

# South East Sustrans Active School Travel Programme Autumn Term 2019 Newsletter

## I'd love to hear from you...

I'm Dave Wiggins,  
Sustrans' schools officer for the  
South East. Please get in touch if  
you have any great school stories  
or would like to find out more  
about our schools work.

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## Message from Sustrans...

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. The aim of the programme is to increase the number of pupils walking, cycling and scooting to school.

Sustrans is being funded by the **Public Health Agency** and the **Department for Infrastructure** to continue delivering the Active School Travel Programme across Northern Ireland until 2021.

Sustrans has been delivering this successful programme for the past three years. In 2018-19 within participating schools, the number of pupils travelling actively increased from 35% to 53%.

We are currently working with over 400 schools across Northern Ireland. Please visit our [website](#) where you can learn more about the programme and download newsletters from other areas.



Millington Prize Winners

## Journey to Santa Challenge

In November and December schools in the south eastern area took part in the annual Journey to Santa challenge for primary schools.

Pupils made a huge effort to walk, cycle or scoot to school during the four weeks and each day that they actively travelled enabled them to get their personal record sheet stamped and in turn moved Santa further along his route to the North Pole.

### Journey To Santa Statistics:

- 16 primary schools in the south east participated
- Over 1500 pupils completed their stamp sheet
- Approximately 30,000 active journeys were made
- Families saved a lot of money
- Pupils helped protect the air quality around their school
- Many adults made active journeys too
- Everyone had healthier journeys
- We all had a lot of fun!

All pupils who completed the challenge were entered into the prize draw to win a bike shop voucher with a pupil from Ballyoran and a pupil from Poyntzpass the happy recipients. Well done to everyone who completed the challenge!

Sustrans is the charity that's enabling people to travel by foot, bike or public transport for more of the journeys we make every day. It's time we all began making smarter travel choices. Make your move and support Sustrans today. [www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk)

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# Ditch the Dark Day

Ditch the Dark Days at St.Colman's Bann, St.Mary's Banbridge, Ballyoran and Millington Primary Schools.



# Cycle Training

Bessbrook, St.Mary's Maghery, Poyntzpass, Donacloney & St.Patrick's Drumgreenagh Primary Schools completed their National Standard Cycle Training between September and November. Well done everyone!





## Safer School Streets

Pupils at Cumran PS in Clough have found their journey to school much safer and more pleasant thanks to innovative traffic calming and pedestrian safety measures that Sustrans set up immediately outside their school over five weeks. Street Kit is a bright and colourful alternative to bollards and barriers that can be used to protect pedestrian walkways from traffic or reduce traffic volume around the school gates.



Active Travel Officer, Claire Lundy said: "This was the first time we have placed Street Kit outside a school for an extended period of time and it was a real pleasure to support Cumran with their ideas for creating a more positive environment for pedestrians in the school grounds and on the paths outside the gates. Over the last two years the school has seen an increase in the number of pupils who travel to school by active modes and their designs for the Street Kit project reflected the need to promote a safe environment for pupils to do this."

Cumran Principal Rhonda Moles said: "We are delighted to be the first school to trial this type of project in Northern Ireland and have seen a really positive reception from parents and families towards the road safety initiatives taking place in Cumran."

If you have ideas of how Street Kit could be used at your school, please speak to your Active Travel Officer.



## Follow the Leaders

Congratulations to the following schools across Northern Ireland who have achieved **School Mark Awards** in recent months!

