

The Walking Bus

TRAVELWISE

If you would like more detailed information about Walking Buses, please contact the Road Safety Help Desk, where you'll find assistance on all types of road safety issues.

0845 155 1004

rshelp@devon.gov.uk

www.devon.gov.uk/road_safety

For more information about School Travel Plans or walking incentive schemes, contact the School Travel Plan team:

01392 383700

stplans@devon.gov.uk

www.devon.gov.uk/school_travel_plans

What can you do now?

If there's a Walking Bus at your school, ask about how your child can benefit – and how you can help. If your school does not have a Walking Bus, why not suggest that one is started – we can help you and the school get things moving if you find there's support for the idea.



What is a Walking Bus?

The Walking Bus is a scheme operated by the school community (parents, children, teachers and governors) and supported by Devon County Council. The scheme identifies opportunities for walking the school journey and provides trained volunteers to guide and supervise children travelling to and from school. Schools wishing to encourage walking as part of their School Travel Plan will find a Walking Bus a useful tool.

The Walking Bus will follow set routes according to a timetable. Children can join the bus at pre-arranged pick-up stops.

The aim of a Walking Bus scheme is not to stop parents / guardians accompanying their children to school. Parents / guardians will be encouraged to be involved. Volunteers are essential to ensure the success of a Walking Bus scheme. However, the scheme also allows for those children whose parents / guardians are unable to walk with them, but live within a short distance of the school, to take part.



What are the benefits?

Walking Bus schemes can provide many benefits to children, their parents / guardians and the school. For example:

- Health benefits through regular walking
- Improved awareness of road safety through a controlled exposure to traffic
- Promotion of pedestrian skills
- Reductions in traffic congestion
- Improved air quality and health through a reduction in exhaust emissions
- Time and cost savings for parents / guardians
- Essential patterns of exercise can be established at an early age

Walking is healthy, economical and fun. Not only will it give children the chance to develop their road skills but walking in numbers will add to everyone's safety.

Route selection

Devon County Council will ensure that chosen routes are suitable and as safe as possible. It is vital that the route is manageable for the children that will be asked to walk it. Consultation with the Police, Traffic Safety Engineers, Road Safety Officers, Walking Bus Co-ordinators and the school will be sought in an attempt to ensure all angles of safety are considered.

Devon County Council Support

- **Safety Equipment:** Fluorescent and reflective tabards and jackets and provided for use by Walking Bus schemes.
- **Insurance:** Devon County Council provides public liability insurance cover for all persons engaged in the provision or use of a registered Walking Bus service, operated in accordance with the Code of Practice.
- **Training & Support for schools and volunteers:** All volunteers will receive training by Devon County Council's Road Safety Group. Volunteers will also be provided with appropriate literature that will help them carry out their responsibilities in a safe and informed manner.

Consent and Incentives

Before a child can use a Walking Bus service a consent form must be completed by the Parent or Guardian.

Although no incentives should be necessary, the success of any Walking Bus scheme will be dependent on the enthusiastic support of the children. It is suggested therefore, that an incentive scheme is set up by each school, perhaps based on the issue of certificates for regular attendance, such as Devon County Council's "Walking the Wizard Way" scheme.