



# **Southfield Primary School**

## **Active Travel Policy**

## 1. Introduction

Southfield Primary School recognises that active travel plays a crucial role in improving the physical and mental wellbeing of pupils, supporting our environmental commitments, and creating a safer and more connected community. As a school situated in the heart of Armthorpe, we are well placed to encourage walking, cycling, scooting and public transport use. This policy sets out our commitment to making Southfield Primary a leading example of sustainable school travel provision nationally.

We aim to ensure our approach reflects best practice used by some of the highest-performing Modeshift STARS schools across the country, integrating strong leadership, excellent communication, robust monitoring, high-quality facilities and meaningful community partnerships.

Southfield Primary School is committed to promoting safe, sustainable and active travel for pupils, staff, parents and visitors. This policy supports our School Travel Plan and our participation in the Modeshift STARS programme. Active travel plays an important role in improving pupil health, increasing daily physical activity, developing independence and reducing traffic congestion around the school.

We aim to embed sustainable travel into daily school life through education, safe routes, strong partnerships and high-quality facilities.

## 2. Rationale and Ofsted Alignment

Active travel directly supports several priorities within the Ofsted Education Inspection Framework, particularly:

- **Personal Development:** Encouraging resilience, independence, confidence and healthy lifestyle choices through regular activity.
- **Behaviour and Attitudes:** Promoting responsibility, safety awareness, punctuality and positive engagement in the school community.
- **Leadership and Management:** Demonstrating a proactive and evidence-based approach to improving wellbeing, safety, inclusion and environmental sustainability.

National comparisons show that schools with strong active travel policies tend to have lower absenteeism, improved pupil readiness to learn and stronger parental engagement. Southfield Primary aims to match the standards of national award-winning schools by embedding active travel in strategic planning, curriculum design and community partnerships.

Active travel supports key areas of the Ofsted Education Inspection Framework, particularly personal development, behaviour and attitudes, and leadership and management.

Encouraging active travel helps pupils:

- develop healthy habits;
- understand road safety and responsible behaviour;

- contribute positively to the environment.

The policy also supports statutory duties relating to health and safety, safeguarding and wellbeing.

### 3. Aims

- Increase levels of safe and sustainable travel (walking, cycling, scooting, Park & Stride and public transport).
- Improve pupils' health, fitness and independence.
- Reduce congestion and improve safety at the school gates.
- Support environmental sustainability and reduce the school's carbon footprint.
- Maintain and work towards higher Modeshift STARS accreditation.

### 4. Objectives

To ensure our policy matches the quality seen in leading sustainable travel schools, our objectives include:

1. **Curriculum Integration:** Deliver age-appropriate lessons on road safety, environmental responsibility, map skills, local geography and healthy lifestyles across EYFS–Y6.
2. **Infrastructure Improvements:** Continue developing high-quality, secure and accessible cycle and scooter parking, clear signage, safer pedestrian routes and shaded waiting areas.
3. **Family Engagement:** Provide clear guidance, workshops, travel maps and targeted support for families new to active travel or those facing specific barriers.
4. **Community Partnership:** Work closely with local councillors, police, health teams, local businesses and community groups to deliver joint projects and encourage safer streets.
5. **Inclusion and Equity:** Ensure every pupil, including those with SEND or mobility challenges, can participate in safe, supported and appropriate travel options.
6. **Evidence-Led Monitoring:** Use data from travel surveys, pupil voice, parent questionnaires and staff feedback to evaluate progress and refine initiatives.
7. **Environmental Leadership:** Promote understanding of climate impact and encourage pupils to become active travel ambassadors within school and the local area.
8. Embed active travel within the curriculum, assemblies and wider school life, including road safety, bike maintenance and environmental education.
9. Increase active travel modal share across the school community through targeted initiatives and promotional campaigns.
10. Improve and maintain on-site active travel facilities, including cycle parking and scooter storage.

11. Work with Doncaster Council, Modeshift STARS officers, local councillors and police to address safety, enforcement and traffic concerns.
12. Support families who face barriers to active travel, including those with SEND or mobility needs.
13. Monitor, review and report progress annually through surveys, evaluations and staff/governor updates.

