



Active Travel Policy

St. Peter's Catholic Academy



OUR MISSION

"Together One Family, One Community in Christ."

St. Peter's Catholic Academy recognises that gospel values and the teachings of the church are central to the life of the school. The school aims to create an environment where children can develop physically, emotionally, socially and morally fostering co-operation and communication between home, school, parish and the local community. Together we hope to lead our children towards understanding, tolerance, justice and sensitivity to the needs of others.

Introduction

At St. Peter's we encourage pupils and parents to travel to school by cycling, scooting and walking (active travel) wherever possible.

This school travel policy explains how we will be encouraging active travel to school. We will discuss the policy with the pupils and re-visit it periodically to ensure its relevance. For pupils unable to travel to school actively, we encourage use of public transport or car-share.

If you have any ideas to improve things at or around school for pedestrians and cyclists, or questions about travelling to school, please get in touch with our school office.

What we will do at St. Peter's

- We use Modeshift STARS to update and monitor our school travel plan.
- We promote safe and active travel as much as possible by using our website- www.stpetersnewman.co.uk, newsletter and Facebook. We also provide assemblies and workshops around road safety. Eg. 'Be Bright, Be Seen.'
- We encourage all members of our school community to walk, cycle or travel by public transport for the journey to school. To support this we provide:
 - Cycle training (Bikeability)
 - Pedestrian training
 - Cycle parking
 - Scooter parking
 - Public transport information
 - Walk to school week
 - Bike to school week
 - Bikes/scooters available for use at break/lunch times

- Local school trips are made by public transport where possible, or on foot if the destination is close by.
- We let all new pupils and their parents/carers know that we promote healthy and sustainable travel to school before the child starts at our school.

Please note that:

- It is school policy that children do not travel alone to St Peter's from Nursery to Year 5. In Year 6, children may walk home on their own only if written consent is provided by a parent and if this request is approved by the principal. Principal approval will be made based on a child's maturity levels after consultation with the class teacher and other school staff.
- 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, scooting and cycling activities are being led by the school there may additional rules and guidance concerning equipment such as use of helmets, high visibility clothing, etc
- Parents are advised to consider appropriate insurance cover (check home insurance) as the school is not liable for, and its insurance does not cover, any loss or damage to bicycles and scooters being used on the way to or from school.

What we ask of pupils

- Ask your parents if you can walk, scoot or cycle to school.
- Behave in a way that shows you and the school in the best light whether walking, scooting, cycling or using public transport.
- Ride or walk courteously, sensibly and safely on the way to and from school.
- Push bikes and scooters on school grounds.
- Check that your bike or scooter is roadworthy and properly maintained.
- Wear a helmet for cycling/scooting.
- Make sure you can be seen by using lights in the dark or bad weather and by wearing high-visibility clothing.
- Make sure you have a lock for your bike or scooter and that you use it.

What we ask of parents

- Please encourage your child(ren) to walk, scoot or cycle to school whenever possible.
- Encourage your children to take up opportunities to develop their competence and confidence in cycling or scooting.
- Consider walking, cycling or scooting with your child on the school run, possibly joining with other families as a walking bus or cycle train.

- Ensure your child(ren) walk or ride sensibly and safely on the way to and from school, and to push bikes and scooters on school grounds.
- Ensure that bicycles and scooters are roadworthy and properly maintained. If in doubt consult a qualified mechanic.
- Provide your child with equipment such as high-visibility clothing, waterproof jacket, wellies, lights, a lock and helmet as appropriate.
- Make sure your child(ren) know how to use the lock for their bike or scooter.
- Ensure you have appropriate insurance cover for your child(ren)'s bicycle or scooter as the school is not liable for any loss or damage to cycles or scooters on the premises or being used on the way to or from school.
- If you travel by bus, can you get off the bus at least two stops early and walk the last part of the journey?

We understand that sometimes there is no alternative to driving to school.

- Where a car must be used we ask parents to drive only part of the way, and drop their child(ren) off away from the school so that some of the journey can be walked or scooted.
- If you do have to drive your child(ren) and stop in the near vicinity please do so legally, safely and with respect for our neighbours and local residents. It is not acceptable to park or wait on double yellow lines or double red lines, on the school zigzags or across residential driveways for any period of time.

Policy Review

This policy was reviewed in November 2025.