

School Travel Plans

"Make your shoe smile: give your car the boot!"

Why do we need a School Travel Plan?

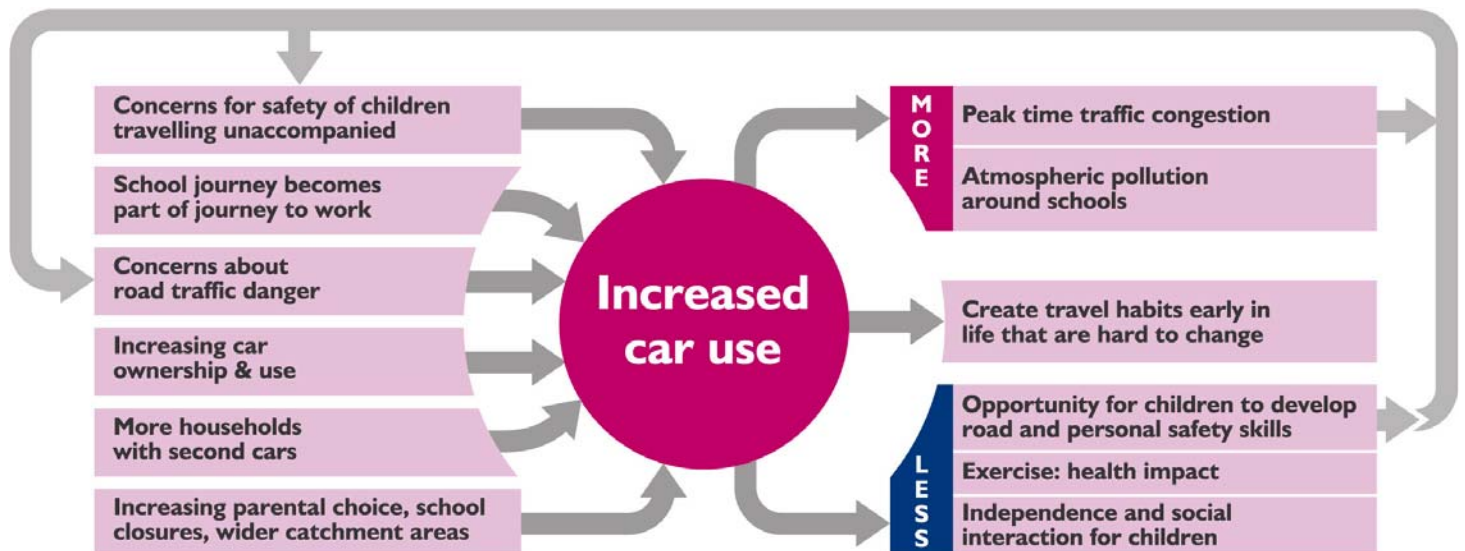
- ✦ Are you concerned about the **environment** around the school or more generally?
- ✦ Do you feel that you have inadequate **facilities** for parking or drop-off zones?
- ✦ Do you feel that your school has **congestion** or **road safety** problems?
- ✦ Do you feel that the school can help pupils to live more **healthily**?
- ✦ Do you feel that routes to school could be **safer**?

If your answer to ANY of these is YES, a School Travel Plan can help!

Facts and figures

- ✦ UK Road traffic volumes have nearly **doubled** over the last 20 years. Over the next 20 years, this could **increase again** by over one third¹
- ✦ At 8:50 am, **1 in 5 cars** on the road is taking a child to school². In 2001, nearly **1 in 4** children (and nearly 1 in 6 children living within 1 mile of school) were being **driven** to school.
- ✦ Statistics suggest that cars are one of the **least** safe modes of transport: a child travelling by car is almost **twice** as likely to be a casualty than a child travelling by bus³

Effects



¹ Department for Transport

² National Travel Survey, 1997/99

³ The Scottish Executive Road Accident Statistics (2000)

The School Travel Plan

What is it?

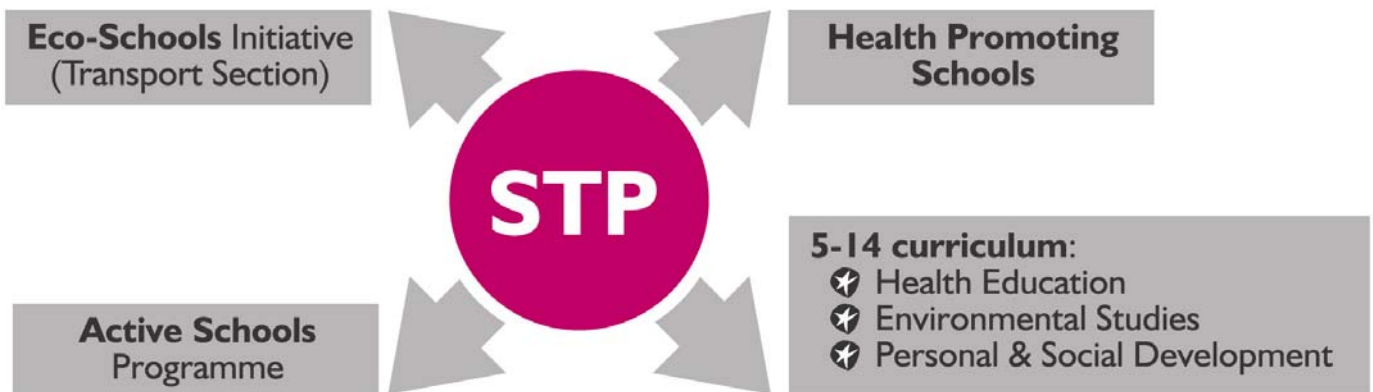
A School Travel Plan (STP) is an opportunity to identify and promote practical alternatives that meet the varied needs of the school community by encouraging parents, pupils and staff to consider different ways of travelling to school. Your STP will:

- ✧ Summarise current travel patterns and traffic problems
- ✧ Set targets
- ✧ Identify solutions
- ✧ Address all aspects of the journey to school and encourage
 - 🚶 Walking
 - 🚲 Cycling
 - 🚌 Use of public transport
 - 🚗 Better management of remaining 'school run' vehicles

The School Travel Planning Initiative incorporates projects within the earlier Safer Routes to School Initiative, under which a number of Aberdeenshire schools benefited from infrastructure works – from school safety zones to cycle racks – and from the support of a cross-service network.

Links to other activities

All schools in Aberdeenshire must have a STP by 2008. The best aspect of this, apart from the benefits of having a plan, is that schools will be able to tie in their STP to a number of other projects, some of which are:



How will Travel Plans benefit our Schools?

Everyone – from individuals at school to the whole community – will benefit from opportunities to:

- ✧ Reduce traffic congestion around schools, thus increasing personal safety
- ✧ Develop road safety skills, increasing independence and self-esteem
- ✧ Increase travel awareness and widen choices
- ✧ Improve health and fitness
- ✧ Improve behaviour in school and on the school journey
- ✧ Establish safer walking and cycling routes
- ✧ Reduce pollution and increase environmental awareness
- ✧ Improve community awareness, promoting good relationships between pupils and the community
- ✧ Build links between parents and strengthen home-school links
- ✧ Reduce driving stress and improve journey quality