

School Travel Planning

Walking Zone

Introduction

This guide will help your school to create a 5 minute walking zone around a school and promote this using signage, maps and banners.

Aims of a Walking Zone

- to encourage people not to park within the walking zone
- to encourage people to walk by showing them how short a walking journey they have
- making school gates less congested and therefore safer for pupils

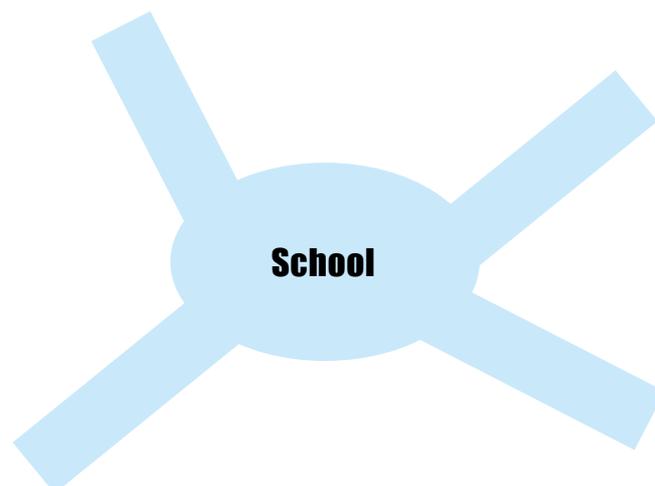
This works even better when promoting alternative parking sites 'Park and stride' and having parking tips for drivers available, to encourage responsible parking around the school and in residential streets.

How to create a Walking Zone

Task 1: Class Room preparation

- a. This can be done as a class project, looking at maps and identifying the number of paths leading away from the school in different directions. Split into groups and divide up the paths with each group to make sure each path is covered. Illustration 1 shows the school has four paths leading away from it. Therefore you would need a group/ groups to cover each path.

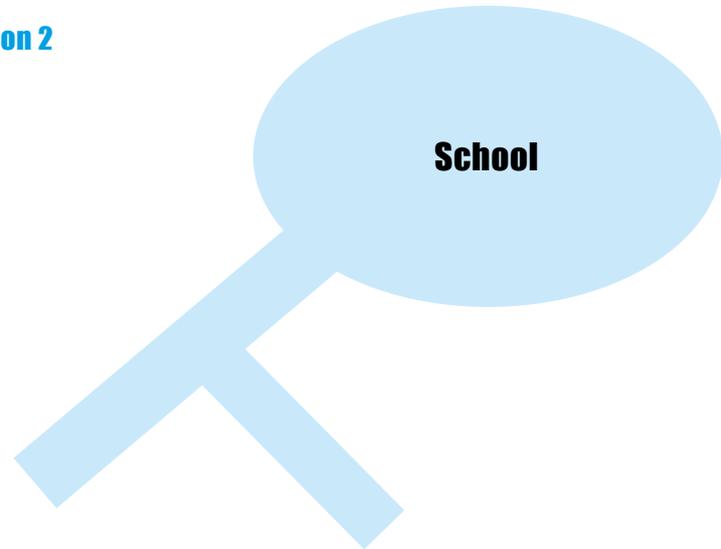
Illustration 1.



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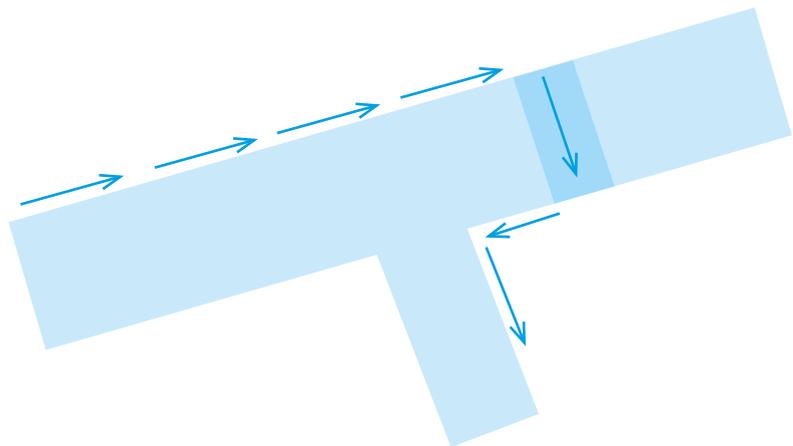
- b. Pupils then need to highlight the paths, on group maps, that they are concentrating on. They then need to identify any alternative paths that may exist off the first paths. For example, illustration 2 shows the path this group are focusing on has a path leading off it, this is to be considered as well.

