

Cycle Friendly Secondary School - Firrhill High School

Why are we doing this?

In 2009 as part of Sustrans "I Bike" project to encourage active traveling, Bikeability training was delivered to S1 and S2 pupils at Firrhill, and P7 and P6 pupils in the cluster primary schools. Safe routes to FHS were mapped, some improvements were made to those routes, and covered bike parking was installed at FHS. During transition primary P7 pupils were taken on a led ride to show them the safe route from their primary school to FHS. Five years later numbers of bikes can still be seen in the primary school bike sheds, and training in primary schools continues, but there are only very small numbers of pupils who cycle to FHS.

A travel survey conducted at FHS in 2013 showed 48% of pupils usually walked to school and 1% usually cycled. Around half of the school did not usually arrive at school by active travel. 14% of pupils arrived by car (most with a short journey of average 10 mins adding some 100+ cars per day to local traffic).

The travel survey has been repeated. The results are due in March. The benefits of active travel are well documented, as is the harm caused to public health and the environment from vehicle pollution. This project aims to promote and enable cycling as a sustainable and healthy way of getting to school and thereafter as pupils go on to further education or work.

We have applied to be a Cycle Friendly Secondary School (CFSS), an initiative run by Cycling Scotland who have been using their approach for secondary schools across the country. This gave us an initial assessment of where we are and where we fall short and has been used to structure the project. In Edinburgh James Gillespie HS and Forrester HS have achieved the Cycle Friendly Secondary School award.

What outcomes are we expecting?

- A steady increase in the number of student cycling to school some days per week over the next few years.
- An increase in the total number of pupils travelling to school by active means
- A decrease in the number of students arriving by car

Who has a role in the successful delivery of the project?

Parents, pupils, and staff, especially the Senior Management Team all have a role in the successful delivery of this project.

The Parent Council: Carolyn Hargest (Environment Group leader) Graham Hamilton (HT), Ross Isdale (staff representative). The Parent Council should check that the project has in place the right measures for informing and consulting both parents and school staff and that it doesn't conflict with school priorities.

Other staff with a role in steering the project at a high level: Paul Denvir (Cycle Champion) Julie Statham (Depute Head Teacher)

Pupils: Senior Student Council, the Cycle forum, and Louis Moore, (pupil role model).

The Project team looks after the detailed running of the project. We need to clarify roles for all the people involved at a detailed level

Project team

Carolyn Hargest – Environment Group leader

Stella Thomson – Environment Group member

Julie Statham – Depute Head Teacher

Paul Denvir – Staff Cycle Champion

Mark Symonds – Road Safety and Active Travel Liaison Officer City of Edinburgh Council

Lorna Norman – Active Schools Coordinator

Morag Carmichael – Curriculum Leader Health and Wellbeing

Emma Anderson – Curriculum Leader Health and Wellbeing (acting)

Louis Moore – Pupil Role Model

What are the risks that the project might not succeed and what actions are being taken to mitigate these?

This needs some thought and discussion with Paul Denvir and Julie Statham and hopefully involving contact with James Gillespie's and Forrester's High School's contacts.

Examples are

RISK

Pupils don't have roadworthy bikes

Long gap since Bikeability training

Culture of cycling not cool

ACTION

Dr Bike session

second hand bike sale/donations?

offer refresher training

Senior pupil role models/Rights Respecting Schools