

Appendix

Examples of Schools that have reduced their car-use and how - 2005-6

School Travel Plan Case Study 1 – A city secondary school ST LUKE’S (C of E) SCIENCE AND SPORTS COLLEGE

Size: 918 students
TravelWise Award: Gold Award

1. Background and Location

The school is located on the busy Hill Barton Road on the east side of Exeter in a busy suburban area and very close to the Pinhoe Sainsbury’s supermarket. Many of the students live to the west of the site, and have to use the new dual use cycle/pedestrian bridge across Hill Barton Road.

2. Main Issues and Problems

The main issue when the site was built was to get students safely across Hill Barton Road. This was solved by the creation of a purpose-built, dual-use bridge which accesses both the bike storage and the first floor of the school directly. Initial lack of cycle lanes and safe walking provision were identified by students as a major barrier to walking and cycling to school. At the previous site there were poor facilities for bike storage, which needed to be addressed when the school moved to the new site.

3. The Travel Plan (Started on the old site in 2003 and completed in 2004)

Aims & Targets

- To promote methods of travel to and from College in line with the new College focus of ‘Fit to Succeed’ and ‘Healthy Living’
- To ensure that travel and access facilities to and from the new site promote the inclusion of students with physical disabilities in line with the new College focus through the St Luke’s Centre
- To sustain and improve upon the number of pupils walking to College after the move to the new site
- To sustain and improve upon the number of pupils cycling to College after the move to the new site
- To help advise on the needs of pupils who travel or could travel by bus to the new site
- To ensure that safe and sustainable travel options are provided to all who visit the new site both on their journey to the new site and on the site itself
- To develop links with the business communities that are close to the new site and with whom the college shares infrastructure for travel
- To develop strategies for efficient and safe management of student use of the bridge access into the new site

Key Strategies & Actions

(a) Educational

In 2003 a cycling group was formed from initial work with the School Council. This group identified major route improvements needed to cycle safely to school on the new site. They also ran a very active walking and cycling campaign, involving drama, an assembly, poster competition, newsletter and general awareness raising with parents in preparation for the move to the new site.

Both the students and the Deputy Principal of the school were present for the official opening of one of the new routes, gaining some fantastic press coverage! In addition to the improved cycle routes, the increase in cycling can also be attributed to the enthusiasm and commitment of the school in promoting sustainable travel.

Most recently, parents' evenings for prospective parents have been held, with literature available about the preferred means of travel to school, and a travel stand was run by Devon County Council and Sustrans to assist with this.

The school is now a Bike It school, so it has a dedicated officer from Sustrans, the environmental transport charity, supporting it in promoting cycling. Bike It will provide a comprehensive package of measures to increase cycling, including Freewheel to a Free Meal - an Incentive Scheme to reward students for cycling to school. There will also be initiatives to target specific groups and help remove the barriers to cycling that they experience. One such initiative is Beauty and the Bike, which aims to provide a series of prestigious (and fun) events for Year 7, 8 and 9 girls to help them overcome the negative images they have of cycling.

Beauty and the Bike sessions will offer participants free health and beauty advice and practical solutions related to looking and feeling good when arriving by bike. In addition, they will incorporate messages on the health and fitness benefits of cycling. The project will also provide facilities and equipment to create dedicated changing and storage areas for use by girls who cycle to school.

The school now has a member of staff trained to Bikeability National Standard, and the training of students will progress throughout each term.

(b) Engineering

The provision of several new shared-use routes for walkers and cyclists to link in with the school has been a major factor in increasing the levels of cycling at St Luke's. As part of the new site plans, cycle storage was provided for a minimum of 10% of the school population. With financial help from the Cycle Exeter Project, the school is installing more bike sheds, to allow for a capacity of at least 20%. St. Luke's received £8,570 for their School Travel Plan grant, which they have spent on lockers for students to store their cycling equipment.

4. Outcomes: Travel Modes Survey Results – Past to Present

Travel Modes	2004		2005		2006	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Walk	440	67	459	70	545	59.4
Cycle	64	10	66	9	156	17
Car/Van	116	18	98	15	73	8
Car sharing					92	10
Public Service Bus	31	5	32	5	43	4.7
Dedicated School Bus	2	1	2	1	4	0.4
Other	2	1	0		0	
Total		655				918