

Sustrans School Travel Case Study:

Freshford Church of England Primary School, High Street, Freshford, Bath

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Title of project: Walk to School
Type of School: Primary School
School location: Rural; to the southeast of Bath in Freshford, a conservation village.
Local Authority: Bath and North East Somerset
Partners: Freshford Parish Council Shared Space Scheme to improve the safety of all road users and pedestrians and improve the quality of the environment for all.

Key Features: Initiative to increase the amount of children walking, scooting and cycling to school. Involves majority of the children, many parents, governors, staff and friends.



Summary: As a school, Freshford aims to raise awareness of sustainability and environmental concerns, reducing individual and joint carbon footprints, CO2 emissions and obesity levels. We believe that our children should once again have the freedom to walk and cycle in safety, not only to increase their independence and improve their health, but to reduce levels of congestion and pollution in and around Freshford.

We are eager to invest time and money in offering greater facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and bus users in order to sustain these alternative modes of travel. Not only will this benefit our school community but it will go some way to impacting upon our contribution to global climate change. Our various Walk to School initiatives are aimed at trying to address not only the number of vehicles using our roads, but also the amount of parking around the school, which becomes not only an inconvenience for all road users, but greatly detracts from the feeling of shared space within the village.

Initiative: 'We're off again!' After our initial 'WOW: Walk on Wednesday' and 'TOTs: Trot on Tuesday/ Trundle on Thursday', we're off again this term with 'Walk to school three days a week!'

Outcomes: With the advent of each new walking initiative the number of children participating has risen, with almost the entire school now joining one of our walks. In order to be consistent we have asked our school buses to stop at one of the drop off points so that the bus children too can join in our walks.

Costs and Funding: Our school cook prepares a healthy snack for all children participating in this scheme, funded by Walk to School initiative funding. We are now thinking of purchasing fluorescent waistcoats for all the children in order to make the walk even safer and more fun.

Problems and solutions: Whilst each walk is supervised by either a governor or member of staff, the large numbers of children taking part, many on scooters, can be quite problematic to supervise as parents accompanying the walks tend to want to chat and not look out for their own and others' children. We are keen that all participants now wear fluorescent waistcoats and that perhaps scooters are banned for a while in order to increase overall safety for all.

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www.sustrans.org.uk

Sustrans is the UK's leading sustainable transport charity, working on practical projects so people choose to travel in ways that benefit their health and the environment.

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