

**SPELTHORNE BOROUGH COUNCIL AND  
SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**



**SPELTHORNE JOINT COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** 8 October 2018

**LEAD OFFICER:** Rebecca Harrison – Safer Travel Team Leader, Surrey County Council

**SUBJECT:** SCHOOL TRAVEL PLANS – ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

**AREA(S) AFFECTED:** ALL

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

A School Travel Plan sets out objectives and actions that the school will undertake to improve road safety and promote sustainable travel modes to reduce reliance on the car. Since 2017 the county council's Safer Travel Team have promoted a new national online system called Modeshift STARS [www.modeshiftstars.org](http://www.modeshiftstars.org) which provides an online template and supporting materials for schools to create a School Travel Plan.

This report provides an update on the status of each School Travel Plan for schools in the Spelthorne Borough, as well as the take up of activities offered to schools by the county council's Safer Travel and Cycle Training Teams over the last academic year. It also highlights those schools that have expanded and are currently in breach of their planning obligations because they have not yet completed an accredited School Travel Plan.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**The Spelthorne Joint Committee is asked to note that:**

- (i) The county council's Safer Travel Team will continue to encourage and support all Surrey's expansion schools to complete and maintain their School Travel Plan using the online Modeshift STARS system.
- (ii) From 2018/19, the Safer Travel Team will also encourage all Surrey's schools to create a School Travel Plan using the online Modeshift STARS accreditation system. This will involve promotion and the offer of training and support to all schools.
- (iii) Members are invited to assist by encouraging schools to sign up to Modeshift STARS, and to take up the activities offered by the Safer Travel and Cycle Training Teams to improve road safety and encourage sustainable travel.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Successful implementation of School Travel Plans will lead to improvements in road safety and more sustainable travel on school journeys. This will reduce congestion, improve air quality, and active travel will improve the health of children.

## 1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

### What is a School Travel Plan

- 1.1 A School Travel Plan sets out objectives and actions that the school will undertake to improve road safety and promote sustainable travel modes to reduce reliance on the car. This is achieved through education, training and encouragement, and can also be supported through highway engineering improvements, and enforcement. This has long-term health benefits, reduces air pollution and traffic congestion, and helps children arrive at school awake, refreshed and ready to learn.
- 1.2 The Travel Planning Strategy forms part of the Surrey Local Transport Plan and notes:

“The county council acknowledges that increasing the proportion of school children that are walking and cycling to school potentially increases the number of vulnerable road users. However, investment in pedestrian and cycle training, as well as initiatives such as the walking bus, can help to reduce the risk of child casualties on the school journey. Furthermore, school travel planning measures can contribute to a reduction in the number of vehicles on the road, particularly in the immediate vicinity of schools, which can also reduce the instances of conflict between pedestrians and cars at busy times of the day.”

### What is Modeshift STARS?

- 1.3 Since 2017 the county council’s Safer Travel Team have promoted a new national online system called Modeshift STARS [www.modeshiftstars.org](http://www.modeshiftstars.org). This system is supported by the Department for Transport. The Modeshift STARS website provides an online template and supporting materials for schools to create a School Travel Plan. It also provides automated alerts to the School Travel Plan Champion within each school to remind them when monitoring and updates are required. Appendix 1 shows the list of activities and interventions that schools can choose to undertake to achieve their accreditation.
- 1.4 Once a School Travel Plan is completed and verified by county council officers, the school is presented with a nationally recognised Bronze, Silver or Gold award. For example the photos below show Cabinet Members Colin Kemp and Mary Lewis presenting the Modeshift STARS Bronze awards to Hythe School in Runnymede and New Monument Primary Academy, Woking, in July 2018. The system motivates and assists schools to complete their School Travel Plan and ensures that plans are monitored, updated and completed to a high, verifiable standard. Within Surrey, so far there are 30 schools that have achieved Bronze level awards.



