

Transition time moving to year R



Starting Year R (Reception)

Starting a new school is a big step for parents as well as children.

Did you know that 1 in 5 cars on the road during morning rush hour is on the school run?

Not only is your child embarking on their first taste of infant school education, but they are also going to a new location which often involves a new, unfamiliar journey.

This leaflet is designed to lead you through the process of planning your new journey to school and, as much as is possible, keeping it active, safe and sustainable.

You can make a difference!

Too many cars around schools during drop-off and pick-up times create congestion, pollution and road safety issues. **Your own travel choices directly affect this situation** and we would encourage you to think carefully about how you plan to travel to your new school and try to make a difference from the start.

The [My Journey Travel Planning team](#) at Southampton City Council (SCC) are here to support you, as well as to encourage you to travel actively to school whenever possible. Active travel is not only good for the environment, but it is also vital for your physical and mental health and wellbeing. There's lots of information and ideas on the following pages to support you in making your travel choices, or you can visit the [My Journey Transition Time](#) and [My Journey parent pages](#).

Getting to know the basics

Once you have your school place confirmed, visit the school's website and read through any materials provided there, including their prospectus and travel policies, to find out key information such as:

- School start and finish times
- Breakfast and after school club timings and availability
- Travel to school policies / webpage
- Pedestrian entrances
- Cycle and scooter storage

myjourneysouthampton.com/transition

Sustainable and safe active travel

Transition Resources

Online travel choices guide

“How could you travel to school?” a booklet updated annually*, provides parents with the information and tools they need to find out the options available when their children start school, even if it's choosing an alternative to the car once or twice a week.



Information on safe, active travel

Walk, scoot, balance bike or cycle? We have lots of information to support all forms of active travel on the [My Journey website](#). Don't forget to check out our [cycling skills](#) pages to keep your children safe, savvy and to help ditch those stabilisers.

Walking for your wellbeing's never been such fun

See our [wellbeing pages](#) for the latest ideas on keeping active and healthy, in body and mind. We have lots of ideas to make your time outside more interesting and fun such as our [Spring into Action](#) toolkit.

We would encourage you to travel actively to school - on your feet, scooter or bicycle - as often as possible. If it is raining, be ready with a waterproof coat and, on darker nights, consider reflective clothing. We do understand that, for some families, logistics mean that at least some of the journey needs to be completed by car. If this is the case for your family, please consider doing one of the following:

- **Park and Stride** - if you must drive to school, please find a suitable Park and Stride site so you can park away from the school entrance and walk the last 5-10 minutes. This will really help.

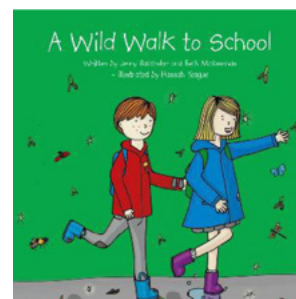
Some schools have their own Park and Stride maps highlighting local car parking areas where they have agreements for parents to park during the school run times, such as pub or supermarket car parks, recreation grounds and areas with plenty of on-street parking. Please [Parkwise](#) and always be respectful of local residents. To speed up the walk from the car to school, why not bring your child's [scooter](#) and Scoot from the Boot?

Parking enforcement

Southampton City Council has a responsibility for the enforcement of certain on-street parking restrictions. Parking on zigzags, yellow lines or obstructing driveways can result in a penalty charge notice being issued. The Police may issue penalty points to your driving licence for other traffic offences. A camera car enforcement vehicle is now in operation, along with officers of foot, to tack illegal parking on zig zags at Southampton schools.

Educational resources

There is a range of [Susie the Childminder](#) books available on-line which help to prepare children for emergency situations in the home and community; many have follow up activities.



In particular, we would recommend [Journey to School](#) and [Travelling Back in Time to School](#). There are lots of [Air Quality resources](#) available to download and on-line versions of our Air Quality books, [A wild walk to school](#) (KS1) and [A Right Royal Adventure](#) (KS2). For parents, there's an [air pollution quiz](#) that you might like to try out too.



Follow-up activities

1. Mapping investigation



1. Introduction



2. Pirate training



3. Trouble Ahoy!



4. Map your journey

With the help of your parent or carer, look up your new school on a local map or using the [My Journey mapping tool](#) (uses Google Maps) or [OpenStreetMap](#) on a computer. Look at how far it is to your new school and see if you can plan a quiet route there, away from busy roads and with safe crossing points. Remember that the quickest route may not always be the best route in terms of traffic, pollution and enjoyability.

You also have the option to use the Southampton [CleanAirmap](#) which allows you to plan an even cleaner air, greener and more tranquil walking or cycling route within the city.

If using a computer, use the yellow man icon on [Google Maps](#) to browse street view images. This is really helpful if you don't know your route well, as you can spot any hazards before you try out your route for real. Both packages enable you to choose your form of transport, including walking and cycling. In [OpenStreetMap](#), use the right click on your mouse. In [Google Maps](#), use the blue and white directions icon. You may be offered alternative routes, so look for the quieter option away from the danger of traffic and with better air quality. If the route is a suitable distance, consider whether you could walk, scoot or cycle to school at least on some days.

2. Pirate map making



Once you've decided the best option for your new route to school, create your own pirate map (you may need some help from a parent or carer).

If you've never drawn a map before, there are some good ideas to practice on the [Teaching Ideas](#) website.

Mark on your house and your new school, and then draw the roads or footpaths you need to use in between the two. Can you add some icons to note anything exciting to be found on the route such as a friend's house or a playground?

What about any hazards to avoid like a busy road or narrow pavement? The more detail you add, the better your map will be.

3. Pirate practice makes perfect



Once you are happy with your map, get into your best pirate outfit and go and test it out with someone in your household (don't forget that, on school days, you will need to wear your

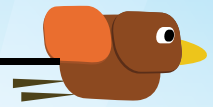
school uniform!).

Why not try out more than one route to see if you have a preference? Is one better for walking and one better for cycling?

Check that the route is well lit so you will be seen on darker evenings. Do you need to make any changes to your map having tried it out?

Did you spot anything of interest along the way that you could add to it? Did you manage to find the treasure?

Further road safety information:



Hampshire County Council have some useful information on the correct use of [car seats](#).

Living Streets, our walking partner, have a great [family walk to school kit](#).

Walk Wheel and Cycle Trust have some [great tips](#) on walking, as well as cycling, with young children as well as specific information on an [active school run](#). They also have a really [interesting blog](#) on the benefits of cycling for children and families.

[Ready Set Ride](#) has a [great website](#) (and app) to support parents in teaching their children to ride a bike

There are some fantastic free EYFS [active lifestyle resources](#) at [Balanceability.com](#)

The Department of Transport's [Think!](#) website has some excellent resources for 3-6 year-olds including activities around road safety and independence as a pedestrian.

Road safety charity [Brake](#) has [free Zebras road safety resources](#) as well as 'Beep! Beep! Days' and lots of advice for parents

If you have any railway lines to cross on the way to school, you may be interested in these primary safety [resources](#) from [Network Rail](#)

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