

Scooting to school

Information for nurseries and schools



Key facts:

- improves health through physical activity
- develops road safety skills
- establishes positive active travel behaviours
- promotes independence
- reduces congestion, noise and pollution around the school and nearby community
- reduces environmental impact of the journey to school.

Introduction

Getting to school by scooter has become increasingly popular with children, especially those not yet able to cycle. Scooting encourages active travel from an early age and develops skills which will also help with cycling such as steering, stopping and balancing.

As well as being fun, it encourages children to exercise. Scooting to and from school contributes towards their recommended hour of physical activity each day, enabling them to keep fit and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Scooting also helps reduce the number of cars on the school run, therefore easing congestion at the school gate. It can be especially

effective with nursery level children who have not yet started cycling to school as it's faster than walking and fun! It's an ideal form of transport; healthy, environmentally friendly and inexpensive for parents.

It is important to recognise the many positive benefits of scooting and to encourage this form of travel in as many ways as possible. You could update your School Travel Plan (STP) to include scooter training.



Encourage scooting in your nursery

With increasing numbers of pupils opting to travel to and from school by scooter now is the ideal time to think about what your school can do to promote scooting as a positive way of travelling. You could have great success in encouraging more scooting to school by setting up special events or campaigns.

Promote scooting in your school by:

- celebrating the achievements of those who choose to scoot to nursery and school, and hold poster and banner competitions

Scooter training

Many local authorities have developed their own scooter training schemes to help get youngsters more safety savvy and give their parents confidence in this popular form of school travel.

Take advantage of the materials that have already been produced and use them in your school. For example;

Buckinghamshire County Council put together two training packs to answer a growing need for scooter skills. Either option could be run during school or as an after-school activity.

- Brief Scooter Skills is a one-hour session which rotates pupils around different workshops ending with a fun games session
- Scooter Skills Levels provides three one-hour sessions on scooter control, pavement etiquette and priorities at driveways.

The skills packs contain lesson plans and guidance and can be downloaded from the Buckinghamshire County Council website.

Other organisations have created scooting resources, get some ideas you can introduce to your school by reading about what others have been doing;

www.buckscc.gov.uk and search 'scooter skills'
www.derbyshire.gov.uk and search for 'scooter smart'
www.cyclederby.co.uk/training-skills/scootability
www.leeds.gov.uk and search for 'scoot to school'
www.haddenhamcycletraining.org.uk/scootertraining.shtml
www.schoolrunisfun.co.uk

Encourage scooter training

As scooting to school becomes increasingly popular it is vital to ensure that children can handle their scooters competently and that they know how to ride safely and with consideration for others.

To encourage responsible scooting consider the following.

1. Introduce a scooter training course offering practical scooter skills to pupils who regularly scoot their journey to school
2. Establish pre-planned playground activities aimed at developing pupils' scooter skills and highlighting the importance of scooting safely.
3. Organise regular scooter safety and basic scooter maintenance checks.
4. Once pupils have completed their scooter training you could draw up a 'scooter policy' to help get pupils and parents to agree to scoot safely and considerately.



When introducing scooter training why not try to get parents involved, especially those whose children already scoot to school. Parents should be encouraged to help make sure their children know how to use their scooters properly and safely.

ery or school

- providing scooter parking on the school site and scooter training to all pupils who wish to participate
- holding a 'Scoot to School Week' or regular 'Scoot to School Days'
- holding a scooter breakfast – congratulate pupils (parents and carers too) on getting to school under their own steam with a free, healthy breakfast
- raising money for scooter parking by holding a sponsored scoot-a-thon.

Scooter parking

Scooter parking makes a big difference in encouraging scooting to school and is relatively affordable and easy to install. There are many scooter racks available that are ideal for nurseries and primary schools, especially designed for children to keep their scooters safe and secure.

As well as helping parents feel relaxed about bringing scooters to school, they'll also be happy to not have to carry (or ride!) their child's scooter from school and back each day.

Innovative storage

Like many primary schools, Dunbar Primary found that scooting has become more than a passing craze amongst younger pupils. Encouraged by an active travel ethos and some Sustrans-funded paths, the school has seen levels of cycling triple in recent years.

Faced with a tangle of about 30 scooters each day, Dunbar Primary janitor, Ibbey Johnston, came up with a simple solution that he's happy to share with schools across the UK.

Conventional cycle storage doesn't work for scooters so Ibbey came up with a plan. "I made my own prototype rack. The kids really wanted to use it instead of leaving their scooters lying around."

Ibbey didn't want to patent his plans but asked East Lothian Cycling Officer, Iain Reid to share his idea with other schools.

Now offenders on community service are using local timber to make and install racks for just £50 each.

"The racks are simple, cheap to build and environmentally friendly too. They have provided a very effective way of managing the problem of scooters lying about the playground, which in the past presented a hazard when the children were playing", said Iain.



Figures from the 2010 Hands Up Survey show that on survey day, 103 pupils scooted to Dunbar Primary school, that's 14% of pupils!

