

Here's some of the School Travel Team's suggestions of actions you can take to encourage and facilitate social distancing measures on the journey to and from school.

#### Schools can:

- Stagger start times slightly to avoid congestion at the school gates and having too many people in the playground before the start of the school day. Staggering overlaps with secondary school children to avoid public transport peak times (05:45 – 08:15 and 16:00 – 17:30) can also help to relieve some of the congestion. You may want to negotiate with other local schools as well when doing this.
- Use all your entrances, including ones that are currently only for staff or nursery pupils
- If possible, arrange an IN and OUT system at your school entrances to enable 2m social distancing. For example, the main entrance for entering the school and the back entrance for leaving.
- Suggest suitable routes to your school, or one-way systems for pedestrians and cyclists, to help families with socially distancing, e.g. walk to school along one side of the road and leave the school on the other side.
- Walk to school maps have been produced by the School Travel Team, for many schools. Please contact the team to find out at [sta@ealing.gov.uk](mailto:sta@ealing.gov.uk).
- Ensure you have enough space for bike storage due to potential increased usage. Consider designating another space for bikes to be stored, or consider whether you could fashion some out of pallets – check out this [guide](#) for some ideas (you would need to do an appropriate risk assessment for the design you choose).
- Remind staff to allow extra time to travel to work to account for traffic (if driving) or public transport delays.
- Encourage staff to walk or cycle to work. This will help with punctuality as active travel journey times are more predictable because they are less affected by traffic jams etc.
- Remind staff they are eligible for the [Cycle to work scheme](#) and can access the Peddle My Wheels - [Try Before they Bike scheme](#). As key workers they would take priority.
- You may want to consider amending your delivery and servicing schedules to avoid peak times. TfL have produced a guide [here](#).
- For older pupils with longer journeys to school, designate safe drop-off locations in the surrounding area for pupils to walk the remainder of their journey to school independently.
- The council may be able to provide 2metre social distance footway markings. Please get in touch with the School Travel Team at [sta@ealing.gov.uk](mailto:sta@ealing.gov.uk) if you would like to be considered for this.
- Log any activities related to road safety and active travel on [STARS](#) to contribute towards your accreditation.



## Parents can:

- Walk, scoot or cycle to school – 84% of primary school children live less than 1 mile for their school. This can usually be walked in 20 minutes. The World Health Organisation’s advice is that you should consider cycling or walking for essential journeys ‘whenever feasible’. Please see Cycling UK’s advice on [how to social distance whilst cycling](#).
- Trial the walking, scooting or cycling the journey now – this will help them to plan a suitable route. There might be new routes in your area – check out TfL’s guide on cycle routes [here](#).
- Allow extra time for their journey – this will help to reduce the pedestrian congestion at your school gate(s).
- If using public transport or if applicable, home to school transport (for example SEN pupils), please use a facial covering, cover hand sanitiser and wash hands before and after travel. There is also [TfL’s guidance on using public transport](#) for further information.
- Practice social distancing especially when outside the school gates, which might mean queuing further away from the school than usual, in order to observe a 2metre distance.

