

Activity: School travel survey

The mode of transport we use has an impact on our carbon footprint. In this activity, pupils consider the carbon footprint of travel choices.

What to do

Identify modes of transport

1. As a class, list the ways pupils travel to school. Note the relative carbon emissions and air pollution of each mode.
2. List the reasons why people choose a particular mode of transport, such as distance, availability, speed, cost, convenience and health.

Survey how pupils travel to school

1. Using the [school travel survey template](#) as a guide, create a survey for your school. You could do this with or without pupils' input. You may find it easier to use an online platform like SurveyMonkey.
2. Collate the results into a class spreadsheet and include a column rating the carbon footprint of each mode of transport on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 for low emissions, 5 for high).
3. Ask pupils to work together to present the findings as a graph showing the most common modes of transport. On a scale of 1 to 5, how high is the school's travel carbon footprint?
4. Discuss whether it would be possible to reduce the carbon footprint. What might prevent people from being able to use modes of transport with lower carbon emissions?

Preparing for Step 3

In Step 3, you could take action to reduce car use for school travel.

This is a sensitive topic and meaningful action will need the support of your Headteacher. You can tackle this project in the way that best suits your school's circumstances. Our [pupil workbook for reducing car use](#) sets out one approach.



In England in 2020,
58% of all trips
were made by car.

32% of trips were
walked and 3%
were cycled.

Buses and trains
were used for
4% of trips.

School Travel Survey

We are investigating how everyone travels to and from school. Please take a moment to complete this questionnaire – thank you for your help.

JOURNEY TO SCHOOL

1. How far is your journey to school?

- Under 1 mile
- 1 mile to 5 miles
- Over 5 miles

2. How do you usually travel to school?

- Bus (public transport)
- Bus (school bus)
- Car
- Cycle
- Scooter
- Taxi
- Train
- Walk
- Walking bus
- Other: _____

3. Why do you travel to school this way?

- Fast
- Easy for my parent/guardian
- Cheap
- For safety
- For the environment
- No public transport
- Distance from school
- Health
- Other: _____

4. How long does it take you to travel to school?

- 5 minutes or less
- 5 to 10 minutes
- 11 to 20 minutes
- More than 20 minutes

JOURNEY FROM SCHOOL

5. How do you usually travel home from school?

- Bus (public transport)
- Bus (school bus)
- Car
- Cycle
- Scooter
- Taxi
- Train
- Walk
- Walking bus
- Other: _____

6. Why do you travel from school this way?

- Fast
- Easy for my parent/guardian
- Cheap
- For safety
- For the environment
- No public transport
- Distance from school
- Health
- Other: _____

YOUR VIEWS

7. If you could choose, how would you like to travel to and from school?

- Bus (public transport)
- Bus (school bus)
- Car
- Cycle
- Scooter
- Taxi
- Train
- Walk
- Walking bus
- Other: _____

Why would you like to travel this way?

8. If you don't usually walk or cycle, please could you tell us why?

Thank you for your time