[www.surreycc.gov.uk/spelthorne](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/spelthorne)

## School Travel Planning at Expansion Schools

- 1.5 The schools expansion programme was implemented as a result of the increased birth rate in Surrey and thus the need for more school places. Since the academic year 2012/13 the county council has provided approximately 16,000 new school places with an expansion programme being implemented at most state maintained schools across the county right through to the year 2021. For the majority, School Travel Plans form part of the planning conditions schools must discharge before expansion is granted. There is also a requirement for these expansions to be monitored for a further five years (which is the same as other types of property development).
- 1.6 Over the last year the Safer Travel Team have been encouraging expansion schools to create their School Travel Plans using the online Modeshift STARS system and have provided training and guidance to achieve this. Over the new academic year the team will begin proactively inviting all schools to develop a school travel plan using Modeshift STARS and will be offering training and support to assist in this.

## **2. ANALYSIS:**

2.1 The table in Appendix 2 shows the status of each School Travel Plan in Spelthorne's Schools at the end of the 2017/18 academic year, as well as the take up of activities provided by the county council's Safer Travel and Cycle Training Teams over the 2017/18 academic year. It also highlights those schools that have expanded and whether they have yet completed an accredited School Travel Plan. The activities provided by the county council's Safer Travel and Cycle Training Teams include:

- Reception: Road Safety Play Box – Toys and games related to traffic or road safety.
- Golden Boot Challenge – Month long inter-class competition in June involving whole school to improve levels of sustainable travel.
- Living Streets Walk Once a Week (WOW) campaign. This is a year-long challenge for the whole school to increase walking levels and is delivered by the charity Living Streets with funding provided from the Department for Transport Access Fund targeted at 60 schools in Surrey over three years.
- Pedals – Bike and scooter playground training for years 1 & 2 (ages 5 to 7).
- Bikeability Learn to ride – training for any age to start riding a bike.
- Bikeability Levels 1, 2 – National standard cycle instruction (on and off road) for years 4 to 6 (ages 8 to 11).
- School Speed Watch – Roadside education for speeding drivers by school children.
- ECO Schools and Ashden Award – Award scheme for schools that complete Eco and Sustainable challenges in a variety of topics including transport.

- Park Smart – Student-led parking “enforcement” using a polite notice left on cars to encourage considerate parking by parents, carried out in conjunction with local police.

2.2 For the current academic year 2018/19 the Safer Travel Team will be offering the following additional activities to schools:

- Schools Air Quality Project –a programme of educational measures for schools who are in or near to an air quality management area. This programme began in September 2018 and is funded by DEFRA. The project includes Theatre in Education drama workshops, a media campaign, curriculum resources and subsidised cycle training.
- A pedestrian training course will be piloted in the autumn term and then offered to schools for a fee (that will be passed on to parents) so that the service will be self-funding.
- Theatre in Education – road safety drama workshop about travelling to school independently and dealing with distractions and the impact of road traffic incidents.

2.3 It can be seen from the data in Appendix 2 that Spelthorne has 21 primary schools and 6 secondary schools. Of these, 5 primary schools and one secondary school have expanded. Of these the following schools have yet to fully complete an accredited School Travel Plan:

- Hawkedale Infant School
- Saxon Primary School
- Sunbury Manor Secondary School

2.4 It is possible the above schools are undertaking a number of road safety and sustainable travel activities, but these have not been detailed, and monitored within a School Travel Plan. Consequently these schools are currently in breach of their planning obligations and they have been advised of this by the county council’s Planning Enforcement Officers. They have been advised that any future planning applications associated with the school are likely to be refused if they do not complete a School Travel Plan.

### **3. OPTIONS:**

3.1 The Safer Travel Team will continue to encourage and support all Surrey’s expansion schools to complete and maintain their School Travel Plan using the online Modeshift STARS system.

3.2 From 2018/19, the Safer Travel Team will also encourage all other schools in Surrey to create a School Travel Plan using the online Modeshift STARS system. This will involve promotion and the offer of training and support to all schools.

