

SCHOOL ACCESSIBILITY AUDIT - W16

Conducting an audit of the footways and active travel infrastructure around school can be a great way to engage children and young people with the built environment, start thinking about potential barriers to active travel and promote inclusion and accessibility for a range of users and the wider community.

Route audits can be conducted with a specific issue in mind, such as reviewing accessibility or assessing crossings, or be more general reviews of the routes to school. Through identifying issues and possible areas of improvement children can engage with their surroundings in a new way, gain an understanding and empathy for other pedestrians and road users with varying needs and feel that their voice and perspective is valued in regards to the built environment they use daily.

THE BASICS

Who?: Who is coming on the audit? How many children? Will you invite parents, governors, other local schools, or external partners, such as HCC Travel Planning Team?

Where?: What route will you take? Is a risk assessment in place?

When?: What time of day will you go? In the morning to see the parking situation and traffic, or in a quieter time to enable a closer look at road infrastructure itself?

W16: Other Walking / Scooting Initiative

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Dropped Curbs: Are they in place? Do they line up at crossings? Can wheelchairs and buggies easily access the footway?

Tactile Paving: Is it in place? Is it a different colour from the footway?

Footways: Are footways wide enough? Are they obstructed in any way?

Crossings: Are there safe crossing points? What kind of crossing is it? Where could a crossing be placed?

Signage and Markings: Are the zigzags clear? Are there school signs?

R19: Other road safety and training initiatives

WIDENING THE IMPACT

Invite External Guests and share your findings:

Could you invite your local councillor, a member of HCC's Travel Planning team or governors? This may help ensure your findings reach a wider audience who may be able to affect change.

Link to survey / Parents Evening

Feedback: Could you conduct a survey with parents to find out their views to add to your findings?

PR14: Councillor/MP/Mayor invited to an event
PA3: Other Parent Consultation

PUPIL VOICE

Enabling pupil / student voice:

One of the main objectives of auditing the routes to school is to enable and record pupil / student voice in regards to the built environment and promote discussion. To enable this, it can be beneficial to consider:

- Open ended questioning
- Elicit how places make young people feel. Are they inviting? Do they feel safe?
- What do they want to see? What does 'good' look like in regards to the built environment?

P6: Other Pupil Consultation

REPORT AND EVIDENCE

Final Report:

Compile the findings into a report to evidence the audit. This can be in any format, either formal or informal, created by the pupils themselves or an adult. This can be shared externally and used as evidence on Modeshift. Some important things to include:

- Direct quotes from the pupils
- Photos of the infrastructure / locations discussed.
- Recommendations for improvements.

R15 & 16: Schools has lobbied for installation of traffic calming / safer crossings outside of school

POTENTIAL TOTAL: 4 Travel Initiatives, 1 Supporting Initiatives and 2 Consultations