

Led Rides at Hampshire Schools

Transition time for Year 6 pupils



Photos: Alverstoke Junior ride 2026 J Clode/WWCT

Background

Over the past four years, Project Officer John Clode has been working with My Journey Hampshire to encourage, enable and increase levels of active travel to school across South Hampshire.

With funding commissioned by Hampshire County Council, through Active Travel England, up to 24 schools in Eastleigh, Fareham and Gosport have been actively engaged. They worked together with the officer to receive exciting, inspiring and engaging activities across primary and secondary schools.

The project has seen most schools increase the numbers of children and families travelling actively to school and beyond, while reducing car usage on the school run.

What we did

Year 6 pupils were offered the opportunity to join a led ride from their current school to their new secondary school.

The aim of these rides are to demonstrate to pupils how easy it can be for them to cycle to their new school through exploring the safe routes they can use and showing how much fun, it is to ride with friends. They also learn about navigating routes safely and seeing how to arrive at their new school to locate the cycle storage.

In 2026, Alverstoke Junior School pupils rode to King's Academy Bay House in Gosport and Boorley Park Primary School pupils rode to Deer Park School in Eastleigh.



"It gave my daughter the confidence to have tested the route together, and her mum the reassurance that she knows the safest route when she takes it independently in Year 7..."

"...A brilliant idea and very worthwhile activity"

Jo H, Boorley Park Parent



“My daughter felt so much more at ease after her transition bike ride.

She rides to school every day now and it really helps her to have safe routes mapped out in her mind, and practiced options if one route was suddenly closed. She found it particularly useful that they went onto the school grounds, so she knew how to get on the site, and were shown where they would store their bikes. This made her feel much more confident riding in on her first day.

A big thank you to John and the team for organising such a helpful ride.”

Kate Webster, Alverstoke parent

Project challenges

One of the biggest challenges to organising the led rides is making sure the right number of appropriately trained adults were available to help supervise the rides.

With other Walk Wheel Cycle Trust colleagues busy with their own projects in other areas, and where the rides take place at a very busy time of the school year it proved challenging to gain the support of colleagues on a day when schools can fit the rides into their busy schedules.

With the help of WWCT’s small team of dedicated volunteers, who act as ride assistants, these challenges were overcome, as it lessened the need to use colleagues.

The volunteers were also able to help safety check and make minor adjustments to pupil’s bikes on the day of the ride. This ensured they are roadworthy and pupils were able to be included.

This has presented it’s own challenges and in a very small number of cases has meant a child with an unsafe bike has missed out.

Key facts



150 pupils have taken part in led rides since 2023



Most children intend to cycle to their new school



Those who were undecided about cycling said they would walk instead

What’s next

The project officer has been exploring the possibility of his team of volunteers undertaking training to be able to act as ride leader.

This would allow much more flexibility in the planning of rides as it would lessen the pressure to organise a colleague to undertake this role.

As the rides gain popularity, we would be able to include more schools each year in this fantastic opportunity.



Photos: Boorley Park and Alverstoke Rides J. Clode/WWCT

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