



# THE BEDIFFERENT FEDERATION



## SCHOOL ACTIVE TRAVEL POLICY

**Miss L Searle**  
**September 2023**





## **AIMS AND PURPOSE**

At The BeDifferent Federation of Lonesome, Singlegate and William Morris Primary Schools we encourage all children and parents to travel to school by sustainable means such as cycling, scooting and walking wherever possible. We aim to make sustainable and active travel easier and more enjoyable for everyone.

We have a School Travel Working Group which works with children and families to encourage, develop and support strategies and ideas for travelling to school by means other than the car. They organise and run events and activities to encourage more children to walk, cycle or scoot to school on a more regular basis.

This policy sets out how we encourage active travel to school. The policy is available to children and families on our website and is updated annually.

We welcome ideas to improve the use of sustainable travel at or around school for pedestrians and cyclists, or questions about travelling to school.

Our School Travel Champions are Miss Searle (Singlegate), Mrs Parrett (William Morris) and Mrs Davey (Lonesome).

The members of the School Travel Working Group include the Chief Executive Headteacher, the Heads of Schools, the School Travel Plan Champions and the appointed Junior Travel Ambassadors across the Federation.

## **BENEFITS OF ACTIVE TRAVEL**

Some of the many benefits of active travel include:

- Improving both mental and physical health through physical activity
- Establishing positive active travel behaviours
- Promoting independence and safety awareness
- Reducing congestion, noise and pollution in the community
- Reducing the environmental impact of the journey to school
- Providing time for families to talk with their child(ren) on the journey to or from school





**To encourage children to cycle, scoot or walk to school frequently we will:**

- Actively promote cycling, scooting and walking as a positive way of travelling to school
- Celebrate the achievements of those who cycle, scoot or walk to school through competitions, class rewards and school achievement assemblies
- Provide cycle and scooter storage on the school site
- Provide high quality cycle training to children wishing to participate
- Share assemblies with the children to promote safer cycling, scooting and walking and competitions designed to engage the children's interest in active travel
- Work closely with the team of Junior Travel Ambassadors and the Head of School to plan activities and events to encourage children, parents and staff to travel more sustainably to school
- Raise awareness of the air quality benefits of active travel
- Update our School Travel Plan annually and maintain accreditation for our School Travel Plan under the TfL STARS scheme
- Work with our local Borough officer and road safety team on interventions and activities that promote active and safe travel

**To make cycling, scooting and walking to and from school a positive experience for everybody concerned, we expect our children to:**

- Wear a cycle helmet
- Ride and walk sensibly and follow the Highway Code and the Green Cross Code using formal crossings such as the zebra crossing when available
- 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
- Consider the needs of others when cycling or scooting
- Be mindful of the rights of others to also use pavements safely when scooting or cycling to school
- Ensure they can be seen by other road users, by using lights and wearing high-visibility clothing as appropriate
- Be mindful at all times of other road and pavement users





**For the wellbeing of our children, we expect parents and carers to:**

- Encourage their child(ren) to walk, cycle or scoot to school whenever possible
- Encourage their child(ren) to take up opportunities to develop their competence and confidence in cycling or scooting
- Consider cycling, scooting and walking with their child on the school journey
- Provide their child with equipment such as high-visibility clothing, lights, a lock and **essentially** a cycle helmet as appropriate
- Ensure their child's bicycle or scooter is road worthy and safe to ride
- Monitor and manage their own child's behaviours when they are cycling, scooting or walking to school, ensuring that they are being respectful of other pavement and road users and following the Highway Code and Green Cross Code

**PLEASE NOTE:**

- 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
- This policy covers the journey to and from school where the school has no responsibility or liability. When walking, cycling and scooting activities are being led by the school there may be additional rules and guidance concerning equipment such as the use of helmets, high-visibility clothing etc.
- Parents are advised that leaving bicycles and scooters on school premises is done so at their own risk and the school accepts no responsibility for loss or damage to bicycles and scooters. Parents are advised to consider appropriate insurance cover, as the school is not liable for, and its insurance does not cover, loss or damage to bicycles or scooters used on the way to and from school
- Parents are reminded that they are responsible for their child's safety and wellbeing on the journey to and from school. Children become the school's responsibility once the handover has taken place in the morning and until the child is handed back to their parent/carer at the end of the school day

