



TRAVEL - CASE STUDIES

Explore innovative projects in Suffolk schools that are reducing emissions and transforming the way we move

Getting to school

Some school locations make travel options difficult. Challenges include a lack of public transport, a lack of safe pavements and/or the school site sitting on a busy road. The size of some school catchments also mean that many pupils travel some distance to school, impacting on the number of pupils travelling by car.

Road vehicles contribute approximately 80% of nitrogen dioxide (air pollutant) at the roadside with students being exposed to five times higher concentrations of air pollution on the school run compared to when they are at school.

To tackle this, many schools have joined in Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel 2025. Where many pupils commute from some distance, some schools gained permission from local car park owners for parents/carers to park close to the school and then walk, scoot, bike or wheel the remainder of the journey.

Alongside offering Bikeability cycling proficiency courses, most schools now have the provision for pupils to safely store bikes and scooters to promote sustainable travel.



Creative and practical solutions

Helmingham Primary has the transport they use to take pupils to swimming lessons. The local authority had provided a full-size coach which was not needed for the number of pupils travelling. After pursuing the issue with the council, **Helmingham** has been able to swap the coach for a minibus.



Brooklands Primary have installed EV charging points in their staff carpark, making the idea of purchasing an EV more appealing to staff. Other schools are also looking at the DVLA's Workplace EV Charging Scheme to try and install EV chargers in their car parks.



Idle engines

Idling engines, where a car is stationary with its engine on, cause peaks in harmful pollutants which when breathed in overtime can lead to asthma, heart disease, cancer and stunting students' growing lungs. Research has shown that idling engines produce up to twice the amount of exhaust emissions compared to when a vehicle is moving.

Anti-idling campaigns encourage motorists to switch off their engines while stationary to reduce the levels of air pollution.

- Anti-idling campaigns have been found to be very effective, with most drivers (80%) switching off their engines when asked in a friendly manner.
- Air pollution levels were reduced by 20-30% following anti-idling campaign days.



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