

Key Stage 2

School Travel

Competition Resources



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The competition and school travel issues in general provide lots of opportunities for cross-curricular activities.

Curriculum Links

English

EN2 Reading Plenty of opportunities for reading and research, using non-fiction and non-literary texts.

EN3 Writing Lots of scope to cover Breadth of study with regards to writing, including exploration of ideas; writing to inform, explain and persuade; writing for the wider community and imagined readers.

Geography

Knowledge and understanding of places Pupils have the opportunity to identify and describe where and what places are like. They need to know how places have become the way they are and how they are changing. The competition could be linked to a field study of the local area and to local travel issues.

Knowledge and understanding of patterns and processes Pupils can make observations about where things are located (e.g. a pedestrian crossing near a school) and recognise changes in human features.

Knowledge and understanding of environmental change and sustainable development The competition provides pupils with the opportunity to recognise change in the environment and how the environment may be improved and sustained.

Breadth of Study

Draws on an environmental issue caused by changes in an environment (e.g. increasing traffic congestion), and attempting to manage the environment sustainably (e.g. improving public transport).

Schemes of work

The competition could be linked with the following schemes of work:

Unit 1 Investigating our local area

Unit 8 Improving the environment

Unit 12 Should the High Street be closed to traffic?

Unit 18 Connecting ourselves to the world

Unit 20 Local traffic – an environmental issue

PSHE and Citizenship

1a Pupils should be taught to talk and write about their opinions, and explain their views, on issues that affect themselves and society

2a Children should be taught to research, discuss and debate topical issues, problems and events

3a Pupils should be taught what makes a healthy lifestyle, including the benefits of exercise and healthy eating, what affects mental health, and how to make informed choices

Activity Ideas

Below are some activities that could be used to accompany or extend the competition task.

Travel survey

Links: Maths, Geography and ICT

Conduct a survey of how either the class, year or whole school travel to school. Ask pupils to create the survey and discuss how it is going to be conducted. Pupils can show their results in a bar chart (either on paper or computer). Discuss the results, what they show and how the same journeys could be made by walking, cycling or public transport.



Pros and cons of different travel modes

Links: Geography, Citizenship

In groups ask pupils to draw up lists of the pros and cons of different modes of travel such as cycling, walking, public transport and car travel. Have a class debate on why pupils of their age should be encouraged to cycle more with each group representing a different travel mode.

Mapping the route to school

Links: Geography, Citizenship and English

Using large maps of the area ask pupils to plot their route to school. Using local cycle and bus maps ask them to plot these on the map, as well as discuss with their peers any particular dangerous points or helpful features such as pedestrian crossings. After building up a picture of the local area ask them to discuss if there are any features that could be put in place to make the journey easier or safer such as cycle paths, extra lighting or pedestrian crossings. Pupils could incorporate these ideas into their competition entries as well as creating other materials to inform and persuade such as posters and leaflets.

Useful Facts

- During the morning rush hour 1 in 5 cars are doing the 'school run'
- In 2008 48% of 5-10 years walked to school, 32% were taken by car and only 2% travelled by bicycle
- The average length of journeys to school has increased. The average journey to school for 5 to 10 year old is 1.6 miles compared to 1.1 in 1985/86
- The proportion of primary age children travelling to school alone has gone down from 21% in 1985/86 to 6% in 2008.

Source: DfT (2009) National Travel Survey 2008

Local travel issues

Links: English, Citizenship, Geography

Ask pupils to create interview questions to find out how local people travel, how they would like to travel, what problems they have come across in the local area, how they travelled to school when they were children, and how they would like to travel. Using audio and visual equipment get pupils to interview a range of people such as teachers, elderly individuals, local businesses, the police etc. and create a radio or TV news report to show to the rest of the school.

Where to find out more

Useful websites:

www.sustrans.org.uk

www.bikeability.org.uk

www.livingstreets.org.uk

www.walktoschool.org.uk

www.bettertransport.org.uk

www.everyjourneymatters.co.uk

www.transportdirect.info

For more details about how school travel issues can be used as a topic to deliver the Primary National Curriculum visit

www.sustrans.org.uk/what-we-do/safe-routes-to-schools/resources/curriculum.

Our information sheets also contain lots of information to assist you. These can be downloaded via our website www.sustrans.org.uk/schooltravel or contact the free Sustrans School Travel information service on **0117 915 0100** or schools@sustrans.org.uk to request hard copies or for further advice and support.

Lesson Plan: “Write all about it” School Travel competition

Objectives

- To reinforce pupils’ understanding of the health and environmental benefits of an active school journey
- Get pupils to think about their own school journey and the barriers to walking and cycling
- Provide an opportunity for pupils to write to persuade and inform on a real-life issue
- Give a voice for the views and ideas of children through Sustrans’ project and policy work

Equipment

- Examples of formal and informal letters
- Hard copies of the pupil entry template (or electronic - IT suite would be needed)

Curriculum links

English EN3, Geography, Citizenship, (ICT)

Introduce School Travel issues

1. Do a hands-up survey of how pupils travelled to school today. Ask pupils why it is better for people to walk or cycle to school if they can. In groups get them to discuss with their peers either why they have been brought to school by car or what problems they encounter while walking or cycling to school. Get them to feedback and draw up a list on the board.
2. Give each group one of the problems/barriers and ask them to brainstorm some ideas about how it could be solved. Get them to feedback and draw up another list on the board. [Extension: a large map could be used to plot problem areas and sections of the school journey]

Introduce the competition and writing letters

1. Explain they are going to write a letter intended for a new prime minister to persuade them to make sure they make it easier for more children to walk and cycle to school. Explain their letters will be part of a nationwide competition.
2. Hand out examples of informal and formal letters. Ask them what style they think they should be using. Get them look at the differences and to create a checklist of what they will need to include in their letters: address block, date, Dear... , Yours sincerely, etc.

Main activity

[Could be completed as part of homework or in another lesson if necessary]

1. Facilitate the class with the start of the letter. What do you think the address to the prime minister will be, how do we write the date etc.
2. Using the ideas on the board as well as any more of their own get pupils to start work on their letters.

Plenary

1. Ask the class to feedback some of the suggestions they have come up with.
2. Discuss who else they could write letters to in order to bring about make changes to their school journey - local council, head teacher, parents, bus company, local residents etc.