

Manchester Sustainable Modes of Travel Strategy Summary

Promoting sustainable transport on the school journey

Travel Change
2012/13 Academic Year

1. Introduction

Under the Education & Inspections Act 2006, local authorities are under a statutory duty to actively promote sustainable travel and transport to children and young people, covering those pupils who are resident and receive education and training within the local authority area. It also applies to those pupils who live outside, but travel into, the local authority area to receive education and training. As part of Manchester City Council's (MCC's) fulfillment of this duty, we are required to publish a Sustainable Modes of Travel Strategy, which will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis. This document forms a summary of the strategy. The full version can be found at www.manchester.gov.uk/transport/smots, or by calling Travel Change on 0161 234 3562 or emailing travelchange@manchester.gov.uk.

Sustainable modes of transport are classed as those most likely to improve physical well-being and/or benefit the environment, due to reduced levels of pollution and congestion, e.g. walking, cycling, public transport and car sharing. This summary sets out the main features of the full Sustainable Modes of Travel Strategy.

2. Aims and objectives of Manchester's SMoTS Strategy

Manchester City Council is committed to promoting sustainable school travel, primarily through working with schools to reduce the number of single occupancy cars arriving there. This work has an important role to play in delivering and contributing to a number of national and local policies, including transport, planning, health, environment and education, all of which are integral to the creation of sustainable communities.

Work to promote more sustainable, active travel is central to Manchester's three core principles of People, Pride and Place. People, both children and their parents or carers can benefit personally by making active, independent and sustainable journeys to school. They can learn to take pride in their local area, and their own responsible behaviour. The area local to each school can also benefit from less car journeys, with less congestion and pollution.

Also a key agenda for promoting sustainable travel is that of Climate Change. Greater Manchester Climate Strategy 2011-2020 is an ambitious plan to reduce carbon emissions by 48% by 2020.

Our Sustainable Modes of Travel Strategy has the following overarching aims:

- To improve accessibility to educational establishments and activities
- To improve the health of children by encouraging physical activity
- To improve the quality of the local and global environment, specifically by reducing carbon emissions associated with school travel and reducing local congestion

3. Work to date

MCC have been monitoring how pupils travel to school since 2002. There has been a marked decrease in the percentage of cars coming to primary schools (from 41.4% in 2002, to 26.8% in 2012).

Road Safety (specifically incidents of Killed and Seriously injured accidents or KSIs) have also improved, in line with Government targets. This is due to practical work by the Road Safety Team,

presence of School Crossing Patrols at key locations, and also physical measures such as traffic calming and 20mph zones around schools.

4. Delivering the Strategy in 2012/13

- The main method for delivering this year's Strategy will be promoting walking, cycling and public transport as healthier, cheaper and less polluting ways of travelling to school (to both pupils and staff).
 - Promoting Active Travel to school
 - Providing pupils with skills and facilities to walk or cycle to school in a safe way
 - Meeting (sustainable) travel needs of all Manchester pupils
 - Promoting the use of public transport to school
 - Providing pupils with the skills and confidence to use public transport
 - Addressing and preventing anti-social behaviour associated with school travel

The full action plan can be found in Appendix 3 of the main strategy document.

5. Reviewing the Strategy

In line with statutory requirements, the Strategy will be updated on an annual basis, taking into account known funding availability and local circumstances. It will be published on the Manchester City Council website by 31 August every year.

Feedback from schools and parents will be incorporated into the review process to ensure the Strategy is fit for purpose as a best practice, practical guidance document and information source. If you would like to comment on this strategy, please email travelchange@manchester.gov.uk

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