

## **Content from The Castle School Travel Plan 2023:**

### **School leadership priority**

The Modeshift initiatives were led by the Deputy Headteacher with responsibility for Personal Development, as a key priority within the school, working closely with the Headteacher and the rest of the Senior Leadership Team. Throughout the year the Modeshift Gold plan formed an important feature of the School improvement Plan and was reported on regularly at SLT meetings and to the Community Councillors (Governors). The SLT collaborated with other colleagues in the school in a working party, in conjunction with staff, students, Community Councillors and representatives from the community over the past year to build upon the progress that had been made in the school to raise awareness and opportunities and to offer the possibility of changing behaviours for staff and students and the local community on sustainable, safe and active modes of transport.

### **Initial plans**

When we began our initial investigations into the process of Active Travel planning, we identified significant issues related to road safety at The Castle School. We have worked with South Gloucestershire Council, Living Streets and other organisations and stakeholders to undertake a wide range of initiatives to combat the issues related to road safety and to increase the number of students who are engaged in making healthier and more environmentally friendly choices to benefit their well being and to reduce carbon emissions.

### **Near misses / accident**

The main focus of our Gold Action plan has been on road safety due to a number of near miss incidents logged as our young people travel actively to and from school each day. In addition, a student in year 11 was involved in a road traffic accident last year after getting off his school bus.

### **South Gloucestershire Road Safety Team engagement**

We have focussed on educating our students through working with South Gloucestershire Council to engage with their four levels of road safety presentations. This initiative was presented to 750 students in KS3 through assemblies, the tutor programme and in our Personal Development lessons known as Life skills. Students report being more aware of their responsibility as road users.

In addition to the presentations all students have taken part in road safety quizzes regularly with their tutors in their Life Skills 9 Personal Development lessons and in their tutor sessions. South Gloucestershire Road Safety Team have shared videos and Kahoot quizzes which have been used to enhance understanding of road safety, by all of our students. All staff have been involved in these presentations and have reinforced all of the key messages. As a result, students have focussed on Character Development of resilience and self-responsibility.

### **School improvement Priority**

Every 6 weeks there has been a presentation on road safety including the hierarchy of the road, peer influence, the frontal cortex and wise decision making, being bright to be seen etc. The increase in frequency of information sharing to students has kept active travel as a main school priority. The Modeshift Gold plan is a feature of our School Improvement Plan within the Personal Development focus area. In our Ofsted inspection of November 2022, the lead Inspector was very interested in our Active Travel plan and the impact it had on the character development of our students. The Ofsted report mentioned our achievement of a nationally recognised accreditation for developing sustainable travel initiatives - Modeshift STARS bronze award at that time.

### **Communication - sharing our developments**

The frequency of communications on road safety have been even further improved this year with regular updates to parents/ carers in the school newsletter, via social media and on the dedicated school website page. Our work has been reported in the local media and we had our Silver award presented by the South Gloucestershire's Executive Member for Education, thus

raising the profile of the importance of active and sustainable travel to school. Our Bronze Case study was shared by South Gloucestershire Council and our Silver testimony also appears on their dedicated web page. We look forward to sharing our Gold case study with other primary and secondary schools in South Gloucestershire.

### **Cycling and scooting**

The school has engaged with a variety of initiatives on road safety for bicycle and scooter riders . For example, students and staff bicycles have been repaired in the two Dr Bike initiatives and a toolkit is available to students and staff on reception to allow them to make personal repairs to their bicycles or scooters . Some parents and carers have made use of this service in addition to members of our PTA - Castle School Friends and our Community council- Governors. The Bike toolkit provided by South Gloucestershire Council supports bike users to maintain their bicycles on the road to remain safe. The Dr Bike initiatives have resulted in staff and students feeling more confident to ride their bicycles to school.

The Safe cycle route mapping exercise carried out for us by South Gloucestershire council has been useful for staff and students alike showing them routes possible to use for active travel to work/ school. Through undertaking the annual Travel to Work Survey including the additional personalised questions we have benefitted from the tailored report on how staff travel to work. This is a continued area of focus; there remain barriers for active travel for many staff.

In addition we have encouraged walking and scooting through initiatives such as the Golden Lock for bikes, Scooters and through the Let's Walk campaign supported by Living Streets . We had 400 entries into this competition which we linked with our Photography department. Prizes were provided by Living Streets with media coverage obtained . We have expanded the amount of cycle storage space having received additional funding from South Gloucestershire Council. Our DT departments have been involved in expanding storage space by making scooter storage racking. Children have also gone on several walking wellbeing sessions as a part of our ELSA programme.. Walking has increased over the 20/21-21/22 by 1.61% and only slightly dipped by 0.7% over the past year.

We have also actively encouraged cycling by providing Bikeability Level 1, 2 and 3 sessions for year 7 students over the past three years with further sessions already booked in for April 2023 ensuring the children have the skill set to cycle to school safely.

### **Leadership Team / Police - Highest profile**

Members of the Senior Leadership Team are on duty on the roads at the beginning and end of each day to ensure students are safe from road traffic users. In addition to effective liaison with both the Council and the Police who have taken regular action to reduce the speed that vehicles travel down the main road in front of the school. The Police have used the speed capture data boxes to support the request for temporary speed visor signage. The local beat team has come into school in the mornings and after school to support the school in its management for vehicles who speed down Park road and are therefore a danger to our students walking, cycling and scooting to school.

### **School Action Student Group**

The Active travel Ambassadors have been surveying students and staff on the issues which they face when travelling to school to ensure they are safe. The Active Travel Ambassadors have met once per week and have created videos and promotional materials on road safety which have been shared by Tutors and teachers in the Personal Development curriculum. They have provided excellent resources for assemblies delivered to all 1500 students in school. The Active travel Ambassadors have been distributing excellent road safety prizes for the Golden Lock initiative such as bicycle helmets, luminous safety bands and repair kits for bikes and scooters. The ATA are looking forward to giving their Pitch to South Gloucestershire council in April. They hope to gain additional funding to use for prizes/ incentives to further increase active travel in the spring and summer terms.

**Staff**

The School hosted a Road show for staff, in June 2022, highlighting many ways for them to keep safe when travelling into and out of work. Maps were shared to support staff in their understanding of safe cycle routes in addition to information about the use of public transport and the benefits of car sharing.

**Looking to the future**

We are already planning further initiatives to maintain Gold, should we achieve this. We will be continuing to collaborate with South Gloucestershire Council and the Active travel Ambassador scheme in addition to working actively with the Police as we hope to gain the additional grant of £5k from them to support our road safety developments. We are awaiting speed data analysis from the Council in the hope that we can gain the required evidence to support our traffic calming plans outside of the school gates.

The Modeshift School Travel Plan will continue to be an integral part of the School Development Plan under the Personal Development focus and there will be ongoing regular updates to both our Community Council and parents/ carers.

We believe we have changed the ethos of the school and now have an embedded a much more positive mindset to sustainable and active travel to school, bringing the many benefits active travel provides to the school, and the wider community. We have made amazing progress in the past two years and with the support of the students, staff, Community Council, parents and carers, and South Gloucestershire Council, we can continue to make excellent progress in active travel, benefitting the health and wellbeing - both physical and mental, of our whole community.