### Bronze Awards

- ◆ Augher Central PS
- ◆ Aghnacloy PS
- ◆ Ardstraw Jubilee PS
- ◆ Ballyoran PS
- ◆ Carnmoney PS
- ◆ Carrick Burren PS
- ◆ Corran Integrated PS
- ◆ Culmore PS
- ◆ Dromore Central PS
- ◆ Dunclug PS
- ◆ Edenderry PS, Banbridge
- ◆ Forge Integrated PS
- ◆ Gilford PS
- ◆ Greenisland PS
- ◆ Grey Abbey PS
- ◆ Kilcooley PS
- ◆ King's Park PS
- ◆ Larne and Inver PS
- ◆ Millington PS
- ◆ Millquarter PS
- ◆ Mossley PS
- ◆ Old Warren PS
- ◆ Rosemount PS
- ◆ St Brigid's PS, Mountfield
- ◆ St Columba's PS, Kilrea
- ◆ St Columba's PS, Straw
- ◆ St Ita's PS
- ◆ St John's PS, Swatragh
- ◆ St John the Baptist PS, Belleek
- ◆ St Joseph's PS, Killough
- ◆ St Malachy's PS, Armagh
- ◆ St Mary's PS, Banbridge
- ◆ St Mary's PS, Glenview
- ◆ St Marys PS, Gortnahey
- ◆ St Mary's PS, Portglenone
- ◆ St Matthews PS, Drumsum
- ◆ St Patrick's PS, Armagh
- ◆ St Theresa's PS, Glebe
- ◆ Tandragee PS

### Silver Awards

- ◆ Braidside Integrated PS
- ◆ Cumran PS
- ◆ Dickson PS
- ◆ Grange Park PS
- ◆ Knockbreda PS
- ◆ Macosquin PS
- ◆ Our Lady's PS, Tullysaran
- ◆ Sacred Heart PS, Dundrum
- ◆ St Martin's PS, Garrison
- ◆ St Mary's PS, Killyleagh
- ◆ Fane Street PS
- ◆ Mercy PS
- ◆ St James' PS, Newtownabbey
- ◆ St Anthony's PS, Larne

### Gold Awards

- ◆ Bocombra PS





# Active School Travel is Up

The results are in—children have been voting with their feet to show us that active journeys to school are on the rise!

At the end of the 2018-19 school year, **the number of children walking, cycling and scooting to school at Active School Travel schools increased from 35% to an incredible 53%**. At the same time, the number of pupils being driven to school fell from 58% to 41%.



More 2018-19 Active School Travel results:

- over **85,000** pupils, parents and teachers took part in more than **1,700** active travel activities
- **825** pupils completed National Standard cycle training
- the number of children completing physical activity for at least 60 minutes each day increased from **27% to 38%**
- while 53% of pupils now usually travel actively to school, as many as **83%** would like to - potential for more active travel!

## We want you...

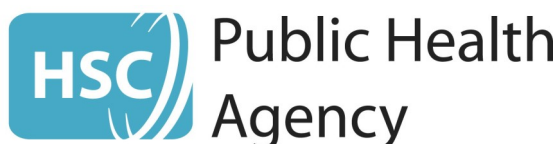
We are now recruiting 60 new schools for the final year of the current Active School Travel Programme. If you would like your school to be a part of this inspiring initiative, please visit our [website](#) where you can download an application pack today.



If your school is already part of AST, please help us spread the news and encourage teachers at new schools to get on board with this exciting opportunity.

Deadline for applications is 8th April. Please get in touch with any questions—[schoolsNI@sustrans.org.uk](mailto:schoolsNI@sustrans.org.uk) or 02890434569.

**Sustrans is grateful for the continued support of our schools work in Northern Ireland from the following:**



Department for  
**Infrastructure**

An Roinn  
**Bonneagair**

## Save the dates in 2020!

Daily Mile Launch Event :: 14 February

Feet First Families :: 13 March

Eco-Schools Youth Summit :: 25 March

Big Pedal :: 22 April - 5 May

For more info about any of these events, please email us at [schoolsNI@sustrans.org.uk](mailto:schoolsNI@sustrans.org.uk) or speak to your Active Travel Officer.

## Feet First Families

On 13th March 2020, your school can be a part of an exciting day called Feet First Families, which aims to inspire families to put their feet first by walking, cycling or scooting to school and making their school a car-free zone.



Schools all across the country will be encouraging families and staff to ditch the car and use their own steam to travel to school. Some schools will be hosting a 'Party in the Parking Lot' on the day! Please put this date in to your school's calendar. Come along to one of the School Champion Training workshops in the new year for more information and resources. In the meantime, check out this [video](#) to see Feet First Families in action!