3.3 Members are invited to assist by encouraging schools to sign up to Modeshift STARS, and to take up the activities offered by the Safer Travel Team to improve road safety and encourage sustainable travel.

#### **4. CONSULTATIONS:**

4.1 The county council's Safer Travel Team work closely with the county council's Schools Expansion Team and Transport Development Planning officers to support schools to complete their School Travel Plans. The team are in regular contact with Surrey's schools to offer a range of training and interventions to support road safety and sustainable travel.

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

5.1 Promotion of sustainable travel to school helps reduce congestion on Surrey's road network at peak times and helps improve the local economy by improving journey time reliability and commuting times for businesses.

#### **6. WIDER IMPLICATIONS:**

<b>Area assessed:</b>	<b>Direct Implications:</b>
Crime and Disorder	No significant
Equality and Diversity	Set out below
Localism (including community involvement and impact)	Set out below
Sustainability (including Climate Change and Carbon Emissions)	Set out below
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	No significant implications
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	Set out below
Public Health	Set out below

##### Equality and Diversity

The interventions which promote road safety and sustainable travel may not be suitable for everyone in the school community due to cultural, mobility and learning differences. In these circumstances the team endeavour to tailor the interventions or offer alternatives to meet individual needs.

##### Localism

The school community, local residents and businesses are negatively affected by traffic associated with the school journey. School Travel Plans are important tool to mitigate the effects of school traffic and demonstrate to residents and business owners that the school and county council is taking action to decrease congestion, road danger and pollution, which is especially important at schools that have expanded.

##### Sustainability implications

Supporting school communities to deliver and promote sustainable transport can reduce levels of congestion, pollution. Increased level of sustainable travel can reduce the financial implications of congestion upon the local economy by reducing commute times.

## Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults implications

Surrey County Council gives schools and parents discretion to exclude pupils from events and activities promoting sustainable travel through the Travel Plan if reasonable steps cannot be taken to safeguard vulnerable children or adults.

### Public Health implications

Increased sustainable and active travel to school can positively tackle obesity and other related illnesses. Studies suggest that travelling to school actively can improve mental wellbeing and improve concentration levels at school.

## **7. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 7.1 A School Travel Plan sets out objectives and actions that the school will undertake to improve road safety and promote sustainable travel modes to reduce reliance on the car. Since 2017 the county council's Safer Travel Team have promoted a new online system called Modeshift STARS [www.modeshiftstars.org](http://www.modeshiftstars.org) which provides a template and supporting materials to help schools create and update their School Travel Plans.
- 7.2 Over the last year the Safer Travel Team have focussed their resources on encouraging expansion schools to create their School Travel Plans using the online Modeshift STARS system. Over the new academic year the team will begin proactively inviting all other schools to develop a School Travel Plan using Modeshift STARS and will be offering training and support to schools to assist in this.
- 7.3 Members are invited to assist in the above by encouraging schools to sign up to Modeshift STARS, and to take up the activities offered by the Safer Travel Team to improve road safety and encourage sustainable travel.

## **8. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:**

- 8.1 The Safer Travel Team will proactively contact all schools in September to invite them to complete a school travel plan and to take up sustainable travel and road safety initiatives offered by the Safer Travel and Cycle Training Teams.

### **Contact Officer:**

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### **Appendices:**

- Appendix 1: Modeshift STARS list of interventions  
Appendix 2: Summary of School Travel Plans and Interventions in Spelthorne Schools During Academic Year 2017/18

### **Background papers:**

Travel Planning Strategy, Surrey County Council – 2010  
School Travel Strategy, Surrey County Council - 2012  
Travel Plan Good Practice Guide, Surrey County Council - 2018