Illustration 2



- c. Pupils will also need to identify any roads they are crossing, and take into account crossing at the safest place and not the quickest, for example, if there is a path leading off the road on the other side which needs to be considered within the walking zone and there are crossing facilities available on this street, pupils should walk up to the crossing, cross the road and walk back down to the path

Illustration 3





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Once pupils have identified as much as they can within the class room, they will need to go out on to the streets, with their maps to time the routes. Before pupils should be allowed out in groups (accompanied by an adult, ratio recommendation is 1:6 pupils over the age of 9, 1:4 pupils under the age of 9), pupils should be given a safety talk regarding road safety, Hi Vis jackets must be worn by each individual and a risk assessment should be carried out by the school. Remind pupils it is not a race, they need to walk at a normal walking speed or the zone will not be accurate.

Equipment required

- Hi Vis Jackets
- Stop Watch
- Map
- Camera
- Pencils

Task 2 – On Street activity

- a. Pupils are then to walk in the agreed direction until the stop watch hits the 5 min mark. They then highlight where they got to on the map by drawing the route and end point. It may be worth taking some pictures of the end point with the camera.
- b. Pupils are then to retrace their steps to the starting point and focus on any other route they have identified.
- c. Once all routes have been timed, pupils are to head back into the class room.
- d. Each group is then to transfer their timed routes on to a large map, please check here whether any route has been missed.
- e. This has created the information you need for your 5 minute walking zone. You may want to add other key features on to the map, such as advisory crossing points (crossing patroller or zebra crossing) or park and stride locations.
- f. If there is someone good with computers at your school, it may be worth developing the map within a computing programming package. Alternatively, please contact your School Travel Plan officer who can assist. You may however prefer the pupil artist touch.



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Task 3 – Promoting the Walking Zone

To promote your map you will need to make sure everyone in the school receives a copy. The map should be occupied by information on why the school have created this map, what benefits it will bring the school, who created it, what park and stride means or any other piece of information you feel is important, (see template information at the end of this).

It would be a good idea to create posters about the Walking zone and having these put up around the school. It might also be a possibility to have these posters put up within the walking zone (possible on lamp posts or notice boards or other available space, where appropriate).

The school may also wish to create PVC school banners to be located at the school gate asking people to try their walking zone and leave their car out of it.

Having an assembly and a launch event is also a great way to highlight the project.

To keep the project at the forefront of peoples minds, once a term, the school should host a competition to remind people of the zone. Below are a few ideas on what your school could do:

- **golden boot competition**, everyone who travels sustainable within the 5 minute zone, whether on foot, bike, scooter, or arrives by car but parked out with the walking zone – receives one point for their class. Bus pupils can receive a point as they are not adding to the congestion; some schools encourage these pupils to walk a lap around the playground to achieve their exercise. The class with the most points by the end of the week wins the golden boot for the term (golden boot can be created by spray painting an old shoe golden colour and stuck on a wooden platform, alternatively, this may be a trophy).
- **Green leaf display.** Create a tree with large branches in the school hall. For every sustainable journey made within the walking zone, a green leaf can be added to the tree.



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- For every sustainable travel journey made within the walking zone, 1 mile is added to a large map of the world displayed in the school hall. Each day, more and more miles are added to the map, and pupils can see which destination they can reach (starting from their school)

Whatever event you do, it is worth recording the journeys that are made by foot before the event to see what impact it has had on journeys to school.

Your annual Hands Up Survey (taken September) will determine long term trends of this project. This information should be shared with your school and parents to see if you are reducing car use, or if there is still a need to push the scheme further.

Draft information to include with your Walking Zone Map

We, Primary ** pupils from ** primary school have worked hard to create a Walking Zone Map. This map shows a 5 minute walking zone around our school, meaning it will not take you more than 5 minutes to walk from the start of these routes to the school gate.

We have created this map to encourage more people to walk to school, this map shows you how quick and easy it can be to walk to school.

We want all drivers not to park within the walking zone and choose to park, responsibly, out with the zone and walk the remaining 5 minutes to school. The benefits of a walking zone are:

- less congestion at the school gate making it safer and more pleasant for school users.
- Increase pupils motivation, research has shown, even a short walk before school, can really boost a child's ability to concentration and therefore perform better in school.

Please remember, walking should not be a hassle or an inconvenience but an important and fun part of the day.



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Tips to drivers for parking responsibly.

There are great benefits to walking or cycling to school and these should be looked at as first choice for travelling to school. However we realize there may be some people whose journeys are too complicated to explore alternative options.

If you do choose to bring your car to school, remember you are not only responsible for the safety of your children, but the safety of others. So remember to think carefully about where you are parking and avoid causing an obstruction to other road users:

Don't

- park on zig zag lines or yellow lines, it is not only illegal but these markings have been put in place to improve safety
- park on pavements and think of the residents and do not park in front of their driveways.
- expect to get parked right at the school gate and avoid parking in the walking zone area

Do

- leave the house in plenty of time and spend time finding a safe place to park
- realise that you may have to park a few minutes away from the school in order to park safely, plan this into your journey so you have time for this – consider the 5 minute walking zone and park out with it
- park and stride, which means parking away from the school gate and walking the last bit. An ideal location would be [[please state a location point here](#)].