



We're working towards Artsmark  
Awarded by Arts Council England

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## Looking after your child, looking after where we live

Over 80% of our families currently walk, cycle or scoot to school. We are really proud of this but we want to encourage even more families to make green choices about their school journey. Here are some of the reasons why we would like you to think about how your child makes the journey every day:

- It's recommended that children are physically active for at least 60 minutes a day, including at least 30 minutes out of school. Walking, cycling or scooting is an easy way to ensure your child is active outdoors- and you too!
- Driving to/ from school is often very stressful as it can be hard to park or you can get caught up in traffic congestion. It often ends up taking at least as much time as if you had walked!
- Walking, cycling or scooting is an easy way to spend quality time talking with your child about their day and the world around them.
- Walking, cycling or scooting is a sociable way to travel to school- meet up with other families along the way!
- Recently-published research shows that long-term exposure to man-made air pollution in the UK has an effect equivalent to 28,000 to 36,000 deaths a year, including coronary heart disease, strokes, asthma and lung cancers. Reducing car usage will improve air quality across our town, benefitting everyone.
- Our local residents help us to look after school by keeping an eye on the premises after hours when nobody is here. We want to repay them by reducing the inconvenience that lots of on-street parking at the beginning and end of the school day can cause them.
- The planet is on the brink of catastrophic climate change. Reducing car usage is one way you can help to protect the planet and your child's future.

## How does school support families to make greener travel choices?

- We provide secure scooter and bicycle racks for pupil use.
- There is a pelican crossing to enable safe crossing of Bradford Road near West Chevin Road, and an underpass that traverses the A660- **please use these when travelling to/ from school.**
- A safe walking route is demarcated along Bradford Road/ Piper Lane to encourage families to use the pelican crossing.
- Every year, all pupils receive pedestrian and/ or scooter training so that they know how to keep themselves safe when travelling to/ from school.
- Y6 receive Bikeability training to Level 2, which includes cycling safely on local roads.
- There are 3 parent shelters at school to protect you from the weather if you arrive when it is raining.
- We promote active travel through a daily Travel Tracker, which rewards children who choose active travel at least once a week, every week (see next page)
- We are part of the **School Streets** initiative (see below for more information)

## Travel Tracker

Each day, children record their journey to school using a nationally recognised scheme, [Living Streets Travel Tracker](#). They can earn a badge for each month they choose an active mode of travel, at least once a week, every week.

Active Travel Choices are:

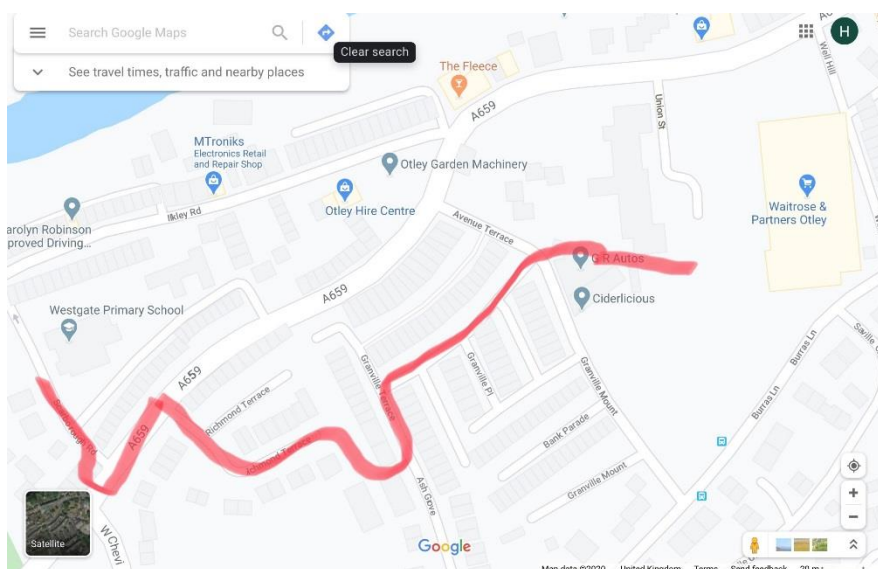
- Walking
- Cycling
- Scooting
- Park & Stride
- Hop Off

Q What is Park & Stride?