THE NATIONAL SCHOOL TRAVEL AWARDS

# Modeshift STARS Initiatives Guide 2017/18



THE NATIONAL SCHOOL TRAVEL AWARDS

## Walking & Scooting

- W1 Living Streets WOW Campaign
- W2 Living Streets Free Your Feet campaign delivered
- W3 Local Walking Reward Scheme
- W6 Living Streets Walk to School Week
- W7 Walk to school month
- W8 5 / 10 Minute walking zone in place
- W9 Educational / Curriculum Walks
- W10 Walking bus in place
- W15 Using Walking Bus App
- W11 Walking trips
- W12 Scooter storage installed
- W13 Scooter club
- W14 Active travel breakfast
- W19 Parent shelter installed
- W25 Secure buggy storage installed
- W16 - 18 Other walking/scooting initiative

## Cycling

- C1 Dr Bike/cycle maintenance sessions
- C2 Cycle parking installed
- C3 Bikers Breakfast
- C4 Opportunity to practice cycling skills at break time
- C5 School takes part in The Big Pedal
- C6 Cycle competitions/ schools cycle challenge
- C7 Cycle reward scheme
- C8 Bike week
- C9 Cycle club in place
- C10 Pool bike system in place
- C11 Cycle purchase scheme for staff
- C12 Bicycle Security Marking
- C13 Cycle rides/excursions
- C14 Cycle Train / Bike Bus in place
- C15 Bling Your Bike Day
- C20 National Cycle Challenge
- C16 -18 Other cycling initiatives

## Road Safety & Training

- R1 Cycle training for pupils (E.g. Bikeability)
- R2 Learn to Ride
- R3 Balance Bike Training
- R4 Scooter training
- R5 Pedestrian skills training
- R6 Independent travel training
- R7 Young Driver Training
- R8 Cycle training for staff and / or parents
- R9 Road Safety assembly/ presentation
- R10 Be Bright Be Seen Activities
- R11 School invites experts/organisations to talk about personal safety
- R12 Safety around large vehicles training
- R13 Use of transition resources
- R14 Pupils monitoring traffic
- R15 School has lobbied for installation of traffic calming outside of school
- R16 School has lobbied for installation of safer crossings on the route to school
- R17 School has lobbied for installation of 20mph zone outside of school
- R18 Road Safety Day/Week
- R23 In car safety training for young adults
- R24 Nursery teaches road safety & active travel messages
- R19—21 Other road safety & training initiatives

## Air Quality

- AQ1 School promotes car sharing
- AQ2 Car free days
- AQ3 Car free zone in place
- AQ4 Park and walk/stride scheme
- AQ5 Removal of car parking spaces
- AQ6 Highway code is promoted to students, staff and parents
- AQ7 Parent parking campaign
- AQ8 Parking Pledge Scheme
- AQ9 Eco Driver Training
- AQ13 Anti Idling Initiative
- AQ14 Air Pollution Promotion
- AQ15 National Clean Air Day
- AQ10—12 Other smarter driving initiatives

## Public Transport

- PT1 Public transport used for school trips
- PT2 School promotes public transport
- PT3 School promotes responsible behaviour on public transport / has bus behaviour policy
- PT4 Private coaches for school trips pick up and set down in safe / accessible places.
- PT5 School promotes young person's travel card scheme
- PT9 Catch the bus week
- PT10 School has anti-bullying policy for school transport/public buses
- PT11 Hop Off - get off two stops early
- PT6—8 Other public transportation initiatives

## Promotion

- PR1 Newsletter
- PR2 Info sent to residents / School communicates with residents
- PR3 Local media / Schools gets local media attention
- PR4 Presenting to/ sharing ideas with other schools
- PR5 Distributing cycling and public transport maps
- PR6 School has an active travel policy
- PR7 Travel information on notice board
- PR8 Competitions run & promoted within school
- PR9 Assembly
- PR10 Social Media Campaign
- PR11 Sponsored events
- PR12 Parents' evenings/ Induction evenings
- PR13 Information on website
- PR14 Councillor/ MP/ Mayor invited to an event
- PR15 Within the Prospectus
- PR16 Letter from Head Teacher to Parents
- PR17 New parent pack
- PR18 Transition activities
- PR19 School Railing Banners
- PR20 JTA/YTA/JRSO in place
- PR21 Travel to school information maps created
- PR27 Active travel shop/enterprise
- PR22—24 Other promotion method

