St Mary's Active Travel Policy

At St Mary's C of E VA Primary School, we encourage pupils and parents to travel to school by walking, scooting and cycling (active travel) wherever possible.

This school travel policy explains how we will be encouraging active travel to school. We will discuss the policy with the pupils and re-visit it periodically to ensure its relevance. For pupils unable to travel to school actively, we encourage use of park and stride, public transport or car-share.

If you have any ideas to improve things at or around school for pedestrians and cyclists, or questions about travelling to school, please get in touch with Mrs Charlotte Hine, Office Administrator.

Some of the benefits of active travel are:

- improving both physical and mental health through physical activity.
- promoting independence and improving safety awareness.
- reducing congestion, noise and air pollution in the community.
- reducing the environmental impact of the journey to school.
- establishing positive active travel behaviour.

To encourage pupils to cycle or scoot to school frequently the school will:

- actively promote walking, scooting and cycling as a positive way of travelling.
- celebrate the achievements of those who walk, scoot and cycle to school.
- provide cycle and scooter storage on the school site.
- provide high quality pedestrian, scooter and cycling training to all pupils who wish to participate.

To make walking, cycling and scooting to and from school a positive experience for everybody concerned, we expect our pupils to:

- behave in a manner which shows them and the school in the best possible light and to consider the needs of others when walking, scooting or cycling.
- ride sensibly and safely and to follow the Highway Code.
- check that their bicycle or scooter is roadworthy and regularly maintained.
- consider wearing a cycle helmet.
- ensure they can be seen by other road users, by using lights and wearing high visibility clothing, as appropriate.

For the wellbeing of our pupils, we expect parents and carers to:

- encourage their child to walk, cycle or scoot to school whenever possible
- lead by example and walk, scoot or cycle with their child to school whenever possible.
- encourage their child to take up opportunities to develop their competence and confidence in walking, cycling or scooting.
- provide their child with equipment such as high-visibility clothing, lights, a lock and cycle helmet as appropriate.
- ensure that the bicycles and scooters ridden to school are roadworthy and regularly maintained.
- park safely and considerately if travel to school requires a car, not parking on school markings, double yellow lines, corners and pavements.

Please note that:

- the decision as to whether a child is competent to cycle, scoot or walk safely to and from school rests with the parent(s)/carer(s). The school has no liability for any consequences of that decision.
- this policy covers the journey to and from school where the school has no responsibility or liability. When walking, scooting and cycling activities are being led by the school there may additional rules and guidance concerning equipment such as use of helmets, high visibility clothing, etc
- parents are advised to consider appropriate insurance cover (check home insurance) as the school is not liable for, and its insurance does not cover, any loss or damage to bicycles and scooters being used on the way to or from school.