## 5. Site Context and Safety Measures

Southfield Primary is situated on Tranmoor Lane, a predominantly urban area with:

- good pavements and walking access;
- a one-way system to enhance pupil safety at the entrance;
- bus routes serving Tranmoor Lane and Park Way;
- cycle access connecting Armthorpe to Doncaster.

Safety measures include:

- annual review of signage and the one-way system;
- regular checks of pavement conditions and pedestrian routes;
- risk assessments for walking buses, cycle rides and off-site walks;
- ensuring cycle parking and scooter pods are secure and maintained.

## 6. Roles and Responsibilities

To ensure our work reflects the structure of high-performing sustainable travel schools, roles are defined as follows:

- **Travel Plan Coordinator – Scott Ferguson:** Oversees planning, evaluation, STARS submissions, events, surveys and stakeholder engagement.
- **Headteacher – Mrs Nicola Worthington:** Ensures strategic alignment with school priorities, approves key decisions and supports ongoing investment in sustainable travel.
- **Governing Body:** Reviews annual data, approves policy revisions, supports funding bids and ensures school compliance with health, safety and safeguarding expectations.
- **Staff Team:** Promote safe and active travel, model positive behaviour, use active travel where appropriate and support pupils during events and initiatives.
- **Pupil Travel Ambassadors (introduced):** A new group of pupils who will help lead assemblies, monitor cycling/scooting participation and support travel-related campaigns.
- **Local Authority Officer – Matt Farmer:** Provides specialist advice, training opportunities, resources and direct support for safety concerns.

- **Parents/Carers:** Encourage children to travel actively where possible, model safe behaviour and support school initiatives.

## **7. Inclusive Practice and SEND**

We are committed to ensuring that active and sustainable travel is accessible for all pupils. This includes:

- identifying pupils who may need tailored support;
- offering personalised travel plans or designated drop-off points where needed;
- working with families and the Local Authority on SEND travel arrangements.

## **8. Facilities and Maintenance**

Southfield Primary aims to provide facilities comparable to top-performing active travel schools. Current facilities include:

- 44 cycle parking spaces with secure metal stands;
- a sheltered bike/scooter pod;
- staff cycle storage;
- a one-way traffic system to minimise risk at drop-off;
- high-quality pavements and a safe pedestrian route around the school;
- walking and cycling maps available online and onsite.

Planned enhancements include:

- additional scooter parking to meet rising demand;
- potential parent waiting shelters that support safe, comfortable access during poor weather;
- improved external signage promoting active routes;
- periodic repainting of road markings and visibility measures at key points.

Current facilities include:

- access to walking/cycling maps;

We will continue to explore opportunities for improvements such as additional scooter parking, parent waiting shelters and signage enhancements.

## **9. Targets and Monitoring**

Southfield Primary aims to exceed national expectations for modal shift and meet criteria for higher-tier Modeshift STARS accreditation. Monitoring includes:

- **Termly pupil and staff surveys** to track walking, cycling, scooting, Park & Stride and car use;
- **Annual governor report** summarising initiatives, impact and future priorities;
- **Parent voice surveys** used to shape next-stage improvements;
- **Comparative data analysis** with similar schools in Doncaster and with national best-practice schools.

Targets include:

- increasing pupil cycling and scooting by at least **3 percentage points** within 12 months;
- increasing walking rates to **over 55%** within two years;
- reducing peak-time congestion by **promoting Park & Stride** partnerships with local businesses or community centres;
- achieving **Modeshift STARS Silver** within two years and **Gold** within four years. We monitor travel patterns through annual surveys. Our targets include:
  - increasing pupil cycling and scooting by 2 percentage points within 12 months;
  - completing at least two major active travel events each year;
  - increasing walking rates and promoting Park & Stride options.

Progress will be reviewed termly and reported annually to governors.

## 10. Initiatives and Action Plan

Southfield Primary delivers a comprehensive programme of active travel initiatives throughout the school year. These actions are structured, measurable and designed to meet Modeshift STARS expectations for high-quality practice.

