

Sustrans School Travel Case Study
www.saferoutestoschools.org.uk
schools@sustrans.org.uk
0117 915 0100

Posted: December 2008

Killylea Primary School, Armagh

Title of project: Rural Safe Routes to Schools

Local Authority: Northern Ireland – Armagh Council area

Partners: School, Sustrans, DRD Roads Service, DARD, DENI, DOE Road Safety Branch,

Key Features: School Travel Plan, Community Involvement, High modal shift

Summary:

- The main travel issue as voiced by parents, pupils and teachers was **congestion** at the school gate twice a day. This caused a safety issue as people parked inconsiderately near the school gates forcing children to cross the road between poorly parked cars.
- The school has been addressing the growing problem of **obesity** within our society and has been providing healthy breaks and lunches for several years but wanted to encourage more active school travel to further tackle the problem. We care very much about the environment **we feel very strongly that the pollution generated at the school gates was excessive** and needed to be reduced.

Initiative:

What has the project involved;

- A **community picnic** at Fair Green in the village and walking down to school.
- The **whole school biking**, triking and scooting down to school.
- **Dressing up** and parading down to school.
- Walking to school wearing our **decorated wellies**.
- **Blinging our bikes** and cycling to school.
- **Animal dances down the new cycle track** with the community invited to watch and refreshments served afterwards.
- **A visit by Alastair Humphries** (round the world cyclist) linked to a virtual walk and cycle around the world.

We have a new environment committee and they are really encouraging everyone to walk and cycle to school. The Eco Committee are focusing on “Transport” as they work towards their 3rd Eco Schools Flag.

Outcomes:

One of the highest modal shifts across the 18 schools with whom Sustrans worked:

66.0 % of children being driven to school before the initiative

13.6 % of children being driven to school after the initiative.

“The whole project was a lot of hard work but so much fun and the rewards were amazing!”

Costs and Funding: Funded by DARD, DENI, DRD Roads Service, DOE Road Safety Branch.

Problems and solutions:

Case study contact details: Margaret Kelsall: School Champion

Or see www.sustrans.org.uk/nischools