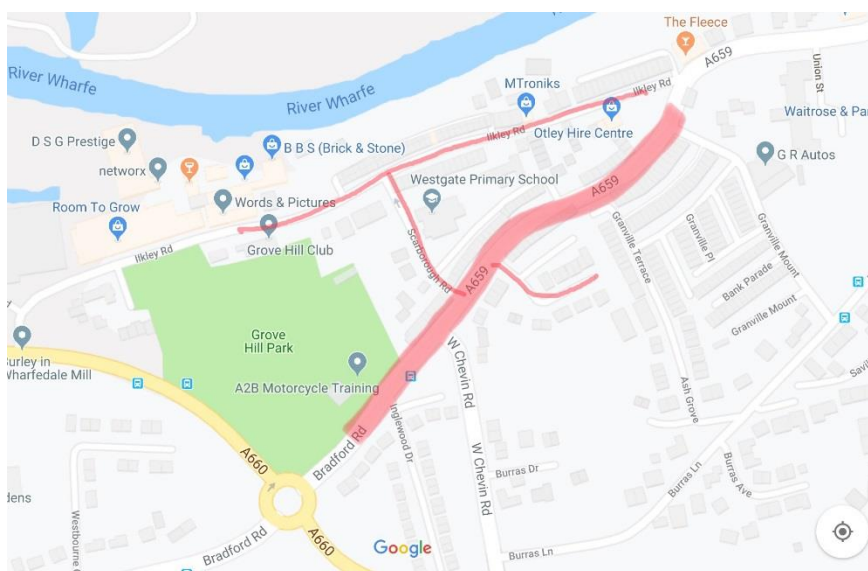
Park & Stride is ideal for those families who need to drive because of their onward journeys after school drop off. Park a bit further away than the usual parking spots and walk the last part of your journey.

**Waitrose** is an ideal place to Park & Stride from as it has lots of space and is free without restrictions for one hour, and there is a safe walking route (*Waitrose- alongside GR Autos- Jennetts Crescent- ginnel to Richmond Terrace- Ilkley Road- Pelican Crossing- Scarborough Road*).

**Safe walking route from Waitrose to school:**



This map shows you the areas next to school which are **not** eligible for Park & Stride:



Please remember that Grove Hill Club's car park is for members only at all times.

Q What is Hop Off?

For those of us who travel by bus, Hop Off is getting off one or two stops earlier and walking the last part of your journey.

In addition, Westgate is part of the **School Streets** initiative, which means that Scarborough Road is closed to traffic (except for permit holders) at the beginning and end of the school day as follows:

- 08:20 to 09:20
- 14:45 to 15:45

This makes drop off and pick up much safer for all our families.

### **Westgate Primary School - Drivers Code of Practice**

While we want to encourage people to walk, we recognise that some parents will have to use the car for at least part of their journey to school. We have developed this code of practice that we encourage all drivers to observe.

Our aims are to:

- Reduce congestion around school;
- Make the route to school safer for children;
- Be mindful of local residents.

With these in mind, we would ask you to remember the following:

1. The yellow zig-zag lines are designed to allow a clear view up and down the road for children to cross safely, especially with the school crossing patrol. If you stop, even to drop off, on these lines, you are making it dangerous for children to cross by obscuring their view.
2. Please park in a way that **does not** obscure the view of the school crossing patrol.
3. Keep the view around junctions clear so that children can cross safely.
4. Parking on a bend can cause difficulties, making visibility difficult.
5. Be considerate to local residents by avoiding parking across driveways or on the grass verges. Most people like the grass verges and don't like to see them churned up.
6. Try parking further away from school, for example using our Park & Stride location (see above). This has several advantages: you will find it easier to find a space and you will probably find it easier to find a place to turn your car round for your return journey. It will also be an opportunity for you and your children to practise walking and for them to learn pedestrian road safety skills.
7. Keep pavements safe for children: keep your car, whether moving or parked, **off the pavement**. Avoid using driveways to turn.
8. Avoid using the junctions as turning circles: children crossing cannot tell the difference between a car that is turning to go up the road and one that is going to swing round for a turning circle.
9. Turn your engine off while parked/ stationary: idling engines contribute significantly to air pollution which is a major factor in respiratory diseases.

**Thank you for helping to make the school journey safe, healthy and better for the environment.**

You can find out more about school travel on the school website under 'Sustainability'.

Please think about starting your child's time at Westgate with healthy travel choices, as good habits are easier to keep if they start straight away.

**Thank you** 😊