

Active Travel School Calendar 2024/25

When young people walk, scoot, wheel or cycle to school it improves their mental and physical wellbeing, and their readiness to learn. Additionally, it reduces air pollution and congestion outside school. TfGM are continuing to work with your local council to support you in promoting active travel. One aspect of this is support with Modeshift STARS for Education - an online travel planning and accreditation platform.

This calendar will help plan activities and maximise your impact throughout the year.

To earn your Modeshift STARS accreditation, look out for the tips in the grey boxes.

To find out more about how to get involved and why you should gain your accreditation, email active.travel@tfgm.com

Visit the TfGM website for more support for your school: <https://beeactive.tfgm.com/support-for-schools/>

September: Theme of the Month: Back to School

Developing new habits is easier at the beginning of the school year – promoting walking and cycling now will pay dividends in the coming months. Email active.travel@tfgm.com or your council for an **active travel map** to share with pupils and parents/carers.

Key Dates/Campaigns:

TravelWise Week: Monday 16th to Sunday 22nd September

A world-wide, week-long travel challenge where Modeshift asks everyone to Travel Wisely! Swap the car for a bike, or park and stride to school. For more details and lots of free resources: <https://modeshift.org.uk/travelwise-week/>

World Car Free Day: Sunday 22nd September

Every year, motorists are encouraged to give up their cars for a day, allowing people to experience streets free of motor traffic. CyclingUK provide free resources to help you get involved: <https://www.cyclinguk.org/article/world-car-free-day>

Cycle to School Week: Monday 23rd to Friday 27th September

Visit the Bikeability website to find out more: <https://www.bikeability.org.uk/cycletoschoolweek/>

October: Theme of the Month: Bee Bright Bee Seen (linking to the clocks going back)

With the clocks going back on the 27th, October is the perfect time to teach about staying safe as the evenings get darker.

The *Think* website has a lot of free resources for schools: <https://www.think.gov.uk/education-resources/>

Key Dates/Campaigns:

International Walk to School Month: Whole of October

Every year parents, carers and pupils around the world chose to walk to school. Find out more here:

<https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/get-involved/campaign-with-us/international-walk-to-school-month>

Now is a good time to do a **Hands Up Survey** to see how pupils & staff travel to school, and their preferences. TfGM and your Local Authority can help with this.

November: Theme of the Month: Road Safety Awareness

Now the evenings are drawing in and the weather is becoming wintery, it's a great time to discuss how to stay safe while waking, scooting, cycling or wheeling to school.

Key Dates/Campaigns:

Road Safety Week: Sunday 17th to Saturday 23rd November

Head to Brake's website for more information and lots of free resources: <https://www.brake.org.uk/road-safety-week>

To understand barriers people might face when travelling actively to school complete a **Site Audit**. TfGM and your Local Authority can help with this.

December: Theme of the Month: Walk to the North Pole (linking into Christmas Celebrations)

Greater Manchester is 2,500miles away from the North Pole. As a school or as a class, see if you can walk the whole way there this December! Why not see which class or year can walk the furthest! **TfGM have resources to help you deliver this: email active.travel@tfgm.com to get your printable version.**

You could link this to The Daily Mile too <https://thedailymile.co.uk/>

Accreditation Deadline 1: Tuesday 31st December

To gain Modeshift STARS accreditation ensure all aspects of your desired tier are completed and submitted before this date! Ask TfGM or your Local Authority for help if you need it.

January: Theme of the Month: Move More this New Year

Walking, scooting and cycling to school work perfectly as part of a New Year's resolution to be more active this year!

You could link this to health lives or encourage pupils to keep track of every day they stick to their resolution.

Pupils can pledge to do more sustainable travel and keep track of it: email active.travel@tfgm.com to get your resources.

February: Theme of the Month: Mental Health Awareness

Active travel to school is an easy way to help pupils arrive ready to learn and improve their mental health. When children get their 60 minutes of activity this helps protect against anxiety and depression, and spending more time outdoors has further benefits.

