



TOP TIPS FOR A HEALTHIER SCHOOL STREET

Swapping the car for a cycle or scoot to school would save the [NHS £1.1 billion each year in health costs](#) but even more crucially, [could help us save the lives of the hundreds of children killed on our roads each year](#) and the thousands of others suffering the health impacts of air pollution.

1. Ask about your school travel plan and how active travel rates are monitored. Schools in London can become accredited using the [Transport for London STARS scheme](#) and [Modeshift STARS](#) is the national scheme. Accredited schools are often able to use their work for these schemes as evidence when applying for grants and active travel funding.
2. Read and share; the evidence on how [active travel supports academic attainment](#), the evidence around truly effective [road danger reduction schemes](#) and the evidence around the kind of road layouts that get [families walking and cycling](#).
3. Download the National Education Union and British Lung Foundation's '[air pollution health advice for schools](#)'. It contains an overview into the different sources of air pollution and can be used to raise awareness of why schools should be supporting families in switching to active travel for their school run.
4. Find out what the parents think. It may be that many parents are interested in active travel but feel too intimidated by the road and traffic conditions in the local area. A parent champion can work wonders; organising play streets, running cycle skills sessions and building support from other parents are all vital if bigger changes are to happen.
5. Myth bust. [Research conducted by a team from King's College](#) shows that in Waltham Forest, where the council has embarked upon a radical scheme to limit through traffic on residential roads and invest in improved walking and cycling routes, life expectancy for children living close has already increased by six weeks.

Traffic volumes are not constant and with the right design behaviour change can be enabled.

6. Become a [rights respecting school](#). The UK is one of the many countries worldwide committed to the UN's Convention on the Rights of the Child. Our government has promised to ensure all our children grow up in a safe, clean environment so they can lead healthy, disease free lives. [As Unicef highlight](#), we are now failing to deliver this most basic of rights. Working on the award insures adults in the wider school community understand their responsibilities in creating healthier school streets for all.
7. Contact your local politicians. Invite councillors or cabinet members to visit the school at peak time if you wish to highlight the issues you face. Campaigners in Hackney pushed Mayor Philip Glanville for a pre-election commitment on School Streets; [five are now in place](#) and he's promised ten more by the end of this term.
8. Organise a play street. A temporary road closure, even as a one off, can do much to start the conversation about what road safety means to your school community and even lead to the more permanent changes, as it did for [Bessemer Grange Primary in Southwark](#).
9. Access the [Cleaner Air 4 Primary Schools](#) toolkit. It is filled with activities for launching an air quality awareness campaign. [Sir John Cass Primary in Aldgate](#) used a similarly holistic approach to air quality, achieving a massive improvement to air quality on site.
10. Contact local businesses and also construction firms working in the local area. Most have funding available to support community projects that improve the local environment, such as greening and planting schemes, and are keen to engage with schools.