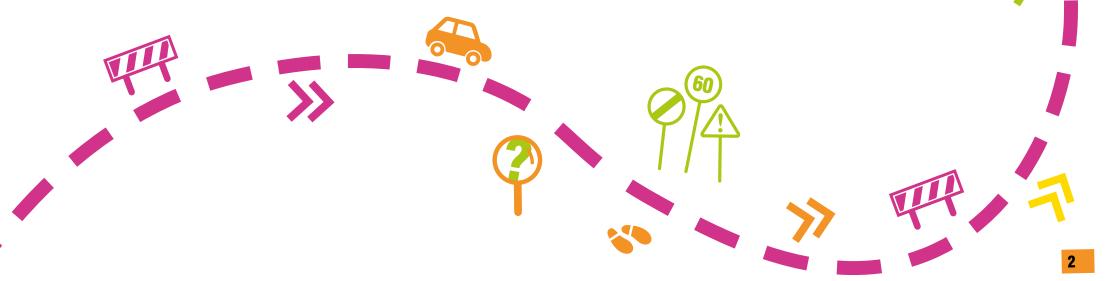


WE KNOW THAT WALKING IS ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO START THE DAY. BUT GETTING TO SCHOOL ON FOOT ISN'T ALWAYS AS EASY AS IT SHOULD BE.

At Living Streets, we believe that every child has the right to walk. That's why we're campaigning to improve our streets and working with schools so more children can walk to school safely and happily. And it's why we're helping parents, grandparents, and carers reclaim their own walk to school. Our Family Walk to School Kit gives step-by-step tips for stress-free walking and safer streets. It's got all sorts of ideas for all kinds of families.

Whether you're exploring how walking to school can work for your family, ready to make walking part of your morning routine, noticing traffic dangers on the walk to and from school, or keen to campaign for better walking routes where you live, we can help you move forward.



WHERE ARE YOU ON YOUR WALK TO SCHOOL JOURNEY?

Wherever you are on your walk to school journey, we're right alongside you, sharing ideas, offering support, and giving you tools to make walking to school a safe and realistic choice where you live.

GETTING STARTED

Swapping cars for feet and discovering the benefits of walking

2 STEPPING OUT

Getting past problems that make walking to school tricky

3 STEPPING UP

Walking more and getting others involved

4 SPEAKING OUT

Taking action and building support

5 SPREADING THE WORD

Starting a local group and developing a campaign

Living Streets is the UK charity for everyday walking. We campaign for safer streets, pavements, roads, and crossings so that walking can be an everyday choice for everyone.



WELCOME TO THE START OF YOUR WALK TO SCHOOL JOURNEY. IN THIS SECTION, WE TALK ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF WALKING AND DISCOVER WHY FAMILIES ARE SWAPPING CARS FOR FEET ON THE SCHOOL RUN.



MANY CHILDREN AREN'T GETTING ENOUGH EXERCISE.
TWENTY YEARS AGO, MOST CHILDREN WALKED TO SCHOOL.
NOW, ONLY HALF DO. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH SHOWS THE
LESS WE MOVE, THE MORE VULNERABLE OUR BODIES AND
MINDS ARE TO ILL-HEALTH.

It helps parents, carers, and grandparents get exercise and builds healthy family habits for life

BUT THERE IS GOOD NEWS.

It improves mood, reduces stress, increases focus, and improves sleep

Walking helps people of all ages reduce the risk of getting conditions like cancer, heart disease and diabetes



Regular walking helps build strong, healthy muscles and bones

Walking helps your children arrive at school wide awake and ready to learn



Physical activity supports brain power and performance in class



You don't need to be fit, or own a snazzy sports kit—you already have everything you need to step out



More people walking means fewer cars on the roads, which means cleaner air and less traffic and congestion

WALKING IS BENEFICIAL FOR RELATIONSHIPS TOO. PARENTS AND CARERS OFTEN TELL US THAT WALKING TO SCHOOL IS A GREAT TIME TO CONNECT. AND CHILDREN SAY THEY LOVE SPENDING TIME WITH THEIR FAMILY ON WALKS TO AND FROM SCHOOL.

LAYTON'S DAD, JACK, TOLD US:

Walking my seven-year-old to school, instead of driving, gives me twenty minutes where I can focus only on talking to him. Sometimes our chats are deep, often they are trivial. But they are always important.









