



THE BEDIFFERENT FEDERATION



SCHOOL TRAVEL POLICY

Mrs L Zacharias-Searle
September 2025





AIMS AND PURPOSE

At The BeDifferent Federation of Lonesome, Singlegate and William Morris Primary Schools, the health and welfare of children is fundamental to everything that we do. The choices we make in the way we travel to school can benefit children's physical and mental health and provide opportunities for building connections with others.

This policy is in place to maximise these benefits and combat air pollution in and around the school gate. Air pollution disproportionately affects children because their lungs are still developing, they are at a lower height so have greater exposure to fumes from cars and they breathe twice as fast as adults. More air pollution comes from road traffic, with the highest levels occurring at peak times when school starts and finishes.

We aim to encourage all children, parents and staff to travel to school by sustainable means such as cycling, scooting and walking wherever possible. We aim to make sustainable and active travel easier and more enjoyable for everyone. We understand that not everyone is able to travel to school on foot and so this policy identifies some suggested ways that families may lower their carbon footprint and plan for a more pleasant journey to school.

This policy sets out how we encourage active travel to school. The policy is available to children and families on our website and is updated annually.

We welcome ideas to improve the use of sustainable travel at or around school for pedestrians and cyclists, or questions about travelling to school.

SCHOOL TRAVEL WORKING GROUP

We have a School Travel Working Group which works with children, staff and families to encourage, develop and support strategies and ideas for travelling to school by means other than the car. They organise and run events and activities to encourage more children to walk, cycle or scoot to school on a more regular basis.

Our School Travel Champions are Mrs Zacharias-Searle (Singlegate), Mrs Parrett (William Morris) and Mrs Davey (Lonesome).

The members of the School Travel Working Group include the Chief Executive Headteacher, the Heads of Schools, the School Travel Champions and the appointed TfL Explorer Ambassadors across the Federation.





BENEFITS OF ACTIVE TRAVEL

We encourage children, parents and staff to travel to school by cycling, scooting and walking (active travel) wherever possible.

Some of the many benefits of active travel include:

- Improving both mental and physical health through physical activity
- Improving the quality of the air the children breathe at our school
- Establishing positive active travel behaviours
- Promoting independence and improving safety awareness
- Reducing congestion, noise and pollution in the community
- Reducing the environmental impact of the journey to school
- Providing time for families to talk to and connect with their child(ren) on the journey to or from school

We also encourage the use of public transport, if at all possible, for those who cannot travel actively. This could include getting the bus, train or tube to school.

Travelling by public transport has a number of benefits including:

- Improving air quality at our school
- Establishing positive and sustainable travel behaviours
- Developing our children's independence and confidence to travel on public transport
- Teaching children how to travel responsibly
- Providing opportunities for families to talk to and connect with their child(ren) on the journey to and from school

We understand that some families are unable to travel actively or sustainably due to a number of factors and will always support parents who are unable to travel in these ways. We recognise that some children do need to travel to school by car and that it is not always possible to access public transport or to travel actively.

We will always encourage our families, if they can, to park a little further away from the school and plan a 5-minute walk into their journey. This benefits all by reducing the air pollution around the school and providing opportunities to connect with the children before the start to the school day.

If parents are unable to park and then walk 5 minutes to the school gate, we encourage families to ensure that their car is switched off while dropping their child to school.





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To encourage children to cycle, scoot or walk to school frequently we will:

- Actively promote cycling, scooting and walking as a positive way of travelling to school
- Celebrate the achievements of those who cycle, scoot or walk to school through competitions, class rewards and school achievement assemblies
- Provide cycle and scooter storage on the school site
- Provide high quality cycle training to children wishing to participate
- Share assemblies with the children to promote safer cycling, scooting and walking and competitions designed to engage the children's interest in active travel
- Work closely with the team of TfL Explorer Ambassadors and the Head of School to plan activities and events to encourage children, parents and staff to travel more sustainably to school
- Raise awareness of the air quality benefits of active travel
- Update our School Travel Plan annually and maintain accreditation for our School Travel Plan under the TfL Travel for Life scheme
- Work with our local Borough officer and road safety team on interventions and activities that promote active and safe travel

To make cycling, scooting and walking to and from school a positive experience for everybody concerned, we expect our children to:

- Wear a cycle helmet
- Ride and walk sensibly and follow the Highway Code and the Green Cross Code using formal crossings such as the zebra crossing when available
- Check that their bicycle or scooter is roadworthy and regularly maintained
- Behave in a manner which shows them and the school in the best possible light
- Consider the needs of others when cycling or scooting
- Be mindful of the rights of others to also use pavements safely when scooting or cycling to school
- Ensure they can be seen by other road users, by using lights and wearing high-visibility clothing as appropriate
- Be mindful at all times of other road and pavement users



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For the wellbeing of our children, we expect parents and carers to:

- Encourage their child(ren) to walk, cycle or scoot to school whenever possible
- Encourage their child(ren) to take up opportunities to develop their competence and confidence in cycling or scooting
- Consider cycling, scooting and walking with their child on the school journey
- Provide their child with equipment such as high-visibility clothing, lights, a lock and **essentially** a cycle helmet as appropriate
- Ensure their child's bicycle or scooter is road worthy and safe to ride
- Monitor and manage their own child's behaviours when they are cycling, scooting or walking to school, ensuring that they are being respectful of other pavement and road users and following the Highway Code and Green Cross Code

PLEASE NOTE:

- 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, cycling and scooting activities are being led by the school there may be additional rules and guidance concerning equipment such as the use of helmets, high-visibility clothing etc.
- Parents are advised that leaving bicycles and scooters on school premises is done so at their own risk and the school accepts no responsibility for loss or damage to bicycles and scooters. Parents are advised to consider appropriate insurance cover, as the school is not liable for, and its insurance does not cover, loss or damage to bicycles or scooters used on the way to and from school
- Parents are reminded that they are responsible for their child's safety and wellbeing on the journey to and from school. Children become the school's responsibility once the handover has taken place in the morning and until the child is handed back to their parent/carers at the end of the school day

