

# Sustrans School Travel Case Study: Summerlea Community Primary School, West Sussex

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**Title of project:** Working towards Level Two of the Travel Mark scheme

**Type of School:** Urban Primary School

**Local Authority:** West Sussex County Council

**Partners:** Local Community Police Support Officers

**Key Features:** School Travel Plan (STP)

**Date:** Uploaded March 2010

## Summary

After carrying out traffic surveys and liaising with local residents, the children recognised what the major traffic issues were around our school. We launched a competition to design a poster to remind car drivers of safety needs along our boundary, and the winning banner was created and made by a local company, see image below.



## Initiative

There are 15 children on our Travel Plan Committee from Years 3, 4 and 6. They meet at least once every half term and take a serious interest in all matters that will make children safer and healthier through initiatives they introduce.

## The Travel Plan Committee has:

- taken a whole school assembly, to which they invited the lollypop lady, Sue, to explain how she can help children cross the busy road near our school safely.
- taken road safety equipment around different Year Groups each week to share good road crossing practice.
- planned a mural to be sited near the school entrance giving the message to 'bike or hike' to school in order to reduce traffic and help everyone become fitter.
- carried out a survey to see if a walking bus would be used by local pupils. At present, Year 3 are walking to school at least once a week to earn badges and certificates. (Our Head teacher launched this by walking to school from his home on the other side of the South Downs, videoing his journey for us all to enjoy in another assembly.)

This initiative will be extended to whole Key Stages in the coming months. The children plan to promote National Bike to School week which starts on 26 April by inviting parents to cycle in early that Monday, to celebrate at school with juice and a snack. This gives you a flavour of what our Committee is like and the enthusiasm they have.

**Outcomes:** The outcomes for us have been that traffic issues, child safety and health-related benefits are being discussed regularly. We are an accredited healthy school' and this works well with the requirements of the Travel Mark scheme. The children on the committee are really enjoying what they do and encouraging others to reconsider how they get to school and how fit they are. We have better links with our local community, not only do we meet with local CPSOs, but also a school governor, who is also on the local Parish Council. We send out newsletters to local residents and invite them to send in their views and ideas to help us improve the traffic flow around local roads.

**Costs and Funding:** We have not needed lots of cash to date. The banner was funded by a Quingo evening (bingo and quiz rounds) led by our PTA, called FOSS (Friends of Summerlea School). If we had more cash we may consider covering our cycle racks as they are exposed and some people are put off cycling because of the effects of rain.

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