

Walk to school in Perton

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Pupils at a Perton school put their best foot forward as part of a month long campaign.

A total of 240 youngsters at Perton First School stepped out to enjoy a healthier and happier life during Walk to School Month.

Staffordshire County Council's Road Safety Unit hosted the initiative which was part of a national scheme to promote the health benefits of leading an active life.

The campaign also helps to reduce the number of cars travelling to school which cuts harmful CO₂ emissions. Fewer cars around schools have the added bonus of boosting safety for cyclists and pedestrians.

Walk to School Month has been going from strength to strength year on year with more parents and children joining the movement annually. This year over 26,300 children are taking part in the campaign across the county.

The scheme goes hand in hand with the walking bus phenomenon which has proved to be a massive success in Staffordshire since it was launched in 1999.

The county has the highest number of walking buses running in UK with an impressive 148 groups currently in operation.

Local County Councillor David Billson said: "This campaign teaches children about some really important issues - health, road safety and the environment. The more that pupils embrace walking rather than getting driven in cars, the more benefits they will see. The roads will be safer for pedestrians and cyclists as there will be fewer cars on them, children will be healthier due to the exercise and there will be less CO₂ being pumped into the atmosphere."

Headteacher Anne Smith added: "As a school we are keen to encourage pupils to enjoy a brisk walk before they head to class. The effect that having a stroll in the morning, rather than being driven to school, has on young people is amazing. Not only do they really enjoy the fresh air and exercise, they are definitely ready to learn when they reach their desks."

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