



# Policy for School Travel



Wensum Way, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE30 2RE

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### 1. Introduction

Greenpark Academy is committed to promoting safe, healthy and sustainable travel to and from school for all pupils, staff and visitors.

We recognise that the journey to school is an important part of each child's day. It provides an opportunity for pupils to develop independence, social skills and an understanding of road safety, while also contributing positively to their physical and emotional wellbeing.

The way in which members of the school community travel has a direct impact on:

- the safety of pupils at the start and end of the school day;
- traffic congestion in the surrounding area;
- air quality and the local environment;
- relationships with local residents.

This policy outlines the academy's approach to managing travel, promoting active travel choices, and ensuring that all journeys to and from the academy are conducted safely and responsibly.

### 2. Aims and objectives

The key aims of this policy are to: -

- Promote safe, sustainable and active travel for all pupils and staff.
- Reduce the number of car journeys made to and from the academy site.
- Improve road safety and reduce risks to pupils during peak times.
- Encourage independence and responsible travel behaviour in pupils.
- Minimise the environmental impact of school travel.
- Maintain positive relationships with the local community.

In achieving these aims, the academy seeks to create a culture where walking, cycling and scooting are the preferred options for short journeys, and where driving is managed in a safe and considerate way.

### **3. Benefits of active travel**

Greenpark Academy actively promotes walking, cycling and scooting due to the wide range of benefits we provide.

#### Health and well-being

Active travel helps pupils to: -

- increase daily physical activity;
- improve cardiovascular fitness;
- develop stronger bones and muscles;
- support mental wellbeing and reduce anxiety.

Children who arrive at school having exercised are often more alert, focused and ready to learn.

#### Independence and life skills

Travelling actively helps pupils to: -

- develop independence and confidence;
- build awareness of their local environment;
- learn important road safety skills;
- develop responsibility for their own actions.

#### Environmental benefits

Reducing car use helps to: -

- improve air quality around the the academy;
- reduce carbon emissions;
- create a safer and quieter environment;
- support wider sustainability goals.

#### Community impact

Active travel reduces congestion and:

- improves safety for all road users;
- reduces parking pressures;
- supports positive relationships with local residents.

### **4. Travel options**

Greenpark Academy encourages families to consider all available travel options and choose the most sustainable and safe method possible.

### Walking

Walking is the preferred method of travel for pupils who live within a reasonable distance of the academy. It provides: -

- a healthy start and end to the school day;
- opportunities for social interaction;
- development of road awareness and independence.

Parents are encouraged to plan safe routes with their children and discuss road safety regularly.

### Cycling and scooting

Cycling and scooting are encouraged where appropriate and safe.

To ensure safety: -

- helmets are strongly recommended;
- bikes and scooters must be well maintained;
- pupils must dismount when entering the academy site;
- equipment must be stored in designated areas.

The academy promotes safe use of bikes and scooters and expects pupils to follow the Highway Code where applicable.

### Park and stride

For families who need to travel by car, we strongly promote a 'park and stride' approach.

This involves: -

- parking at a suitable location away from the academy site;
- walking the final part of the journey.

This approach: -

- reduces congestion near the academy gates;
- improves safety for all pupils;
- supports physical activity.

Greenpark Academy actively encourages the use of Lynnsport car parks as part of this approach.

### Car travel

Where car travel is necessary, parents and carers are expected to: -

- plan journeys carefully to avoid peak congestion;
- park safely and legally;
- avoid stopping directly outside the academy;
- follow all local traffic regulations.

The academy discourages unnecessary car use and asks families to consider alternative options wherever possible.

### **5. The walking bus**

Greenpark Academy operates a daily walking bus (a map of the route is provided in **Appendix A**) for pupils from Reception to Year 6. This service is free of charge and promotes health, independence and reduced traffic around the academy.

Further detailed information about the operation of the walking bus, including procedures, expectations and arrangements, can be found in **Appendix B**.

### **6. Road safety and parking**

The safety of pupils, staff and families is of paramount importance. The areas immediately outside the academy can become busy at drop-off and collection times. Poor parking and unsafe driving can significantly increase the risk of accidents.

#### Expectations for parents and carers

Parents and carers must: -

- not park on pavements or grass verges;
- not block driveways or access points;
- not park on corners or near crossings;
- not park on the double yellow lines;
- follow all road markings and parking restrictions;
- avoid idling engines while waiting;
- ensure children exit vehicles safely.

Parents should also be mindful of: -

- visibility for pedestrians;
- the safety of other children;
- the impact of their behaviour on the wider community.

#### Safe behaviour around the academy

All road users are expected to: -

- drive slowly and carefully near the academy;
- be alert to pedestrians and cyclists;
- avoid unsafe manoeuvres such as turning or reversing in busy areas;

The academy will work with local authorities where necessary to address any ongoing safety concerns.

### **7. Roles and responsibilities**

Ensuring safe travel to and from school is a shared responsibility.