Key Dates/Campaigns:

Children's Mental Health Week: Monday 3rd to Sunday 9th February

The yearly mental health awareness week empowered, equips and gives a voice to all children and young people in the UK. Head to their website for free resources for schools: <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>

Time to Talk Day (Thursday 6th February) also promotes the importance of opening up: <https://timetotalkday.co.uk/>

March: Theme of the Month: Spring into Action (linking into Easter and better weather)

In Greater Manchester, 84% of primary school pupils live within 800m of their school, which takes less than 10 minutes to walk (at 3 miles per hour) – let's spring into action by aiming to walk, wheel or cycle to school!

Key Dates/Campaigns:

World Book Day: Thursday 6th March - <https://www.worldbookday.com/>

How can you incorporate your mode of transport into part of your costume?

Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel Week: Mid-March (Dates TBC)

Head to their website to see how you can get involved! <https://bigwalkandwheel.org.uk/>

Accreditation Deadline 2: Monday 31st March

To gain Modeshift STARS accreditation ensure all aspects of your desired tier are completed and submitted before this date! Ask TfGM or your Local Authority for help if you need it.

April: Theme of the Month: Environmental Awareness Month

Our travel choices are very important: in the UK, 24% of greenhouse gas emissions come from transportation. Thankfully, active travel is the least carbon-intensive way to travel.

Key Dates/Campaigns:

Easter Sunday: Sunday 20th April - how can you put a hop in your step?!

Earth Day: Tuesday 22nd April

Be one of the 1 billion people learning about and taking action against today's environmental concerns. The website contains a toolkit, fact sheets on plastics, reforestation, biodiversity etc and a quiz schools can use: <https://www.earthday.org/>

Don't forget to **log all your initiatives** on the Modeshift STARS platform. TfGM and your Local Authority can help with this.

May: Theme of the Month: Greater Manchester Walking Festival

Throughout the whole month you can get involved in 100s of walks and other activities, visit <https://gmwalking.co.uk/> for more information.

Key Dates/Campaigns:

Walk to School Week: Mid-May (Dates TBC)

For resources and information on how to get involved, head to: <https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/walk-to-school/primary-schools/walk-to-school-week/>

Mental Health Awareness Week: Monday 12th May to Sunday 18th May

Promoting active travel to school this month ties in very well with this - the more we move, the better our mental health. For resources, information and support visit: <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/>

June: Theme of the Month: Clean Air Month

Road transport is a major source of air pollution, so if we change our travel choices, we can help make our air cleaner. Young people are particularly vulnerable to air pollution as their brains and lungs are still developing.

Key Dates/Campaigns:

Bike Week/World Bike Day: Early-June (Dates TBC)

CyclingUK are championing all things bike, visit www.cyclinguk.org/bikeweek for more details of how to get involved.

World Bike Day falls on Tuesday 3rd June - a great day to cycle to school! Visit www.un.org/en/observances/bicycle-day for info.

International Day of Play: Wednesday 11th June

Walking, scooting and cycling help children access play, so is a great thing to promote as part of the celebrations.

Clean Air Day: Thursday 19th June

Young people are particularly vulnerable to air pollution as their brains and lungs are still developing. Help tackle the problem using Clean Air Day's free, downloadable resources: <https://www.actionforcleanair.org.uk/schools>

July: Theme of the Month: How to get to (secondary) school safely

Starting a new school (or just a new school year) is the perfect time to change behaviours and promote positive behaviours such as active travel. TfGM have a range of resources to help support you in teaching about travel to school: **email us at**

active.travel@tfgm.com

Accreditation Deadline 3: Thursday 31st July

To gain Modeshift STARS accreditation ensure all aspects of your desired tier are completed and submitted before this date! Ask TfGM or your Local Authority for help if you need it.

Other useful sites and sources:

TfGM offers information and support on all modes of school travel here:

<https://tfgm.com/travelling-to-school>

Living Streets is a charity supporting and promoting active travel and has a range of resources and guidance: <https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/walk-to-school/>

Sustrans is another charity who work with communities to make walking wheeling and cycling easier: <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/>



Every journey. Every day.