## Curriculum

- CU1 School takes part in competitions promoted by others
- CU2 School teaches the health benefits of safe / active travel
- CU3 School teaches environmental benefits of active travel
- CU4 Theatre in Education on sustainable travel or road safety
- CU5 Bike maintenance lessons
- CU6 Cycling lessons (PE)
- CU7 Road safety lessons
- CU8 Pupils use school travel survey data from STARS in lessons
- CU9 School uses Living Streets WOW Travel Tracker to collect data
- CU10 School collects postcode data
- CU10—12 Other curriculum initiatives

## Partnerships

- P1 School works with Police/ Safer Neighbourhood Team/ PCSO to promote safe & sustainable travel
- P2 School works with other schools to promote safe and sustainable travel
- P3 School presents their work to other groups
- P4 School works towards the Sustainable Schools Framework
- P5 School works with Local councillors/ Mayor/ MPs
- P6 School has achieved Eco School status
- P7 School works with local residents/ resident associations to promote safe and sustainable travel
- P8 School works with local charities/ NGOs to promote safe and sustainable travel
- P9 School works with local sport/ health partnerships to promote safe and sustainable travel
- P10—12 Other partnership initiatives

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## Appendix 2: Summary of School Travel Plans and Interventions in Spelthorne Schools at the end of Academic Year 2017/18

Establishment name	Phase of education	Expansion School	School Travel Plan Status	School Travel Plan Comments	Golden Boot Challenge	Living Streets	Pedals Bike & Scooter Playground Training Yrs 1/2	Bikeability Learn To Ride	Bikeability Level 1	Bikeability Level 2	Bikeability Level 3	Eco Schools Award
Fordway Centre	Not applicable											
Staines Preparatory School	Not applicable				Yes							
Ashford CofE Primary School	Primary						50		51	21		Bronze
Ashford Park Primary School	Primary	Yes	Green	STARS - Bronze		Local Support						Bronze
Beauclerc Infant and Nursery School	Primary					Remote Support	40					Green
Buckland Primary School	Primary				Yes	Local Support	56		44	18		Green
Chennestone Primary School	Primary				Yes		49		76	36		Green
Clarendon Primary School	Primary								30	21		Silver
Echelford Primary School	Primary				Yes				67	33		
Hawkedale Infant School	Primary	Yes	Amber	STARS - Incomplete		Remote Support	30					Silver
Kenyngton Manor Primary School	Primary											
Laleham CofE VA Primary School	Primary				Yes				117	42		
Littleton CofE Infant School	Primary						28					Bronze
Our Lady of the Rosary RC Primary School	Primary									27		Silver
Riverbridge Primary School	Primary	Yes	Green	STARS - Bronze			87		61	36		
Saxon Primary School	Primary	Yes	Amber	STARS - Incomplete		Local Support	40			17		Silver
Spelthorne School	Primary								106	23		
Springfield Primary School	Primary	Yes	Green	STARS - Bronze		Local Support	43		41			Silver
St Ignatius RC Primary School	Primary				Yes							Silver
St Michael Catholic Primary School	Primary				Yes	Local Support			63			
St Nicholas CofE Primary School	Primary											Silver
Stanwell Fields CofE Primary School	Primary				Yes							Bronze
Town Farm Primary School & Nursery	Primary				Yes							
Bishop Wand Church of England School	Secondary											Bronze
Matthew Arnold School	Secondary											Silver
St Paul's Catholic College	Secondary											Silver
Sunbury Manor School	Secondary	Yes	Amber	STARS - Incomplete								
Thamesmead School	Secondary											
Thomas Knyvett College	Secondary											
Manor Mead School	Special School											