The academy will: -

- promote sustainable travel through the curriculum and school initiatives;
- provide clear guidance to parents and pupils;
- support and organise the walking bus;
- provide road safety education;
- monitor travel patterns where appropriate;
- work with external organisations to improve safety.

Parents and carers will: -

- support the academy's approach to sustainable travel;
- ensure children travel safely;
- follow parking and road safety expectations;
- communicate with the academy regarding travel arrangements;
- ensure children are appropriately equipped for their journey.

Pupils will: -

- follow road safety rules;
- behave responsibly when travelling;
- follow instructions from staff;
- show respect for others and the local community.

## **8. Promoting active travel**

Greenpark Academy actively promotes sustainable travel through a range of initiatives, including: -

- road safety education within the curriculum;
- assemblies and awareness activities;
- participation in national events such as Walk to School Week;
- reward systems to encourage active travel;
- communication with families through newsletters and updates.

The academy aims to build a culture where active travel is normal, encouraged and celebrated.

## **9. Modeshift STARS**

Greenpark Academy participates in Modeshift STARS, the national school travel plan accreditation scheme. Modeshift STARS provides a structured framework to support schools in: -

- promoting walking, cycling and scooting;
- reducing reliance on cars;
- improving road safety;
- monitoring and evaluating travel behaviour.

Through this programme, the academy: -

- collects data on how pupils and staff travel;
- identifies areas for improvement;
- implements targeted initiatives;
- works towards nationally recognised accreditation.

Participation in Modeshift STARS demonstrates the academy's commitment to continuous improvement in sustainable travel and supports wider priorities such as pupil well-being, environmental responsibility and community safety.

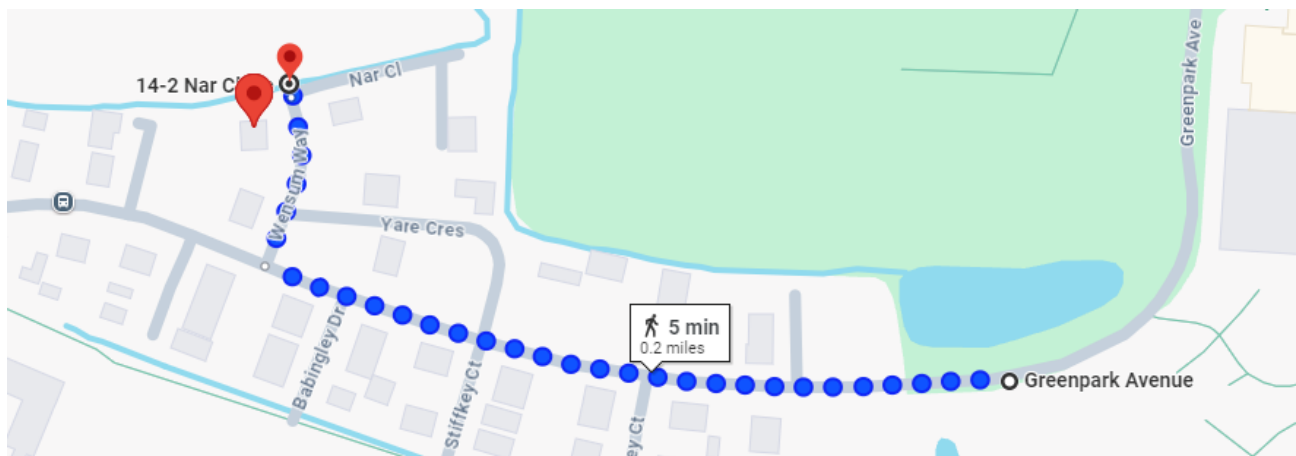
## 10. Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure it remains effective and reflects the needs of the academy community. We will: -

- review travel patterns where appropriate;
- seek feedback from pupils, parents and staff;
- update procedures in response to identified issues;
- ensure the policy remains aligned with best practice;

Changes will be communicated clearly to all stakeholders.

## Appendix A: Walking bus route map



## Appendix B: Walking Bus Operational Details

Location: Lynnsport South Car Park (meeting point at the sign opposite the pond).

Morning arrangements: -

- Staff present from 8:20am
- Walking bus departs at 8:30am prompt
- No booking required

Afternoon arrangements: -

- Collection between 3:05pm–3:10pm
- Booking required via Pupil Asset
- Late collection results in after-school care (£5 charge applies)

Supervision: -

- Two members of staff wearing ID and high-visibility vests
- Children supervised at all times
- Registers taken before and after the walk

Parental responsibilities: -

- Parents remain responsible until handover
- Ensure punctual arrival
- Inform school of absence
- Provide relevant medical information

Behaviour expectations: -

Children must follow instructions, walk sensibly, stay with the group and show respect. A 3-strike system is used for unsafe behaviour.

Additional expectations: -

- Operates in all weather conditions
- No riding bikes/scooters
- Appropriate clothing required