

William Gilbert Endowed (CofE) Primary School

One day road closure series

Overview

William Gilbert Endowed (CofE) Primary School have trialled a series of one day road closures during the morning and afternoon school drop off times as part of their school travel plan to help to create an environment and culture within the school community that encourages healthier and more sustainable modes of travel.

Background

William Gilbert Primary School is situated on Vicarage Lane, a residential road in Duffield in the Amber Valley Borough district of Derbyshire.

There are 237 pupils on roll aged 3 to 11.

The pavement and carriageway on Vicarage Lane is very narrow, with residential on road parking leaving little or no space for drivers to drop off at school by car. Drivers attempting to access the school by vehicle often block driveways, mount the kerb and cause congestion, presenting a significant concern to residents and those who are walking to school.

What the school did

Autumn term 2023

Using the [Modeshift STARS](#) online travel plan tool the school recorded the mode travel from a summer term 2023 survey to establish a baseline of actual and preferred travel modes. From this they developed an action plan of initiatives and actions which were documented and recorded in Modeshift STARS, as well as being publicised via the [school website](#) and [social media](#).

The travel survey data identified that no children scoot or cycle to school although many of them would prefer to do so if they could. Road safety concerns and a lack of storage were cited as reasons for this.

Pupils undertook [Scooter Smart](#) training as a mechanism of both assessing the potential for scooting to school as a viable means of travel and to develop road safety and pavement courtesy skills when using their scooter.

Funding was secured from the Parish Council to provide [scooterpods](#) and cycle racks.

The school negotiated with local businesses to allow parents to use their car parks as “park and stride” venues publicising this on a [map](#) and devising an accompanying [parent parking pledge](#).

The school took part in local and national campaign weeks to engage with pupils, parents and staff to encourage, incentivise and promote walking, cycling, scooting, park and stride and public transport including:

World Car Free day, with [pupils monitoring traffic](#) as part of voluntary request to keep Vicarage Lane car free.

Travel Smart Week. including celebrating walking with a [Superstar shoesday](#)

Modeshift Active Travel December, with an active travel [elf day](#) and festive themed [bling your wheels](#)

Spring Term 2024

The school took part in the [Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel](#) where they achieved 69.52% of pupils walking, cycling and scooting to school, placing them 19th in the Midlands regional and 119th in national leader board of 2266 schools.

During Travel Smart Week the school held a [Traffic Free Tuesday](#) which included the Eco Council creating “[parking buddies](#)” to remind drivers to look out for pedestrians.

A consultation with parents and [residents](#) was undertaken to support an application to Amber Valley Borough Council for a [temporary one day road closure](#) on Vicarage Lane between 8:30am to 9:15am and 3.00pm to 3.45pm for national Clean Air day on 20 June 2024.

Summer Term 2024

National Clean Air Day – along with [3 other schools](#), a successful [road closure](#) was implemented with the support of the school senior leadership team, local councillors, governing body and residents. To maintain and strengthen momentum a further application was made to Amber Valley Brough Council to hold 5 consecutive “Fume Free Friday” road closures on 25th October and every Friday in November 2024.

Autumn Term 2024

A funding application for additional [barriers and signage](#) was made to the [Community Leadership scheme](#).

The school took part in [Modeshift Travel Wise Week](#) – a week of activities to coincide with European Mobility week and [World Car free day](#) with active and car free travel being incentivised through the ‘[lucky lock](#)’ and [travel trail](#) prize draw.

[Travel Smart Week](#) activities and an [active Travel Breakfast](#) supported the first “[fume free Friday](#)” on 25 October 2024.

Road safety messaging supported by the local PCSO was provided during [Brake Road Safety Week](#).

As part of World Rhyme Week pupils in nursery performed ‘alternative’ versions of nursery rhymes with an [active travel spin](#).

The remaining November Fume Free Fridays were supported by Senior Leadership Team, [local councillors](#) and also coincided with [Children in Need](#).

The promotion of active travel through [music and singing](#) has been undertaken with Derby Cathedral Music as part of Modeshift Active Travel Days of December.

Impact

- 37% of pupils reported travelling by car in the baseline survey with none travelling via ‘Park and Stride’
- 35% of pupils now report travelling by park and stride, significantly reducing the number of vehicles around school.
- 50% of pupils regularly walk to school.
- 9% of pupils scoot to school on a regular basis, from a baseline of zero.

The Fume Free Friday’s events have been welcomed by residents.

An [evaluation survey](#) shows a majority support for the initiative and to expanding it into a permanent School Street.

The school has achieved very good travel plan Modeshift STARS accreditation and has reached all the criteria for “excellent” status.

Next steps

To explore with the Local Authority Highways Team, Police and other stakeholders the opportunity to trial an experimental traffic regulation order for a 5-day week road closure over an 18 month period.

Top Tips

- Get ‘two for one’ - link your travel plan activities to other events i.e. Children in Need, Hello Yellow, The Big Walk and Wheel, Travel Smart week, National Clean Air Day
- For practical support in helping to staff road closures contact your local Parish and County Council Councillor and encourage governors and parents to help you.
- Make travel planning an action within your sustainability leadership and climate action plans, involve the school and eco schools’ council, as well as your PE lead.