

Transition Time Moving to Year R



Starting Year R (Early Years Foundation Stage, Reception)

Starting school is a big step for parents/carers as well as children. Not only is your child embarking on their first taste of formal education, but they are also going to a new location which may involve an 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, keep it active, safe, and sustainable.

1 in 5 cars on the road during morning rush hour is on the school run.

The [My Journey Travel Planning Team](#) at Hampshire County Council (HCC) is here to support you, as well as encourage you to travel actively whenever possible. Active travel is good for the environment and vital for the health and wellbeing of your family. 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 child's school place confirmed, it's time 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-** many schools have a 'Travel to school' policy and/or webpage(s) outlining how they would like families to travel to and from the site. This may include information about Park and Stride sites or 5-Minute Walking Bubbles (more information on this later).
- **Pedestrian entrances-** check the locations of the pedestrian entrances and whether you should be using a particular one (this may depend on your child's age).
- **Cycle and scooter storage-** if you wish your child to scoot, balance bike or cycle to school, ensure you know the availability and location of scooter and cycle parking, and whether there are any policies in place or restrictions on use.
- **HCC School Transport-** is available to eligible pupils. Please look [here](#) for more information. *Please note: this service is provided and organised by the Education and Learning Team, and not by the Travel Planning Team.*

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In the section below are some suggested activities that you can do with your child to help you/them prepare for the new journey.

Transition Time Pirate Film Fun



The true story of “The Gentleman Pirate”, Captain Stede Bonnet (he actually paid for his pirate ships rather than stealing them!), is designed to inspire you to make maps of the new journey to school. Follow [this link](#) to watch our original, 8-minute long, humorous film by our fantastic friends at [Histrionics](#), presented in four short sections so you can pause the film easily if you wish. Enjoy, me hearties!

See www.myjourneyhampshire.com/films for the full range of My Journey active travel films.

Follow-up activities

1. Mapping investigation

A screenshot of the 'My Journey Planner' web form. It has a yellow background. At the top, it says 'My Journey Planner'. Below that are two white input fields: 'Enter Start Location' and 'Enter Final Destination'. A blue 'Search' button is below the fields. At the bottom, there are icons for a bicycle, a person walking, a wheelchair, a bus, a car, and a train.

Help your child find their new school on a local map or use the [My Journey mapping tool](#) (Google Maps) or [OpenStreetMap](#) online. Check the distance to your new school. Plan a quiet route, avoiding busy roads and choosing safe crossing points. Remember, the quickest route may not always be the best in terms of traffic, pollution, and enjoyment!

Then use the yellow man icon on Google Maps to view street images and identify hazards before trying the route. Both tools allow you to select your preferred mode of transportation (walking, wheeling, cycling). Right-click on OpenStreetMap or use the blue and white directions icon on Google Maps to look for quieter routes with less traffic and lower pollution. If the distance permits, consider walking, wheeling, scooting, or cycling to school on some days.

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2. Pirate map making

Once you've chosen your new school route, you could help your child to create a pirate map! Practice drawing maps using ideas from the [Teaching Ideas](#) website if needed. Mark your house and new school and draw the roads or footpaths between them. Add icons for exciting landmarks like a friend's house or a playground. Note any hazards to avoid, such as busy roads or narrow pavements. The more detail, the better your map!



3. Pirate practice makes perfect



It's time to embark on a thrilling pirate escapade! You could encourage your child to wear a pirate costume and then put your map created to the test. Explore various routes for walking, wheeling, scooting and cycling, and don't forget to ensure the paths are well lit, ready for those dark evenings. After your daring expedition, make any necessary adjustments to your map and include any exciting discoveries you encountered along the way. Did you manage to uncover any hidden treasure? We can't wait to hear about your epic pirate adventures!

Share your stories with us by tagging **#KeepActiveHants** Enjoy the swashbuckling fun!

