

Dear Principal / Eco-Coordinator

## ACTIVE SCHOOL TRAVEL PROGRAMME

The Active School Travel Programme is an exciting initiative for schools who wish to see more of their pupils choosing an active and healthy journey to school. We are currently working with over 400 schools across the country. Increasing the number of children who regularly walk, cycle or scoot to school has numerous benefits including:

- increased physical activity levels resulting in improved health and well being
- reduced congestion and pollution around schools
- improved academic performance and attendance rates
- increased road safety awareness
- increased confidence, self-esteem and independence for young people.

This initiative provides schools with a planned programme of activities over the school year, both in and out of the classroom, as well as direct hands-on support from a dedicated Sustrans Active Travel Officer. The fundamental aim of this award-winning programme is providing schools with the skills and knowledge to get more children walking, cycling and scooting as their main mode of transport to school.

Sustrans is being funded by the Department for Infrastructure and the Public Health Agency to continue delivering the Active School Travel Programme across Northern Ireland until 2021. We are now recruiting new schools to join the free programme in the next academic year beginning in September 2020.

If you would like your school to be selected to join the Active School Travel Programme, please complete the enclosed **application form** and return before the deadline of **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2020**. For guidance, please refer to the documents 'Active School Travel Application Form - Guidance Notes' and 'Active School Travel FAQs', which can be downloaded from our website (along with a digital copy of the application) – [www.sustrans.org.uk/NIschools](http://www.sustrans.org.uk/NIschools). Alternatively, you can request the application pack by emailing [schoolsNI@sustrans.org.uk](mailto:schoolsNI@sustrans.org.uk) or ringing 028 9043 4569.

**\*\*EARLY BIRD OFFER!!\*\*** All schools which submit an application before **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020** will be automatically entered into our Prize Draw to win a £50 Halfords voucher for your school.

Due to funding and capacity, the number of schools selected will be limited. You should be aware that consideration has to be given to geographical clusters of schools and their proximity to where our Active Travel Officers are based to maximise the Officers' time in schools and to minimise travel time; so please encourage your neighbouring schools to join you in submitting an application.

For further information on how the programme works, please visit our website where you can download newsletters showcasing our work with schools across Northern Ireland. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



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