Active Streets programme is delivered in collaboration with City Highways and the Sport, Leisure and Active Communities Services in order to create streets that can garner more opportunities for physical activity, active travel, improved air quality and healthier lifestyles.

The ActiveStreets programme consists of three types of ActiveStreets:

Play Streets - a permanent designation which will provide priority over traffic to children and families to play in streets at specified times. This is underpinned by Department for Transport legislation (Section 29, Road Traffic Act 1984).

The first Play Street was installed on Fisherton Street and Luton Street on 29th April 2019.



Westminster is committed to installing the following Play Streets in 2023/2024:

- Northumberland Place, Bayswater
- Marne Street, Queens Park
- Kilravock Street, Queens Park
- Peach Road, Queens Park
- Ashmore Road, Queens Park
- Chippenham Mews, Harrow Road
- Ranelagh Road, Pimlico South

Street Play - Facilitated by temporary road closures (Section 16a, Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984) for children and families to play in streets at specified day(s), times and locations.

The Street Play Policy was approved in June 2020 and the online [application](#) is available for local residents and schools to apply for Street Play sessions.

Air Quality

The **Schools Healthy Commutes** project originates from an air quality sensor pilot project at schools. This was established by the Smart City programme, aiming to engage residents and empower communities to lead behavioural change through the use of tech and innovation. The pilot aimed to work with schools to reduce private car journeys to and from school.

Four primary schools were selected for the pilot, representing schools with existing high proportions of children who travel to school by private car; the selected schools for the pilot were:

- Edward Wilson Primary School
- St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
- St Saviour's C of E Primary School
- Wilberforce Primary School

Each school was provided with a near real time 'Zephyr' air quality sensor, located at the drop off/pick up locations, to monitor the impact on air quality levels throughout the course of the day. The schools were provided with termly information packs about the air quality data from the sensors along with information about sustainable travel methods and lesson plan suggestions, including one led by the team. Another element was the web-based portal that shows air quality levels, including individual pollutants in real-time and relevant health advice.

This awareness has translated into reduced car usage:

- A reduction of 21.6% in pupils typically travelling by car over the duration of the pilot.
- Using estimates based on the catchment areas of the schools, this represents over 16,500 fewer miles travelled by car each year.

Next steps for the project:

- Installation of four traffic sensors to test how our residents and school communities interpret engage with a different dataset, and to complement our understanding of trends in air quality.
- Upscaling the project to new schools with high proportions of children travelling to school by private car.
- Engaging a company to provide lesson plan frameworks to schools based on the data from the sensors.
- Ongoing feedback gathering from participating schools on usage of the portal.
- Feeding the air quality and traffic data captured into the Council's new air quality data platform as part of the Smart City Operating System.



Partnership working



Healthy Schools Awards

The main aim of the Healthy Schools Partnership is to support and encourage schools to develop and deepen their focus on health and wellbeing which will support the attainment, achievement and happiness of both their pupils, staff and wider school communities.

The Healthy Schools Partnership is an alliance of Local Authority and health services together with a range of other agencies that work with schools.

All children and young people have a right to be healthy and to achieve at school and in life. Healthy Schools provides opportunities for enhancing emotional and physical aspects of health that will lead to improved health, reduced health inequalities, and increased social inclusion and will raise achievement for all.

Healthy Schools is not just about children and young people, it is about involving the whole school community together with local services and agencies. And it is not just what happens in the curriculum but about the entire school day.

Schools can participate and gain recognition at the following levels: Healthy Schools London Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards.

The levels applied for this academic year are.

Bronze Renewals

- Our Lady of Dolours RC Primary School
- St Peter's Eaton Square Primary School

- George Eliot Primary School
- St Marylebone Bridge CE Primary School
- Hallfield Primary School
- St Mary of the Angels RC Primary

Silver

- College Park School

Golds

- Robinsfield Infants
- George Eliot Primary School

Communications

City of Westminster has its own communications team that is dedicated to disseminating information to various audiences throughout the City of Westminster and beyond.

Road safety and sustainable travel information is relayed externally via Westminster's e-newsletters, printed literature, on-street messaging i.e., banners and social media accounts i.e., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn.

