

# Featherstone Primary School

## Travel Plan Policy

**Governing Board approval date:** 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023

**Monitoring, evaluation and review:** Every Three Years



Aspire, Believe, Succeed

### 1. Overview

At Featherstone Primary School, we encourage our parents, pupils and staff to walk, scoot or cycle to school wherever possible.

### 2. Roles and responsibilities

#### What we do

- We use Modeshift STARS to update and monitor the school travel plan.
- We communicate this policy to all members of staff and parents.
- We encourage all members of our school community to walk, scoot or cycle wherever possible.
- We provide cycle and scooter storage.
- We promote safe and active travel as much as possible by using the school newsletter, website, in assemblies and at any other suitable opportunities.
- We let new pupils and their parents/carers know that we promote healthy and sustainable travel to school before the child starts at our school.
- We ensure effective procedures are in place for pupils travelling from school alone.
- We decide the years in which pupils are able to be considered for travelling from school alone.
- We decide whether pupils will be granted permission or not to travel from school alone and communicate this decision to the parents.
- We inform parents where their child has not arrived at school to coordinate an effective response.

#### What we expect parents/carers to:

- Adhere to the principles outlined in this policy.
- Encourage their child to travel actively to school.
- Consider walking, cycling or scootering with their child.
- Ensure their 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 their child is aware of road safety and how to keep themselves safe when travelling to and from school.
- Carefully consider whether their child should be permitted to travel from school alone.
- Submit a request form to the Headteacher where they wish for their child to be released from school without an adult.

- Ensure their child is aware of, and adheres to, the established route for travelling from school.
- Inform the school when their child has not returned home from school.

**What we expect our pupils to:**

- Ask their parents if they can walk, scoot or cycle to school.
- Ensure they are aware of the principles of road safety.
- Behave appropriately in a way that shows them and the school in the best light when walking, scooting, cycling or using public transport.
- Ride or walk courteously, sensibly and safely on the way to and from school.
- Adhere to the route for travelling to and from school, as outlined by their parents.
- Push bikes and scooters on school grounds.
- Check that their bike or scooter is roadworthy and properly maintained.
- When cycling or scooting, wear a cycle helmet.
- Make sure they can be seen by using lights in the dark or bad weather and by wearing high visibility clothing.
- Make sure they have a lock for their bike or scooter.
- Make sure they arrive to school on time when travelling alone.

### **3. Modes of travel**

#### **Walking**

Pupils and parents are encouraged to walk to school where it is safe and practicable to do so. Pupils will be encouraged to walk along safe routes that are pedestrian friendly.

#### **Cycling or scooting**

Pupils will be encouraged to cycle or scoot where it is safe and practicable to do so. Parents are responsible in ensuring that bicycles and scooters are roadworthy and properly maintained. If in doubt parents should seek advice from a qualified mechanic. Parents should provide their child with:

- a cycle helmet
- lights fitted to their bike
- reflective high visibility clothing
- a suitable lock to secure their bicycles or scooters in the bicycle shed during school hours.

Please note that the decision on whether a child is competent to cycle or scoot to school is for the parent or carer to make. The school has no liability for any consequences arising from this decision.

Parents are responsible in ensuring they have appropriate insurance cover for their 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.

## Driving - Car Free School Streets

Featherstone Primary is part of Birmingham City Councils Car Free School Streets Scheme. Glenville Drive and Haywards Close are designated Pedestrian and Cycle Zones at the start and end of the school day. Vehicles are not permitted to drive or be parked in this zone, during the stated times on the signage at the entrance/exit of the zone, unless they have a permit - see **Appendix A**.

This scheme aims to:

- cut down on traffic and parking pressures outside schools
- discourage car journeys to school and encourage walking and cycling
- make the streets outside schools safer at the start and end of the day
- improve air quality and create a more pleasant environment for everyone

There will be some exemptions that will permit traffic to use these roads at these times, including residents, blue badge holders and emergency services.

Anyone driving or parking in the restricted zone at these times without a valid permit or exemption can be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice.

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 (e.g. park in Low Wood Road, Chudleigh Road, Milverton Road, Beach Dene Grove) 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. We ask our parents to think about how and where they park and to take responsibility for helping to keep their children and other children safe. Whilst waiting please switch off the engine and headlights. When opening your car doors please ensure you do not hit anyone.

It is not acceptable to park or wait:

- anywhere within the restricted area unless exempt i.e. blue badge holders
- anywhere on the school zigzags (there are no exemptions)
- on single yellow lines during the times of operation shown on nearby time plates
- on double yellow lines at any time
- anywhere that would prevent access from emergency services
- opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction
- where the kerb has been lowered to help wheelchair users
- in front of an entrance to a property – this is not acceptable for our local residents to suffer
- on a bend or corner - this will make sure our children can see cars and drivers can see our children
- on the pavement if this obstructs and seriously inconvenience people with wheelchairs, visual impairments and people with prams and pushchairs
- in the middle of the road to drop your child off - this makes it dangerous for children and other drivers

#### **4. Dropping off children to school**

Parents are responsible for ensuring their child is dropped off by a responsible person if the child is not able to travel to school unsupervised. School will only be responsible for a child once they have entered into the school building through one of the designated pupil entrance points. School are not responsible for children who arrive early with or without a responsible person.

# Appendix A