CHRIS AND TRINITY

Magical moments happen on the way to school

Chris Callaghan realised that morning walks helped him feel ready to start his day. He wanted the same for his daughter, Trinity, so they began walking to school. But for Chris and Trinity, the daily stroll gave them more than a clear head.



ELEVEN-YEAR-OLD TRINITY SAYS

I like getting up for school because I know I'm going to spend time with my dad on the way. During the day, I look forward to talking to him on our way home. It's my favourite part of the day.



DAD, CHRIS, ADDS

The walk to school gives Trinity an opportunity to share what's happening in her world and she gets the chance to ask me (sometimes challenging) questions. By walking to school, we've developed a strong relationship, and a healthy habit for life.





IF YOU'D LIKE TO WALK YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL BUT CAN'T SEE PAST WHAT'S MAKING IT TRICKY, THIS IS THE SECTION FOR YOU.



SECONDARY SCHOOL

My children go to different schools

FOR MANY FAMILIES, WALKING TO SCHOOL ISN'T ALWAYS THE EASY OPTION IT SHOULD BE. THAT'S WHY PARENTS, CARERS, AND GRANDPARENTS ACROSS THE UK ARE GETTING CREATIVE. THEY ARE FINDING THEIR OWN WAYS TO MAKE WALKING WORK FOR THEIR FAMILY—AND KEEPING IT SIMPLE AND STRESS-FREE.

Pushed for time?

Start with small steps

If you're keen to walk to school but time feels tight, commit to walking one day a week or walking part of the way. Once you've cracked your walking-morning routine, you can step it up.



One-way walks

If the walk to school isn't doable, there's always the walk home. Lots of parents find morning school-runs tricky but can manage their day to fit around the walk home. Many employers offer flexible working to help parents meet childcare needs too. If your employer's policy isn't clear, it's worth asking about.

Rely on wraparound childcare?

Choose an active travel provider

If your child goes to breakfast clubs or has after-school care, you can pick a provider that builds walking into your little one's day.



Find walking buddies:

Take turns with other families

Families often buddy-up and take turns to walk their kids to school. It's a great way to share the school run, and it's fun for your kids to walk with their friends.



Worried about safety?

Show as you go



All our children should be able to walk to school without fear. That's why we campaign for safer streets that put people first (see section 4). But in addition to that, showing your children how to spot risks and be safe near busy roads is one of the best ways to protect them. Practising road safety makes kids more aware, more confident, and safer around traffic. And gives you peace of mind as your children become more independent.

Too far to walk or heading straight to work?

Park and stride

Live in a rural area or too far away to walk all the way to school? Need to head to work after school drop-off? Consider driving part of the journey and walking the rest. By leaving your car a ten minute (or more) walk away from school, you'll be making sure your child gets exercise. And you'll avoid congestion outside the school gates and get to work on time. Find out more about Park and Stride in the next section.



Unwilling walkers?

Make it fun

Sometimes, we suggest an idea to our kids and get 'the look' or a straight 'no, I don't want to.' If your child isn't keen to walk to school, arrange to meet friends and walk together or turn the journey into a game.



Rubbish weather?

Welly-up

Kids know there's nothing better than splashing in puddles, so don't let the rain dampen your spirits. One of the joys of walking to school is getting out rain or shine. If you keep an eye on the skies and have wellies, woollies, and all-weatherwear to hand, a bit of rain won't spoil your day.





IDEAS FOR BRINGING WALKS TO LIFE



SOME DAYS WE ALL NEED A BIT OF PEP IN OUR STEP. FINDING PLAYFUL WAYS TO ENGAGE YOUR KIDS ON THE WALK TO SCHOOL CAN MAKE EVERY WALK DIFFERENT. HERE ARE A FEW FUN IDEAS TO FIRE THEIR IMAGINATIONS (AND YOURS).

Collect clues and solve a walking mystery

How could you make your route to school safer for walking? Our Street Detective Kit (available September 2018) shows curious minds how to find clues that reveal how foot-friendly their route to school is.



See if you can spot an object that begins with each letter of the alphabet on your walk to school. Say your answers out loud or write them down, using our printable Family I Spy checklist: www.livingstreets.org.uk/media/1647/948-i-spy.pdf





Nature trail

Whether you live in a city, town or village, wildlife is all around. And the walk to school can become a nature trail—you just need sharp eyes and ears. How many different cats crossed your path? Which birds have the chirpiest tweet? Can you tell which tree a leaf came from by its shape and size?

