

CASE STUDY: CYCLING TO KESGRAVE SCHOOL



Partners: Kesgrave High School, Ipswich – staff and governors; Suffolk County Council.

Region: Eastern

Type of scheme: facilitating and encouraging cycling to school by pupils and staff.

Who benefits? attending children, staff, parents, local community, drivers and through-traffic.

Noteworthy features:

- extraordinarily high number of pupils (60%) bike to school every day
- school environment that ensures that cycling to school is 'normal'
- adequate on-site, secure bike parking keeps pace with demand (annual budget)
- complimentary local cycle route network of reasonable standard
- no convenient, local car parking available to parents
- helmet wearing, training and other 'constraints' are not insisted upon
- safety and 'cycle responsibility' encouraged but school does not want to appear 'heavy handed' which can discourage cycling
- school has a positive, practical attitude to cycling
- personal lockers provided for pupils to avoid the need to carry all books, clothing and equipment to/from school each day
- pupils encouraged to ride to educational activities and sports fixtures at venues within reasonable cycling distance from the school

Description

A significant level of cycling to school has been the norm for many years at Kesgrave. Local cycle networks and the availability of an underpass link (albeit now inadequate for the demands made of it) avoiding a busy A-road, ensures that children are not expected to mix with high volumes of fast-moving traffic. There is very little, convenient, local parking or waiting opportunities for parents' vehicles. Site access is managed morning and afternoon by staff. There is good provision on-site for parking bicycles. An annual school budget helps ensure that its 'cycling infrastructure' meets the school's needs. Many commentators believe that the lack of insistence on helmet-wearing is the main reason for the high levels of cycling. Because cycling to school is seen as 'normal', most of the children identify with their peers, the majority of whom happen to bike to school. As the children say, "it's no big deal".



Home-time at Kesgrave.



Plenty of on-site bike storage made secure and tamper-proof by CCTV coverage and 'out of bounds' rules.

Outcomes

- 60% of pupils cycle to school, consistent across age groups
- healthier, fitter, more alert children
- cycling culture that will likely influence future travel choices in adulthood

Further information

Kesgrave High School, Main Road, Kesgrave, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP5 2PB Tel: 01473 624855
www.kesgrave.suffolk.sch.uk/schoolinformation/travel

This case study has been prepared by the Cycling England Local Authority Professional Support Team