

Bike Buses for Schools

A fun and safer way to cycle to school



What is a School Bike Bus?

A Bike Bus is a group of families riding to school together. It is community led and follows a set route, with pick up points along the way. They help families to be more active, improve their cycling skills and pupils to arrive at school refreshed and ready to learn.



Photo: Walk Wheel Cycle Trust

Why have a Bike Bus at your school?

- **Safety in numbers** - more visible to other road users.
- **Enjoy exercise** - adds more movement into the day.
- **Start the day right** - children arrive alert and positive.
- **Learn life skills** - develops road safety awareness.
- **Get to know your community** - explore the local area and connect with others.
- **Look after the environment** - fewer cars means cleaner air and helps tackle climate change.

Setting up a Bike Bus at your school

A Bike Bus does not have to run every day or even every week. It can start small and build momentum as it goes. You will need:

- a handful of enthusiastic parents, to arrange and run the Bike Bus,
- a safe route that runs through the local community,
- families who would like to cycle to school.

Case study: Weeke Bike Bus

A local councillor was keen to work with Weeke Primary School to set up a Bike Bus and got in touch with Winchester City Council to receive support throughout the project. The school agreed to take part, and a suitable route was mapped out and promoted to parents. Nearly 40 families quickly signed up.

Afterschool cycle skills sessions were run for families, followed by some taster Bike Bus rides along the planned route. Nearly 20 parents and children enjoyed the first Bike Bus to school and wanted it to continue. Parents were trained as marshals to keep running a regular 'FRideDays' Bike Bus. The Weeke Bike Bus now brings families to school together every Friday, joining a growing network of schemes across the country. The national FRideDays project provides ongoing support and advice to help it to continue to grow and thrive into the future.

“We’ve really enjoyed being part of the Bike Bus. The kids love the music, seeing their friends and feeling part of the community.” Parent



Photo:
Walk Wheel
Cycle Trust

**FRIDEDAYS
BIKE BUS**
Sponsored by
SCHWALBE ➤



Photo: Walk Wheel Cycle Trust

How to find out more

- Cycle Winchester co-ordinate the Bike Bus groups in and around Winchester. They can provide advice and support to those wanting to set up a new bike bus. Contact bikebus@cyclewinchester.org.uk
- There are already several Bike Buses running across the Winchester district. These have been set up by local families with the support of Cycle Winchester. For more information see - cyclewinchester.org.uk/bike-bus
- Walk Wheel Cycle Trust delivers the FRideDays Bike Bus project, offering free support with route planning, setup, training, and access to a dedicated Bike Bus support network for school communities across the UK. For information and to download the Bike Bus Toolkit - walkwheelcycletrust.org.uk/fridedays
- Contact Winchester City Council for advice and support - climateemergency@winchester.gov.uk