Skip, swoop or sneak to school

One day, your coat makes you invisible. Will you get to school without being seen? The next, you're an eagle, swooshing your way along the streets. Imagination games are great fun and a brilliant way to fire-up your child's imagination.



THIS SECTION IS ABOUT STEPPING-UP YOUR COMMITMENT TO WALKING TO SCHOOL, FINDING OTHER FAMILIES TO WALK WITH, AND GETTING OTHERS INVOLVED.

Park and stride groups



Lots of people are in the same boat, so it's common for local Park and Stride groups to spring up. The idea is simple: Everyone agrees a meeting place and time and walks their children to school together. Where local parking is tricky, local companies and supermarkets may help by offering free parking in a section of the car park around school start and finish times.

Whether you live in a rural or urban area, Park and Strides offer a great way to save time, cut congestion, and make walking to school part of your child's day. If Park and Strides sound up your street, our handy tips will walk you through every step:
www.livingstreets.org.uk/media/2035/park-and-stride-print.pdf



Building a walking community

Walking to school with other families is a great way to build an active community and create safer, friendlier streets. Encourage your friends and family to walk with you and make getting to school on foot an everyday choice.



Walking together

Get together with friends and family to share responsibility for the walk to and from school. Setting up a walking bus—a group of children walking to school with one or more adults—can be helpful for families, but often they are hard to sustain. Our advice is, if you're keen to start a walking bus, suss out if your school or local authority can help first.



Reclaiming your street



Until recently, most kids played in the street they lived on. Imagine reclaiming the roads for safer walks to school, play and games. Well, here's the news: Parents across the UK are getting permission to close their streets to traffic for a few hours a week or month so that children can play out freely, make friends and gain independence. There's even a UK-wide organisation called Playing Out, which offers advice on how to do this where you live: www.playingout.net

SCHOOL ROAD CLOSURES IN CAMDEN

St Joseph's School in Camden is on Macklin Street, a narrow road that gets quickly congested. After several previous near misses, a child was hit by a car.

Camden Council recognised something had to be done to make the street safer for children and trialled closing it during weekday pick-up and drop-off times. Local businesses and residents saw the safety benefits and felt the road closures were positive for the street.



NICOLA SCOTT PHILLIPS, ST JOSEPH'S DEPUTY HEAD



We'd really like to see the road closures continue because it's much safer for everybody



Read more about Camden's street closures: www.livingstreets.org.uk/what-we-do/stories/ school-road-closure-in-camden

GET YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL INVOLVED

SCHOOLS PLAY A BIG ROLE IN CREATING COMMUNITY AND SUPPORTING CHANGE.

Schools can help by:

Getting children walking more during school time

Teaching children road safety in a fun and interactive way, while exploring the local area

Highlighting traffic issues with information, events, and street closures

Supporting families' campaigns for safer walking routes

Building a walk to school community by sharing the benefits of walking

Helping parents set up Park and Stride schemes

Making walking normal and fun Did you know, there's support for your school too? Ask your child's headteacher if they know about Living Streets' walking challenges and learning tools for schools.

Studies show that WOW, our year-round walk to school challenge, increases walking rates by an average of 23%. There's more good news too. For a typical primary school, taking part in WOW only costs £1.50 per child.

Did you know, schools in England have access to Government money (£10 per child) that can be used to fund WOW challenges? Ask your school to invest its PE and Sports Premium in a WOW campaign.

FUNDRAISING FOR WOW AT YOUR SCHOOL

There are lots of ways to raise money, including fundraising events, business sponsorship, and grant funding. Why not work with your PTA and raise funds to get WOW going at your child's school?

We have tips and templates to get you started: www.livingstreets.org.uk/products-and-services/ways-to-fund-wow

WOW! ABBOTSWOOD'S CAR-FREE CHALLENGE

Abbotswood Primary in South Gloucestershire joined WOW in December 2016. The first step was finding out what was putting families off walking.

High volumes of traffic, speeding cars, and problem parking were parents' biggest concerns. The school decided to take action. It set its pupils a challenge: Walk four times a week to win a monthly badge.

After just four months on WOW, 91% of pupils are travelling to school on foot or by bike. And the number of children being driven to school has dropped by 74%.