Other Transition Resources

Online travel choices guide

[“How could you travel to school?”](#) is an annual booklet for parents and carers, offering information and tools to explore transportation options for their children starting school. It helps parents and carers discover alternatives to car travel, even if it's just a few times a week. Your school will provide a copy to all new students, but it's helpful to review the online version beforehand for your travel planning.

See our children's drawing competition on page 16. There are some lovely prizes to be won!



We encourage active travel to school by walking, wheeling, scooting, or biking as much as possible. If it's raining, come prepared with waterproofs and enjoy a fun-filled journey. We understand that some families may need to use a car for part of the journey. If that's the case, please consider the following options:

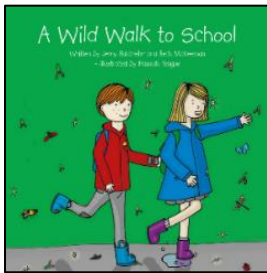
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- **Park and Stride/5-Minute Walking Bubble-** If you need to drive, park a short distance away from the school entrance and walk the last 5-10 minutes. This can make a big difference. Some schools provide Park and Stride maps with designated parking areas, like pub or supermarket car parks, where parents/carers can park during the school run. Others may have 5-Minute Walking Bubble Maps, indicating areas with ample on-street parking. Remember to Parkwise and be considerate of local residents. See: [Hampshire Parkwise Promise | My Journey Hampshire](#) for further details on the Parkwise scheme.
- **Scot from the Boot-** To speed up the walk from the car to school, why not bring your child's scooter?
- **Park on my Drive-** If a school friend lives near your school and has available space on their drive, ask if you can park there and walk in together. It creates a friendly and sociable way to begin your day.

Educational resources



[Susie the Childminder](#) books are available on-line. They prepare children for emergency situations in the home and community. In particular, we would recommend [Journey to School](#) and [Travelling Back in Time to School](#).

Download [Air Quality resources](#) and on-line versions of our Air Quality books, [A Wild Walk to School](#) (KS1) and [A Right Royal Adventure](#) (KS2). There's an [air pollution quiz](#) for parents/carers too.

Information on safe, active travel

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

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Walking for your wellbeing

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](#) and our [Urban Scavenger Hunt](#) flyer.



Walk, Talk, Listen guides

Take a look at our guides that support the positive connection between walking/wheeling and connectivity – the conversations, listening and shared moments that happen naturally whilst side-by-side (also called 'sideways conversations'). There are some great hints and tips in the resources to help get the most out of everyday walks.

There are two resources: one supporting Early Years, which has a focus on language development, and one supporting Primary, which focuses on supporting wellbeing and learning:

[Walk, Talk, Listen in the Early Years](#)

[Walk, Talk, Listen – Primary](#)

Further information and resources can be found here:

- The Road Safety Team at Hampshire County Council have a range of resources to help schools deliver key road safety messages to their children. For further information contact road.safety@hants.gov.uk. Of particular interest to parents/carers, you can find information from The Road Safety Team on the correct use of [car seats](#).
- Living Streets, our walking partner, have a great [family walk to school kit](#).
- The Walk Wheel Cycle Trust, our cycling partner, have some [great tips](#) on cycling and walking with young children including specific information on an [active school run](#). Read their [interesting report](#) on the benefits of cycling for children and families.
- There is a great section called [Ready Steady Ride](#) on the [British Cycling website](#) to support parents/carers in teaching their children to ride a bike.
- Free [Balanceability Parent Pack](#) at [Balanceability.com](#) supporting getting started on a balance bike.
- The Department of Transport's [Think!](#) website has excellent resources for ages 3–6 including 'Be bright, be seen' activities.
- Road safety charity Brake has [free Zebras road safety resources](#) as well as '[Beep! Beep! Days](#)' and lots of advice for [parents](#).
- If you cross railway lines on the way to school, you may be interested in these [safety resources](#) from Network Rail.

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