

# Herefordshire Council's Strategy for Sustainable Modes of School Travel

Reviewed April 2009

## Summary for Parents



The Education and Inspections Act 2006 places a range of duties upon local authorities to put in place policies that aim to ensure that every child in every school in every community gets the education they need to enable them to fulfil their potential. As part of the Act, Herefordshire Council has a duty to produce a Sustainable Travel to School Strategy. Below is a summary of this Strategy, which can be viewed in full on the Herefordshire Council website.

**This strategy aims to make walking, cycling, using the bus or car-sharing a realistic and attractive option for journeys to schools and colleges.**

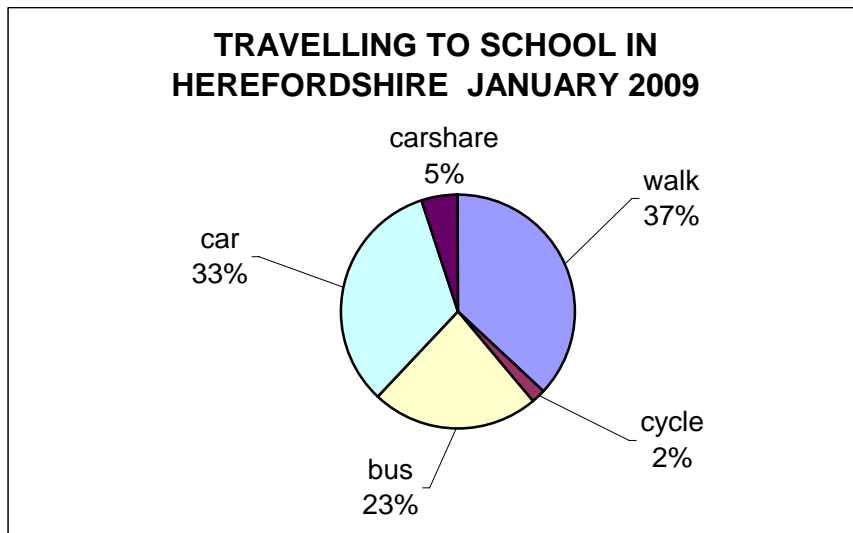
### **We aim to:**

- ◆ Reduce the use of the car on the school run
- ◆ Improve accessibility to schools
- ◆ Improve the quality of the local environment due to reduced car use
- ◆ Improve children's health by encouraging them to walk or cycle to school
- ◆ Enhance child safety and security

### **Why are we doing this?**

In Herefordshire well over a third of children and young people travel to school by car, and yet we know from school surveys that more young people would like to be able to walk or cycle than currently do. Helping them to do this would benefit their health, be cost effective and convenient for families and could reduce road congestion which would improve both our local and global environment.

## How children in Herefordshire travel to school



### How do we know what needs to be done?

Over 90% of Herefordshire schools now have School Travel Plans, which are developed from surveys of parents, children, staff and local residents and set out what the school can do to cut car use and promote sustainable ways of getting to school.

Schools have developed initiatives such as Walking Buses, Walk on Wednesday Schemes, Park and Walk options, car-share promotions, joining in the national Walk to School Week in May and October.

In addition, schools can ensure that all pupils have adequate road safety and cycle training and in their Travel Plans can identify highway improvements such as traffic calming and better signage which will enable children to get to school safely.

### Practical measures to get more children travelling to school by safe and sustainable methods.

- ◆ The School Travel Plan is the key to the strategy and we aim to have 100% of schools in Herefordshire with Travel Plans in place by 2011/12.
- ◆ We aim to provide a map and information for each school in the county with details of the school catchment area, details of pupils who may be entitled to free travel, details of local transport provision and local footways and cycleways. Together with this we will show what the school is doing to tackle transport problems. This will ensure that parents and children are fully aware of all the different transport and travel options available at their chosen school.
- ◆ We will ensure that the majority of Herefordshire Schools are actively engaged in promoting, implementing, reviewing and monitoring their Travel Plans.

### How will this help you?

You will have information on how your school deals with transport problems and how your transport choices can contribute to improving the environment around the school for the benefit of all the children who attend. This is particularly useful if your child will shortly be moving on to secondary or upper school. You will have information about education measures to help equip children to make safe independent journeys to school, and enable you to get involved with improving the travel and transport facilities in and around your child's school.

**Contact Information:**

For a copy of the full Sustainable Modes of School Travel or for information on School travel Plans please contact

Linda Sinker, School Travel Adviser, Herefordshire Council 01432 260262 or email [lsinker@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:lsinker@herefordshire.gov.uk)

For information on School Buses and School Transport generally please contact Andrew Blackman, Admissions and Transport Manager, 01432 260927 or email

[ablackman@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:ablackman@herefordshire.gov.uk)

**Herefordshire Council website addresses:**

For School Transport details

<http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/education/schools/39734.asp>

For a copy of the full Sustainable Modes of School Travel Strategy and School Travel Plan details

<http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/transport/24622.asp>