AFTER JUST MONTHS ON WOW

TRAVELLING TO SCHOOL ON FOOT OR BY BIKE

NUMBER OF CHILDREN BEING DRIVEN TO SCHOOL HAS DROPPED BY

74%

LUCY WILLIAMSON, A TEACHER AT ABBOTSWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL SAYS:



The children have been very enthusiastic about the WOW challenge and they love collecting the badges. We have seen a significant increase in the numbers of children choosing not to always take the car to school and we are very proud of our achievements.



CUTTING CONGESTION AND PARKING STRESS WITH PARK AND STRIDE

Cringlebrook Primary School in Levenshulme, Manchester, had a car problem. Roads around the school were choc-a-block. School drop-offs and pick-ups were unsafe for children and stressful for parents.

The school took action. With Living Streets' help, Cringlebrook Primary set up a Park and Stride 10-minutes away from school. As well as cutting congestion, the Park and Stride ensures kids get an active start to their day. It also reduces lateness. Parents avoid getting stuck in traffic and parking chaos. Everyone agrees it's a much better way to start and end the day.





IF YOU WANT TO MAKE WALKING TO SCHOOL EASIER, SAFER, AND SIMPLER, THIS SECTION IS FOR YOU. IT'S ABOUT SPEAKING OUT AND CREATING CHANGE.

You're our local expert. When you walk to school, you notice which streets feel safe, look attractive, and make walking a pleasure. You know which streets and crossings make walking tricky and unsafe and where change needs to happen. If you're ready to make your journey more foot-friendly, we'll help you take action.

MAKING AN IMPACT ON LOCAL ISSUES

There is a lot you can do to make change happen: From building awareness in your community to getting your council to use its powers to make walking safer.



MAKING CROSSINGS SAFER

We think everyone should be able to cross the road safely, directly and without delay. If you're concerned about a lack of safe places to cross the street, campaign for a new crossing. Gather evidence, talk to local people, and contact your council.

Your council has the power to make road crossing safer by improving or installing crossings, widening pavements, and removing guard rails that block walking routes. And while there's no duty for them to provide school crossing patrols (aka lollipop people), many councils still do.

Make a case for your crossing improvement and ask your council to take action.

Find out more about making crossings safer at www.livingstreets.org.uk/what-we-do/key-issues/crossings



REDUCING TRAFFIC SPEEDS

Under Section 6 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, your council has the power to make a traffic order reducing speed limits where people live, and where children walk and play. If you want to see slower traffic on streets near the school, you can set up a local campaign and ask your council to introduce and enforce a 20mph speed limit.

Read about reducing traffic speed at www.livingstreets.org.uk/what-we-do/key-issues/20mph



GETTING CAR-FREE PAVEMENTS

Pavement parking stops people passing safely on footpaths and makes crossing difficult and dangerous. It's especially hazardous near schools, where children are rushing around and there is parking congestion.

Take action on pavement parking. Ask your council to pass a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) preventing pavement parking on the streets outside the school. You can also raise awareness and encourage action by campaigning locally.

Read about preventing pavement parking and download campaign posters at www.livingstreets.org.uk/what-we-do/key-issues/pavement-parking



MAKING STREETS MORE ATTRACTIVE

Well-kept, litter-free streets make walking more enjoyable. If your route to school is less than pleasant and you want to do something about it, you can.

Report maintenance issues, like cracked pavements, litter, or broken streetlights to your local council and ask them to take action. Councils can also make streets more attractive by planting flowers and trees and installing street seating.

MAKING CHANGES: YOUR COUNCIL'S POWERS

Finding your way around council departments and highways language can be tricky. We've listed common issues alongside councils' powers and procedures for making changes.

Action needed

What your local authority can do

Preventing pavement parking

Pass a Traffic Regulation Order (a TRO) on the problem street Install signs telling drivers about parking rules.

A 20mph speed limit

Pass a TRO to restrict speed limits on roads where there are schools, houses, and shops (within Section 6 of the Traffic Regulation Act 1984).

Installation of new crossings, wider pavement, dropped kerb, or separated cycle lanes

Write a proposal for the street changes Hold a statutory consultation Approve or reject the proposal (giving reasons).

Street closures

Pass a TRO or Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) for the street you want to close Install signs letting local people know about the closure and alternative routes, if needed.

Local streets to look more attractive with plants or benches

Submit a planning application to the Town Planning Department Ask for public comments on the proposal.