### Year-Round Initiatives

- **WOW – Walk Once a Week:** Pupils collect badges for active travel, supporting long-term behaviour change.
- **Dr Bike Maintenance Sessions:** Carried out termly to ensure bicycles are safe and roadworthy.
- **Cycling Skills and Bike Maintenance Workshops:** Delivered by qualified instructors, teaching pupils the ABCD check, basic repairs, signalling and safe handling.
- **Curriculum-Linked Walks and Fieldwork:** Walking used as a planned teaching tool for geography, science, history and the wider curriculum.

### Autumn Term

- Parent travel survey to identify barriers and opportunities.
- Active Travel Awareness Week with assemblies, classroom challenges and map-reading activities.

- Road safety focus in PSHE across all year groups.
- Staff update on travel policy and safeguarding requirements for off-site travel.

### **Spring Term**

- **Learn to Ride** sessions for pupils working towards independent cycling.
- **Scooter Skills Training** for Early Years and KS1.
- **Park & Stride Pilot** linked to Tranmoor Lane to reduce congestion at the gate.
- Walking bus trial with parent volunteers where feasible.

### **Summer Term**

- Expansion of the school cycling club, including longer supervised rides using Doncaster's cycle infrastructure.
- Joint working with local councillors on calming measures and enforcement.
- Air quality awareness events linked to Clean Air Day.

All initiatives include:

- Named responsible staff member
- Completion deadline
- Evidence requirements for Modeshift STARS
- Success criteria (modal shift, attendance, feedback, observed behaviour)

## **11. Behaviour, Safeguarding & Incident Reporting**

Southfield Primary promotes safe and respectful behaviour during every stage of the school journey.

### **Expectations for Pupils**

- Use pavements, crossings and cycle infrastructure safely.
- Wear helmets if cycling or scooting.
- Respect residents, road users and school neighbours.
- Store bikes and scooters responsibly in designated areas.
- Follow staff instructions during walking buses, off-site learning or cycling activities.

### **Safeguarding**

- All active travel activities follow the school's Educational Visits Policy.
- Supervision levels are adapted to age, ability and route risk.
- Staff conducting activities must be trained in road safety guidance.
- Risk assessments are updated annually and after any incident.

## 12. Communications and Promotion

Effective communication is essential for building an active travel culture.

### Channels Used

- Weekly newsletter updates
- Prominent webpage with maps, timetables and travel guidance
- Social media reminders during key campaigns
- Noticeboards at the school entrance
- New starter packs including safe routes, Park & Stride maps and active travel expectations
- Staff induction materials outlining the school's commitment to sustainable travel

### Engagement

- Regular workshops for families on bike maintenance and safe family cycling
  - Opportunities for pupils to act as Active Travel Ambassadors
  - Termly celebration assemblies recognising classes with the highest active travel rates
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## 13. Funding and Resources

To support the delivery of this policy, Southfield Primary will:

- Apply for local authority sustainability and active travel grants.
  - Engage with Modeshift STARS funding opportunities.
  - Partner with local businesses for sponsorship or equipment donations.
  - Maintain a ring-fenced portion of the school budget for travel infrastructure improvements, such as:
    - Additional scooter and cycle parking
    - Covered waiting shelters
    - High-visibility equipment for pupils
  - Work with the parish council and Doncaster MBC to explore options for safer crossings and road-calming features.
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## 14. Review and Governance

The policy is reviewed annually as part of the School Travel Plan cycle.

### Review Process

- Termly monitoring of modal data and initiative progress.

- Annual analysis comparing targets against actual outcomes.
- Full policy review each September by:
  - Travel Plan Coordinator
  - Headteacher
  - Safeguarding Lead
- Findings reported to the governing body, who approve any major changes.

### **Continuous Improvement**

- Feedback is collected from pupils, parents, staff and the local community.
- Adjustments are made based on:
  - Changing travel patterns
  - Local road developments
  - New safety concerns
  - Ofsted inspection priorities under “Behaviour and Attitudes” and “Personal Development”
- Evidence is uploaded to Modeshift STARS to support ongoing accreditation.