To make your own eco-friendly scooter racks simply follow the instructions on the next page.

Celebrate your scooter parking

If you have installed scooter parking in your school, celebrate your achievement. You could have a grand opening. Make sure you raise awareness of your big event by advertising on information stands or asking pupils to create posters. For exciting bike event ideas that you can easily transfer to scooting events, search for 'Pedal Pack' at www.sustrans.org.uk.

lbb'y's design instructions

It's environmentally friendly, sustainable and simple so why not have a go at creating your own scooter storage?

Ideally your scooter storage should be made out of locally-sourced wood and made locally, perhaps by a parent, member of staff or even your kind Janitor. You could ask a local joinery or sawmill to supply the wood and cut it to size for you for self assembly. They may even be able to assemble it for you at a reasonable price. You could even take it to a local secondary school and request assistance from pupils in CDT class.

The technical drawing shows the dimensions of the rack. The design shown is for 17 spaces; however should your school should require more or less spaces it can be easily adapted.

Further information

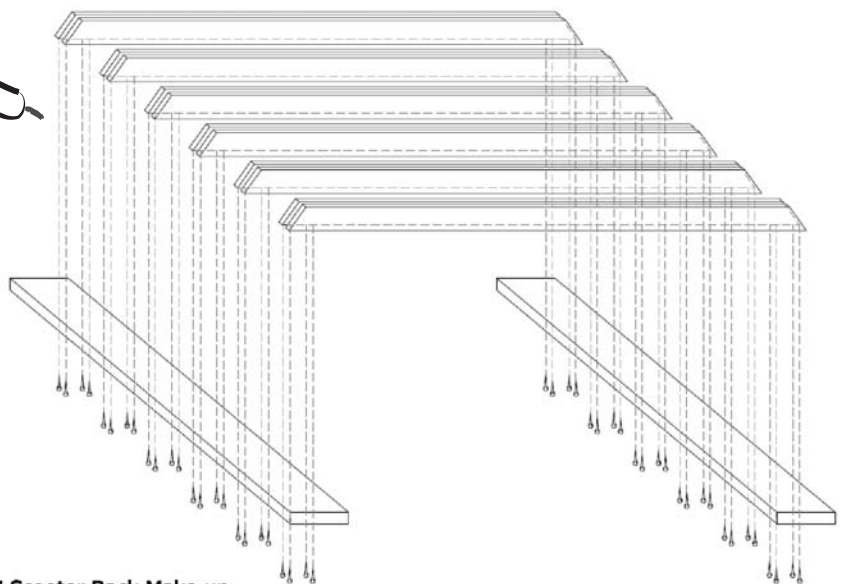
Visit the School Travel website www.sustrans.org.uk/schooltravel for:

- latest news and information on Safe Routes to Schools
- specific information and events for each of the UK regions
- downloadable resources including other information sheets
- case studies, curriculum materials and newsletters

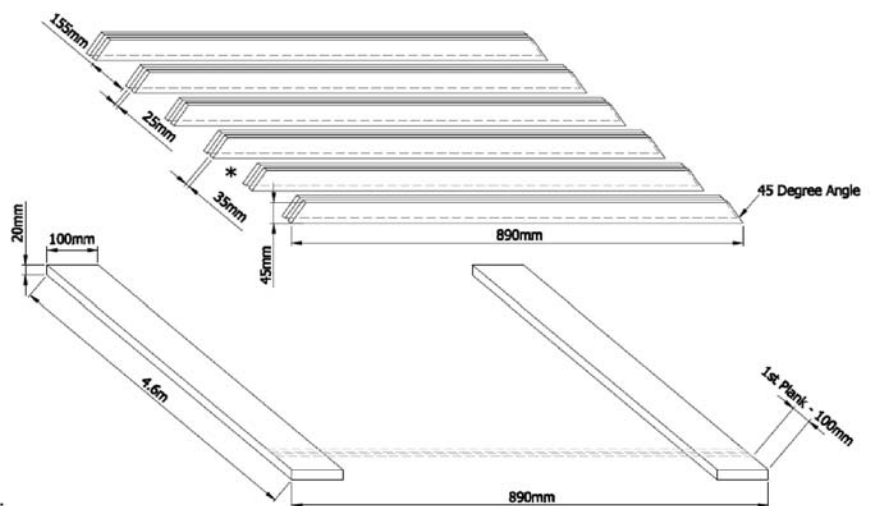
For School Travel enquiries email schools@sustrans.org.uk



lbb'y's instructions



17 Scooter Rack Make-up



Notes:
Use rough sawn treated timber.

* Racks can be reduced in size by cutting through planks midway between racks.

17 Scooter Rack Make-up

About Sustrans

Sustrans is the charity that's enabling people to travel by foot, bike or public transport for more of the journeys we make every day.

It's time we all began making smarter travel choices. Make your move and support Sustrans today. www.sustrans.org.uk

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