



Produced by the Parent Council

Firrhill News

March 2019

Cycle Friendly Secondary School Award



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On Tuesday 18 February Firrhill achieved the Cycle Friendly Secondary School award. This was conferred by Cycling Scotland. An initial assessment took place in December 2017, and since then we have worked hard: revised our school Travel Plan, repaired the cycle sheds, installed a dropped kerb, planned the installation of more cycle signage and gained "Development Funding" for lockers for cyclists! As part of a city-wide "twenty's plenty" scheme, the roads around Firrhill are a 20mph zone and we hope that more pupils will use the safer cycling routes to school which are available in the Travel Plan, and try cycling to school in the warmer weather. A school Bike Club has started and Mr Cameron, history teacher, will soon become a qualified Cycle Ride Leader and help pupils get out on their bikes!

Gaining the Cycle Friendly Secondary School award is a great achievement but, in many ways, it is only the beginning of Firrhill's cycling journey! Well done to pupils, staff and parents!



The school will receive a gate banner and a certificate, and the achievement will be presented at an assembly led by our Cycle Champions.



The Parent Council, at the request of the Environment Group, kindly provided funding for eight S3/S4 pupils to go on a RUTS Mountain Bike Award course (SQF level 4) for one day per week, during February and March. This course comprises three day's learning about bike mechanics and a further three day's cycling on local trails and tracks. RUTS staff come to the school with their mobile unit, and they have offered a further RUTS course free of charge! <https://www.inspiringscotland.org.uk/what-we-do/>



Matthew Wilberton of Cycling Scotland said, "I am pleased to award Firrhill High School with the Cycle Friendly Secondary School Award!" However, he added, "this is more of a milestone than an endpoint."

Further cycling events are planned: the showing of the film *Divided* to a school year group; the Learner Driver Bike Aware training will take place in the autumn for S6 pupils; a "Dr Bike" bike maintenance session has been funded by the Parent Council; and the school's sponsored walk has funded some tools to help pupils learn basic bike maintenance skills. Special summer term events will include bike breakfasts and fun cycle rides. Also, for interested pupils, Bikeability or a refresher cycle training course can be offered, as well as led rides in Colinton Dell. Parent helpers would be welcome to join in to help Firrhill along the journey to becoming truly bike friendly.



Cycling Scotland