School Travel Policy

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Related policies:

- PSHE Policy

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1. Introduction

At Hawksmoor Primary School, we encourage pupils, parents and staff to travel actively to school by walking, cycling and scooting wherever possible.

The school takes its responsibility seriously and will work with Borough officers, the council, police and local MPs to ensure that the safety of staff, pupils and parents is a high priority.

This school travel policy explains how Hawksmoor Primary School will be encouraging active travel. We will discuss the policy with the Junior Travel Ambassadors and re-visit it periodically to ensure its relevance.

For pupils and staff who are unable to walk, cycle or scoot their whole journey to and from school, we encourage the use of public transport, car share and park and stride.

The Junior Travel Ambassadors meet regularly to discuss ways in which to encourage the school community to actively travel to school. They design competitions, deliver assemblies and promote active travel through Walk to School Week or Car Free Day.

2. Benefits of Active Travel

The benefits of active travel are:

- Improves mental health leading to improved attendance and academic success
- Improves physical health, helping pupils to achieve the recommended minimum of 60 minutes of physical activity per day
- Promotes independence and improves road safety awareness
- Reduces congestion and noise in the community
- Improves air quality around the school

In order to ensure as many pupils as possible are given the opportunity to realise these benefits we each have an important role to play:

2.1 Staff

We will encourage pupils to travel to and from school more safely and actively by:

- Promoting the benefits of active travel through our curriculum and taking part in 'Walk to school week'
- Raising awareness of the air quality benefits of active travel
- Providing cycle and scooter storage on site
- Providing cycle training to all pupils in Year 6 when available
- Ensuring we update our school travel plan annually and that it is accredited under TfL STARS (Sustainable Travel: Active, Responsible, Safe) scheme
- Working with our borough school travel and road safety officers to deliver interventions and activities that promote active, safe and responsible travel to school. Year groups will receive road safety talks.
- Liaising regularly with parents/carers when parking/travel issues arise through MCAS or the newsletter.

2.2 Pupils

To make active travel a positive experience for everybody concerned, we expect our pupils to:

- Behave in a sensible, safe and respectful manner and to consider the needs of others when travelling
- Use lights and high-visibility clothing where appropriate and consider wearing a cycle helmet
- Check that their bicycle or scooter is roadworthy and well maintained
- Follow the rules of the road (Green Cross Code) when travelling

2.3 Parents and/or Carers

For the wellbeing of our pupils, we expect parents/carers to:

- Encourage their child to travel actively to school where possible and appropriate
- Consider walking, cycling or scooting with their child where possible and appropriate
- Encourage their child to take up opportunities to develop their competence and confidence in walking cycling and scooting
- Provide their child with safety equipment as appropriate, which may include high-visibility clothing, lights, cycle helmet and a lock
- Ensure that the bicycles and scooters ridden to school are roadworthy and well maintained
- Be a role model; as children will more likely follow your example

Parents and carers are reminded that they are responsible for the safety of their child on the journey to and from school.