



Better ways to school

a Sustainable Modes of Travel to School Strategy

Summary Document

August 2019

Introduction

This document is a summary of Bracknell Forest Council's Sustainable Modes of Travel to School Strategy – Better ways to school. The full document can be downloaded from the Council web site or is available by emailing the Council's Travel Plan Coordinator at Highways.Transport@Bracknell-Forest.gov.uk , or by telephoning 01344 352000.

Education and Inspections Act 2006

The government requires all local authorities to promote the use of sustainable travel to, from and between schools as part of the duty of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. Sustainable travel includes modes that may improve the physical well-being of those who use them, the environmental well-being of all or part of the local authority's area, or a combination of the two.

The Bracknell Forest Strategy sets out how we are meeting the four main elements of the duty to promote sustainable travel:

Duty to assess the travel and transport needs of children, and young people within the authority's area

Our Strategy we use results of annual school census data which indicate where pupils live and how they usually travel to school to inform decisions, we consider the data included in School Travel Plans (STPs) and we are working with Bracknell and Wokingham College to support their Travel Plan

Duty to audit the sustainable travel and transport infrastructure within the authority that may be used when travelling to and from, or between schools/institutions

Our Strategy we have carried out an audit of all the traffic safety measures and Safer Routes to School schemes in the Borough which may encourage sustainable transport to school, we have visited all primary school gate areas to assess the environment, and we have completed a study of accessibility to schools in the Borough using public transport

Duty 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

Our Strategy The council are preparing a Local Walking and Cycling Improvement Plan (LCWIP) which will set out a list of evidence based schemes for when funding becomes available.

- Duty the promotion of sustainable travel and transport modes on the journey to, from, and between schools and other institutions
- Our Strategy we provide resources for schools to run walk to school promotions and cycle related events.

Our Objectives

The main aim of the Strategy is to encourage more children, and their parents, to travel to school in a healthy, safe and environmentally friendly way. The objectives that will deliver this aim are to:

- (a) Reduce the number of journeys to school by private car
- (b) Increase the number of journeys to school by sustainable modes of travel
- (c) Develop and implement packages of improvements on the routes to schools, focussing on the needs of pedestrians and cyclists
- (d) Encourage all schools to annually review their School Travel Plan
- (e) Develop and promote initiatives for sustainable travel to school
- (f) Continue to improve efficiency in Home-to-School supported travel
- (g) Work with partners to promote the health and environmental benefits of sustainable travel to school

Delivering the Strategy - School Travel Plans

Schools can play a major part in encouraging sustainable travel by ensuring they have an up to date School Travel Plan. School Travel Plans (STPs) are specific to each school, recognising that each school and each locality are unique, and require individually tailored measures. STPs should include consultation with the whole school community about what can be done to increase walking and cycling levels and reduce car use. Each School Travel Plan should have measurable targets and a clear action plan showing what is going to be done, by whom and by when.

Thirty five of the Borough's thirty six mainstream LA schools have completed a School Travel Plan, as well as Kennel Lane special school.

Travelling sustainably to your school

If you want support or advice in travelling sustainably to a school this section provides a guide to information that can help you.

Walking to School

Many of the roads in Bracknell Forest have adjacent footways. If you don't want to walk next to the road, there is an alternative network of paths and public rights of way which you may be able to make use of.

For details of the footpaths away from roads see the cycling map on the following web page <https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-transport/travel-and-public-transport/cycling> This map is available from libraries, local parish council offices and other outlets. You can also request a map by telephoning 01344 351266.

For details of the public rights of way, you can download additional maps from our website at <https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/parks-and-countryside/public-rights-way/definitive-map-and-statement> You can also request one of these maps by telephoning 01344 352000.

If you would like your child to walk to school but are unable to walk with your child yourself, you could ask a trusted friend or neighbour with children attending the same school if your child could walk with them. Another alternative is to set up a 'Walking Bus' at your school, where a number of children walk in an organized way, accompanied by two or more adults. If you are interested in setting up a walking bus, please contact your child's school.

Cycling to School

There is a good network of off-road cycle paths in Bracknell Forest. For a map of cycle routes, see the cycling maps on the following web page <https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-transport/travel-and-public-transport/cycling> These maps are available from libraries, local parish council offices and other outlets. You can also request a map by telephoning 01344 351266.

The Council coordinates cycle training for children aged 10 or older. For more information on cycle training visit the council's web page at <https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-transport/travel-and-public-transport/cycle-safety-training> or call the road safety team on 01344 351212

Public Transport

The local bus network can provide an alternative to the car for longer journeys to school.

To plan your bus journey we suggest visiting the Traveline website at www.travelinesoutheast.org.uk which provides a door to door journey planner, timetables and maps.

The main bus operator in the borough is Courtney Buses. They can be contacted on 0118 9733486 or by visiting their web site at <http://www.courtneybuses.com>

Additional services are provided by Reading Buses (3B, 4, X4, 702 and 703), White Bus Service, and Stagecoach.

A map showing the bus service routes in Bracknell Forest is available on the council web site at <https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-transport/travel-and-public-transport/buses>

Free School Transport

There are a number of criteria, based on age and distance to the nearest qualifying school, under which a child may qualify for free school transport. Low income families may also receive support. For more information see the council's education transport policy on our web pages at <https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/school-transport> or contact the council on 01344 352000.

Children with Special Educational Needs (SEN)

Some children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs will also qualify for free school transport, although the entitlement is not automatic. For more information see the council's education transport policy on our web pages at <https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/strategies-plans-and-policies/strategy-and-policy-documents/schools-and-learning-strategies-and-policies> or contact the council on 01344 352000.

Who to contact if there is a problem

If you have difficulty walking or cycling to school because of a lack of appropriate infrastructure – eg a formal crossing to get across a busy road – please register your concern with whoever looks after the School Travel Plan at your school.

For issues regarding litter or graffiti, lighting problems or problems with the highway please go to the council web site at <https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/> or telephone 01344 352000.