

SUSTAINABLE MODES OF TRAVEL TO SCHOOL STRATEGY (SMoTSS) summary leaflet

What is the Sustainable Modes of Travel to School Strategy?

The SMoTSS is Bath and North East Somerset Council's commitment to help make walking, cycling and use of passenger transport a realistic and attractive option for journeys to schools and colleges.

The SMoTSS aims to:

- Reduce the use of the car for journeys to, from and between educational establishments;
- Improve accessibility to, from and between educational establishments;
- Improve child road safety;
- Improve child health;
- Improve the quality of the local environment.



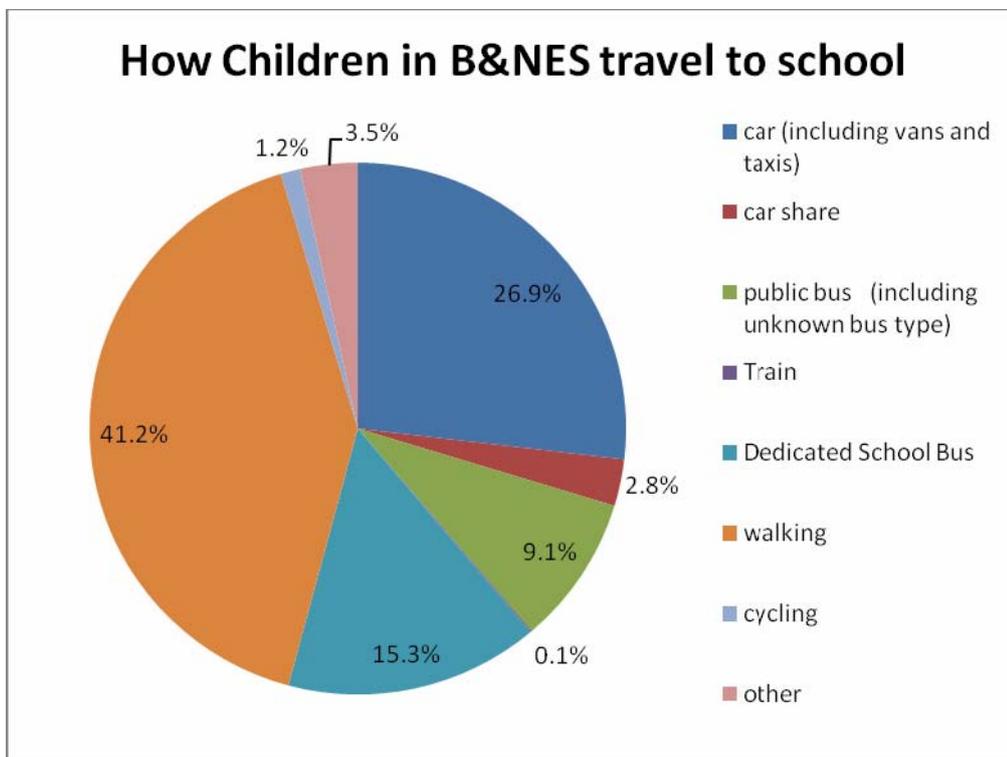
Why are we doing this?

Approximately 29% of children and young people travel to school by car, and yet we know that more young people would like to be able to walk or cycle than currently do. Helping them to do this would benefit their health, be cost effective and convenient for families and could reduce road congestion which would improve both our local and global environment.

To help make sustainable travel an attractive alternative to the family car we have developed a plan of action that:

- Addresses the needs of children
- Puts in place improvements to pedestrian and cycle routes
- Develops new initiatives to encourage safe walking, cycling and independent travel
- Promotes the choices available

This leaflet is a summary of the full Sustainable Modes of Travel to School Strategy 2009. The full document can be obtained from the contact at the end of this document. An updated Strategy will be published on 31st August each year.



What are sustainable modes of travel?

Sustainable modes of travel to school include:

- Walking
- Cycling
- Bus
- Other forms of public transport
- Car sharing

How will this help you?

The Strategy will put in place improvements that will help more families choose active and environmentally friendly ways to travel to school, and provides the travel information you need to help you plan your journeys.

This is particularly useful if your child will shortly be moving on to school or college. It will also include education measures to help equip children and young people to make safer independent journeys to school, and enable you to get involved with improving the travel and transport facilities in and around your child's school.

How do we know what needs to be done?

We have surveyed how children currently travel to school, and how they would like to travel.

This shows us which travel modes are the most popular, and which sustainable and active ways to travel have the most potential to increase. We have also reviewed the whole transport network to identify areas that could be improved to meet children's needs.

How are we going to make these improvements?

We have identified 6 priority areas, each with a range of supporting actions that we will put in place. These are:

- To improve walking and cycling routes to, from and between educational establishments
- To promote the use of the sustainable transport infrastructure
- To inform children and parents/ guardians of the travel options available to them (including pupils with special educational needs and disabilities)
- To engage all schools and colleges in the Travel Plan process
- To encourage partnership working and strengthen links to other plans, policies and initiatives
- To continue SMoTSS development and assess its effectiveness

Many of these build on existing actions, but the Strategy will also develop new ideas.

What sorts of actions are being planned?

There are many actions planned including:

- Training children in road awareness as a pedestrian and as a cyclist
- Offering schools free materials to take part in walk to school week (May) and month (October)
- Crossings, reduced speed zones and other engineering changes as part of the Safer Routes to School programme
- A B&NES dedicated Bike It officer, working with schools throughout the year to educate about and encourage cycling
- A Safer Routes to School officer has been appointed and will continue working with the schools who already have a plan (85%) to keep it active and effective, and to support the schools with their Safer Routes to School programmes
- School Travel Advisors are working with the remaining 15% of schools to develop a travel plan by March 2010
- Strong links have been made and will continue to be developed with other Council programmes to support our efforts including – Healthy Schools, Extended Schools, Joint Rights of Way Improvement Plan and Joint Local Transport Plan

If you would like more information, a copy of the full strategy, or want to comment on the SMOtSS

Contact us:

Online at: *Website Link to be added for full SMOtSS*

By telephoning: 01225 394257

By writing to: Safer Routes to School
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