

Sustrans School Travel Case Study:

Burnwood Community School, Tunstall, Stoke-on-Trent

website: www.saferoutestoschools.org.uk tel: 0117 915 0100 email: schools@sustrans.org.uk

Title of project:	Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives
School type:	Children aged 4-11
Local Authority:	Supported by the local authority's Transport Planning, Road Safety and School Travel departments
Partners:	Advantage WM, Cycle Staffordshire, local bike shops, E.ON, British Cycling, the Police
Key Features:	Walking, Cycling, School Travel Plan, Pupil Involvement.

Quotation: "The school's Tri Track is fantastic and provides a wonderful resource for the benefit of the school and its community." *Ray Hughes, Regional School Travel Adviser, West Midlands*

Summary: The school has embraced the children's interest in riding bikes by developing a range of projects to improve both safe routes and access to school and provide secure cycle parking and track facilities within the school grounds.



How has the initiative worked?

All children have opportunity to cycle during the school day and holidays using the Tri Track. This comprises a large playground with cycle track markings, a banked velodrome-style track around its edge and the latest edition – opened as part of June 2008's Bike Festival – a mountain bike trail. All are linked and a BMX track is planned for 2009. The Head was keen to see all children take part so funding has been secured for a pool of bikes and helmets.

Children from neighbouring schools can book sessions on the tracks, and facilities are complimented by a programme of cycle training, Go Ride cycling sessions, cycling as a PE option plus monthly family bike rides. There are also general cycle incentive schemes to reward children who cycle to school.

The school has successfully lobbied for local safer route improvements e.g. controlled crossings and cycle route improvements, which have all improved safety on the school journey. The Head also promotes walking to school via two walking buses, and car reduction via a school minibus which collects a number of children which also helps with attendance and punctuality.

Outcomes:

- Students were involved in design and project management
- There's been an increase in numbers cycling to school – from two or three in 2004 to 40 to 50 in summer 2008
- Attitudes are being transformed as pupils gain confidence
- Burnwood is being heralded as a beacon of good practice
- The Tri Track development is part of a nature trail with an outdoor willow classroom
- Weight management – The Head found overweight children reluctant to do swimming/ PE, as they had to get changed. With this facility, there's no need to undress
- Tri Track is a community resource
- A healthy packed lunch is provided on family rides, which are an opportunity for children and adults to gain exercise and knowledge of the local area
- Walking buses and promotion of healthy lifestyles was noted in Ofsted's 2006 report
- Ongoing safer routes and cycle route development discussions with LA

News releases

To read more indepth coverage of opening ceremonies for components of the Tri Track, please visit the school's website at www.burnwoodcommunityschool.ik.org/gallery/home.ikml.

Costs and Funding: Tri Track construction started in 2006. A School Travel Plan DCSF capital grant was awarded in 2007, which funded sheltered cycle parking. There area ongoing safer routes and cycle route development discussions with the local authority. The School Travel Plan will be reviewed annually.

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