WALKING ZONES
Lesson plan – KS1/P1–4

Aim
To involve pupils in the process of setting up a walking zone.

Resources
1. Maps of the local area
2. List of pupil postcodes
3. Risk assessment
4. Additional adults so that the children can go out in smaller groups
5. Camera – to photograph locations

Introduction

Explain that the children are going to be creating a walking zone around school.

Ask what pupils think a walking zone is. Explain that a walking zone is a defined area around school, which aims to encourage children and families to walk for at least part of their journey to and from school.
Families who live in, or near, the walking zone are encouraged to walk to and from school every day. Those with longer journeys, who choose to drive, are asked to park safely outside the zone and to walk the rest of their journey.

Discuss why a walking zone would be beneficial to the school and how you could go about setting one up.

**Development**

Look at a map of the area and mark where children live. Ask the children to identify any places on the map that would be helpful or challenging when setting up a walking zone (e.g. car parks where families can park or roads that are difficult to cross).

Explain that the children will go out in small groups and walk different routes from the school to decide on the walking zone.

1. **Out and about** (30 minutes)

In small groups, with an adult, children walk approximately 10 minutes from the school and plot the route on a map. If they find potential locations for parking, they should label this on their map.

They should also identify any potential risks that children and adults will need to be aware of and note these on their map too. It is really helpful to take out a camera with the group so pupils can take photographs of key locations.

2. **Back in class** (20 minutes)

On their return to class ask children to feedback on their route and any potential risks. Ask them to discuss whether they feel the routes are safe.

Then plot the routes on a large map and identify streets that could form part of the walking zone. The walking zone map can be completed by drawing a perimeter around the edge of the zone.
3. **Extension** (20 minutes)

Ask pupils to brainstorm ideas for promoting the walking zone to their parents/carers. Ideas could include:

1. an article in the school newsletter
2. a persuasive letter
3. posters / banners
4. signs.

Ask pupils to create one of their ideas using their artistic or literacy skills.

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We are Living Streets, the UK charity for everyday walking and we've got a big ambition: every child that can, walks to school.

This lesson plan supports participation in our Walk to School Campaign.

Get in touch for further information. We’d love to hear from you.

www.livingstreets.org.uk/walktoschool
walktoschool@livingstreets.org.uk
020 7377 4900

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We are Living Streets, the UK charity for everyday walking.

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