

Cycle Friendly Secondary School Update 31.8.18

Three senior staff members are leading Firrhill High School in our journey towards being a CFSS: Paul Denvir, Pupil Support Leader is our school “cycle champion”, Depute Head Teachers Julie Statham and Ross Isdale are assisting in the process and Louis Moore is our “pupil role model”.

Lorna Norman, Active Schools Co-ordinator has a consultative role and is happy for a cycling club to run. Mrs Morag Carmichael CL for Health and Wellbeing and Emma Anderson, currently acting CL for Health and wellbeing are happy for the school to progress towards the CFSS award.

The Environment Group, one of the Parent Council working groups aims “to help the school to promote safe cycling among pupils and to achieve the Cycle Friendly Secondary School Award”. Both the Parent Council and the Environment group have had discussions about current cycling issues on their agendas and noted in their minutes.

Posters about being a CFSS are on display in the concourse and the *Firrhill News* the Parent Council newsletter, regularly features our journey towards becoming a CFSS.

After completion of an online self-assessment form there was an initial assessment meeting with Peter Jackson, Cycling Scotland’s Regional Cycle Development and Training Officer. An assessment summary awarded points for three categories: infrastructure, development and progression with scores of 23/40, 10/40 and 18/40 achieved the school must have 20/40 in each category to gain the award. The school will be reassessed as we progress through the award, address the various points raised by Peter and work to create a more sustainable environment for pupils and staff.

Any cycling related news is featured in *Firrhill News* <http://firrhillhigh.org/parent-association/firrhill-news> on the school web site and displayed in the foyer and in many departments too, see September page 2, August page 6, June (pages 6 & 7), March (pages 3 & 4), January page 3.

The Rights Respecting School Group, lead by Mrs Kerr have discussed “the right of any pupil to choose to cycle to school without fear of being bullied or mocked” and also the right to “choose to wear a cycle helmet without being criticised or mocked”.

We are reviewing the school travel plan and pupils from most year groups met with Mark Symonds, Road safety officer 1 December 2017, 26 March and 15 May 2018.

Part of the Travel Plan update was to send a questionnaire to pupils and staff. This took place in December 2017 - January 2018 and included questions about attitudes to cycling and any measures we can take to increase safe cycling. This information forms the basis of the revised Travel Plan and helps to assess any need for further cycle training, infrastructure or lockers.

Improvements to roads and the signage (cycling infrastructure) in the vicinity of the school have been made as a result of the recent work on the school travel plan.

Cycling as a career was represented at the 2018 June school Job Fair, by the City of Edinburgh Council Road Safety Officers, Mark Symonds and Lorna Henderson, and Esmond Sage, Cycling

UK. Sustrans and Cycling Scotland staff have been approached to see if they could take part in the 2019 Job Fair.

June 2018 Firrhill Environment group members Stella Thomson and Carolyn Hargest helped the new S1 pupils from Bonaly Primary School during two transition cycle rides: a led ride to high school returning via Colinton Dell. Carolyn also helped with the refresher bike training. Stella will help with the P6 Bikeability 1 training in the autumn. We are keen to offer Cycle training at the high school.

A bike club started in the summer term but the staff member unfortunately has now moved away.

Next Steps:

Learner Driver Bike Aware training by Andrew Abbess is organised for 2 October – Andrew Abbess will also offer of the practical cycle training, part of this too. Firrhill may offer the course to the S5 year groups.

A trip to velodrome was planned but unfortunately the staff member concerned has now moved on, we are seeking PTA funding to ensure this trip and other special cycling events may take place. Miss Statham proposed a cycling trip to Glentress should be an option for Ethos Day in June. New signs for the bike sheds will be arranged and funded.

Application for the CFSS Development Funding will be made for either lockers for cyclists, signs for the bike sheds, a trip to the velodrome or bike maintenance courses!

Park Smart Banner “Be a mate don’t park near the gate” was obtained from Lorna Henderson and will be displayed on Braidburn School railings by PE block vehicular entrance.

“20s plenty” tweet with Firrhill pupils on the @JRSO_edin after Job Fair is to feature in *Firrhill News*.

If you have suggestions or can help in any way with the CFSS award please contact Carolyn.hargest@btconnect.com thanks!