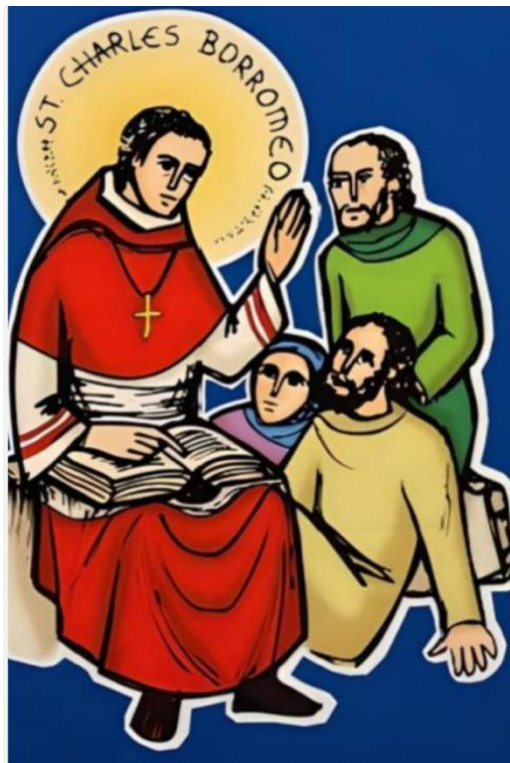


St Charles Catholic Primary School



Active Travel (Walking, Cycling and Scooting) Policy

Date policy adopted: Summer 2026

Review date: Summer 2028

Policy Statement

At St Charles Catholic Primary School, we are committed to promoting healthy lifestyles, caring for God's creation and encouraging sustainable travel wherever possible. We recognise the many benefits that walking, cycling and scooting to school can bring for our pupils, families and the wider community.

We actively encourage pupils to walk, cycle or scoot to school whenever it is safe and practical to do so, helping to reduce traffic congestion around the school, improve air quality and support pupils' physical and emotional wellbeing.

This policy sets out the school's expectations for pupils and families who choose to travel actively to and from school.

Benefits of Active Travel

Walking, cycling and scooting to school can:

- Improve physical health, fitness and wellbeing.
- Support positive mental health and emotional wellbeing.
- Encourage independence and road safety awareness.
- Develop lifelong healthy habits and active lifestyles.
- Reduce traffic congestion around the school at the start and end of the day.
- Reduce pollution and environmental impact, supporting our commitment to caring for God's creation.
- Promote a safer and more pleasant environment for pupils, families and local residents.

The School Will

To encourage active travel, St Charles Catholic Primary School will:

- Provide designated storage areas for bicycles and scooters where possible.
- Promote walking, cycling and scooting through school initiatives, events and curriculum opportunities.
- Support participation in cycle training programmes, including Bikeability, where available.
- Work with pupils, families and the local authority to encourage safe and sustainable travel.
- Promote road safety awareness through assemblies, lessons and wider school activities.

- Encourage pupils to develop confidence and independence when travelling actively and safely.

Expectations of Pupils

Pupils who cycle or scoot to school are expected to:

- Ride safely and responsibly and follow the Highway Code and other relevant road safety guidance.
- Show consideration and respect for pedestrians and other road users at all times.
- Ensure that their bicycle or scooter is well maintained and safe to use.
- Wear a properly fitted cycle helmet when cycling. Helmets are strongly recommended for pupils travelling by scooter.
- Use lights and reflective or high-visibility clothing when appropriate, particularly during periods of poor visibility.
- Walk their bicycle or scooter once they enter the school grounds.

Behave in a manner that reflects the values and expectations of St Charles Catholic Primary School.

Expectations of Parents and Carers

Parents and carers are expected to:

- Ensure that their child is capable of travelling safely to and from school.
- Ensure that their child wears a suitable cycle helmet when cycling. Helmets are strongly recommended for pupils travelling by scooter.
- Provide appropriate safety equipment, including lights and high-visibility clothing where necessary.
- Ensure that bicycles and scooters are roadworthy and regularly maintained.
- Encourage their child to participate in cycle training opportunities where available.
- Ensure their child is accompanied to and from school by a parent, carer or responsible adult, unless permitted to travel independently (Year 6 with written parental permission; Year 5 in the Summer Term with parental permission and school approval).
- Ensure their child walks their bicycle or scooter once on the school site.
- Help their child identify and practise a safe route to and from school.

Storage and Security

The school provides designated storage areas for bicycles and scooters wherever possible. Pupils and families should be aware that bicycles and scooters are brought onto the school site entirely at the owner's risk.

The school cannot accept responsibility for any loss, theft or damage to bicycles, scooters, helmets or accessories brought onto the premises.

Safeguarding and Safety

The safety and wellbeing of pupils remains paramount. Active travel should only be undertaken where parents and carers are satisfied that it is appropriate for their child's age, maturity and ability..

The school reserves the right to withdraw permission for a pupil to bring a bicycle or scooter onto the school site if concerns arise regarding safety, behaviour or compliance with this policy.

Liability

The decision as to whether a child is competent to walk, cycle or scoot safely to and from school rests solely with their parent or carer.

St Charles Catholic Primary School accepts no liability for any incident, injury, loss or damage occurring during journeys to and from school.

Monitoring and Review

The effectiveness of this policy will be monitored by school leaders and reviewed every two years, or sooner if required by changes in legislation, guidance or school circumstances.