



# Walking Buses in Staffordshire

## A guide for Headteachers



How to set up a Walking Bus at your school

# What is a Walking Bus?

- Walking Buses are designed to give children and adults a healthier and safer method of getting to and from school. In Staffordshire we have more than 100 Walking Buses and over ten years experience.
- Children are collected by adult volunteers along an agreed route.
- Everybody on the Walking Bus wears high visibility jackets.
- Walking Buses can vary to suit the needs of the children and the school. For example a “park and walk” can be set up for those who have to drive part of the way.
- Walking Bus Co-ordinators help to set up, support and maintain a Walking Bus at your school.



## Why do you need a Walking Bus?

- The proportion of journeys to school by car has risen dramatically, having serious implications for everyone's health, fitness and safety.
- The Walking Bus improves road safety and pedestrian skills and helps to reduce traffic volume and parking around the school. It also saves time and fuel for parents.
- Walking Buses are environmentally friendly and a green alternative to the school run.

# How does the Road Safety and Sustainable Travel Unit help?

- Walking Bus Co-ordinators help to set up the scheme and provide all the resources needed to publicise the idea to parents and pupils.
- An assembly and volunteer meeting is arranged to inform pupils and parents how the scheme works.
- A risk assessment of the route to be used is carried out by the Walking Bus Co-ordinator and a Traffic Engineer.
- All adult volunteers receive training and are then covered by Staffordshire County Council's public liability and personal accident insurance.
- All volunteers are CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) checked.
- High visibility jackets are provided free of charge to everyone who takes part.
- The Walking Bus Co-ordinators support both the school and volunteers to maintain the Buses and keep in regular contact to provide training for any new volunteers as and when required.



# Interested?

## Here's how to get involved.

For Walking Buses to be successful, enthusiastic parents or carers are essential. You will need to gauge interest at your school to see if anyone is willing to take part.

Buses need passengers too! You will need to find out whether parents and children would want to use the Walking Bus.

Identify a possible route. You know your school and the local area best, so try to think of a good route with lots of potential passengers. "Park and Walk" routes are very successful too - try to think of an ideal drop off point such as a pub car park, supermarket or village hall.

Contact one of our Walking Bus Co-ordinators to arrange a meeting to discuss the scheme. Why not join us and see how a Walking Bus could benefit your school?



**Sue Benton**  
Walking Bus Co-ordinator (South)  
Road Safety and Sustainable Travel  
07773 791347  
sue.benton@staffordshire.gov.uk

**Pam Griffin**  
Walking Bus Co-ordinator (North)  
Road Safety and Sustainable Travel  
07773 791348  
pam.griffin@staffordshire.gov.uk

[www.staffssaferroads.co.uk/walking-bus](http://www.staffssaferroads.co.uk/walking-bus)

If you would like this document in another language or format, e.g. large text, please contact us on 01785 854035.



Printed on recycled paper