Westminster communicates with education establishments via telephone calls, emails, site visits, virtual meetings, seminars, webinars and events where applicable and available.

Best practice

Gateway Academy, Capland Street



In May 2023, under the [Junior Road Watch](#) scheme, over 90 pupils from year 5 and 6 engaged with the programme to support better road safety i.e., reducing vehicle speeds around the immediate vicinity of their school.

This resulted in the Metropolitan Police Service engage with 6 vehicles travelling at excessive speed and 1 vehicle seized for no insurance.

Useful contacts and services

Road Safety Education, Travel Plans and Active Travel Initiatives

E: Askhighways@westminster.gov.uk

W: www.westminster.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/walking-and-cycling

Active Streets Programme

E: active@westminster.gov.uk

W: active.westminster.gov.uk/activestreets

School Streets Programme

E: Askhighways@westminster.gov.uk

W: www.westminster.gov.uk/school-streets

Legible London Programme

E: Askhighways@westminster.gov.uk

Cycle Training

W: www.westminster.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/walking-and-cycling/city-cycle-courses

SEN Transport

Transport Commissioning Team

E: passengertransport@rbkc.gov.uk

Schools Admissions Team

W: www.westminster.gov.uk/children-and-families/education/special-educational-and-additional-needs#transport-assistance

Parking Service

E: parkingservices@westminster.gov.uk

W: www.westminster.gov.uk/parking

Sport Leisure and Active Communities

E: active@westminster.gov.uk

W: www.active.westminster.gov.uk

Westminster's Children First Magazine

E: childrenfirst@westminster.gov.uk

STARS: A TfL Community Project

Transport for London, Education and Training Team

W: www.tfl.gov.uk/stars

Transport for London

W: www.tfl.gov.uk

Metropolitan Police: Westminster Safer Transport Team

W: www.met.police.uk/a/your-area/safer-transport-teams/

Healthy Education Partnership

T: 0800 048 8566

E: admin@healtheducationpartnership.com

W: healtheducationpartnership.com/borough/westminster/

Change4Life Programme

W: www.family-action.org.uk/what-we-do/children-families/change4lifeservice/

Eco Schools Programme

W: www.eco-schools.org.uk

Active Travel and Road Safety Programme

ACTIVITIES

Cycle training	Road Safety site visit	School Crossing Patrol	School Street	TfL Safety & Citizenship sessions	Parking enforcement requests	Air Quality intervention	STARS Accreditation Level
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Ref	School	Ward	Street								
1	Abercorn School (Early Years)	Abbey Road	Abercorn Place								
2	Abercorn School (Prep)	Marylebone High Street	Portland Place					✓			
3	Abercorn School (Pre-Prep)	Bryanston and Dorset Square	Marylebone Road								
4	Abingdon House School	Bryanston and Dorset Square	Broadley Terrace					✓			
5	All Souls CE Primary School	West End	Riding House Street	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	ARK Atwood Academy Primary School	Westbourne	Amberley Road	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓
7	ARK King Solomon – Older Site	Church Street	Penfold Street					✓	✓		
8	ARK King Solomon – Younger Site	Little Venice	Crompton Street					✓			
9	Arnold House School	Abbey Road	Loudoun Road					✓	✓		
10	Bales Private School and Sixth Form College	Queens Park	Harrow Road								
11	Barrow Hill Juniors	Regent's Park	Bridgeman Street		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12	Burdett Coutts and Townshend C of E Primary School	Vincent Square	Rowington Close					✓			
13	Christ Church Bentinck CE Primary School	Church Street	Cosway Street					✓			✓
13	Churchill Gardens Primary Academy	Tachbrook	Ranelagh Road	✓							✓
14	College Park School	Bayswater	Garway Road		✓			✓			✓
15	Connaught House School	Hyde Park	Stanhope Place		✓			✓			✓
16	Dorothy Gardner Centre	Queens Park	Shirland Road								✓
17	Eaton House School	Knightsbridge and Belgravia	Eaton Gate, Eaton Square					✓			
18	Eaton Square Prep School	Warwick	Eccleston Square					✓			
19	Eaton Square Senior School	West End	Piccadilly								