Improvements to street signs, making them easier to read and less in the way of the footpath

Submit a planning application to the Town Planning Department Ask for public comments on the proposal.

A school crossing patrol officer (more commonly known as a lollipop person)

Since the 2003 Transport Act, councils are not legally required to provide a school crossing patrol, but many councils still do. Your council can make funds available and recruit crossing patrol staff.

GETTING SUPPORT AND CREATING CHANGE GROWING SUPPORT



SUPPORT FROM OTHERS WILL STRENGTHEN YOUR CASE FOR CHANGE. RAISE AWARENESS AND BUILD SUPPORT FOR YOUR CAMPAIGN BY TALKING TO OTHER PARENTS, CARERS, AND GRANDPARENTS AT YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL. INVOLVE TEACHERS AND THE PTA AND CONSIDER PUTTING UP POSTERS, HOLDING AN EVENT, AND INVITING OTHER FAMILIES TO GET INVOLVED IN CAMPAIGNING.



Contacting your local councillor

Writing a letter or email to your local councillor is a brilliant way of highlighting what's making walking tricky where you live. Tell them what you need and give them a chance to help.

If you don't know who your local councillor is, it's easy to find out and contact them:

- 1. Go to www.writetothem.com
- 2. Type in your postcode and you'll get a list of local representatives
- 3. Use our letter template to get you started: www.livingstreets.org.uk/family

You can also write to your MP and AM (if you live in Wales), or MSP (if you live in Scotland) or MLA (if you live in N. Ireland).

Not sure who to write to about which issues?

MySociety.org has created a handy guide that explains which representatives do what and how they can help you: www.writetothem.com/about-yourrep

PARENT POWER

Needing a shortcut to school but fed up with walking on a muddy path, Alison Bell from Hersham, Elmbridge, asked Living Streets to help local kids get to and from school mud-free.

A Living Streets School Route Audit examined the problem and, with the community, the team developed recommendations. Soon after, Elmbridge Council awarded £43,000 to replace the muddy track with a proper footpath. Alison and the local community are thrilled.



Find out more about our Community Street Audits at www.livingstreets.org.uk/what-we-do/projects/community-street-audits

Review your walk using our School Route Review Toolkit www.livingstreets.org.uk/media/2770/living-street-toolkit-english_online-final.pdf



PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, AND CARERS ACROSS THE UK ARE GETTING TOGETHER AND CAMPAIGNING FOR SAFER STREETS, BETTER CROSSINGS, AND CLEANER AIR. THEY ARE TRANSFORMING THEIR COMMUNITIES A STEP AT A TIME. THIS SECTION IS ABOUT GETTING PEOPLE TOGETHER, STARTING A LOCAL GROUP, GETTING SUPPORT, AND BUILDING A CAMPAIGN FOR CHANGE.

TAKING ACTION TOGETHER

If you're already talking to other families about problems you've noticed on your walk to school, think about joining or starting a Living Streets Group.



STARTING A LIVING STREETS GROUP

You don't need to be planning a big campaign on lots of issues to start a local group. Ambition for action on a single issue is all you need. Starting a group is simple:

- >>> Arrange a time to talk—somewhere informal, like a local cafe, works well
- >> Let people know what you're up to and when—encourage other parents to join in
- >>> Get the conversation started—find shared issues you want to tackle
- >>> Decide what you want to focus on—which problems are most urgent
- >> Work out what help you need from your community
- >> Agree when you'll meet and what you'll discuss next
- >> Create ways to stay in touch—WhatsApp and Facebook groups are handy

Once you've set up, we'll help you promote your group locally. We'll also give you a web page to share updates, provide you with campaign materials, and support you as part of our network of local groups. We'll even help cover your admin costs by offering a small grant.

BUILDING A LOCAL CAMPAIGN

YOU'VE TALKED TO OTHER PARENTS, CARERS, AND GRANDPARENTS. YOU'VE IDENTIFIED WHAT YOU WANT TO CHANGE. AND YOU'VE STARTED A LOCAL GROUP. NOW YOU NEED TO GROW SUPPORT FOR YOUR CAMPAIGN. WE'VE PUT TOGETHER TEN TIPS TO HELP YOU BUILD ENERGY FOR YOUR CAMPAIGN.

1.

Develop a clear message explaining what you're campaigning for and why



2

Write to local parents and school bodies like the PTA

3.

Talk to your child's school and to parent governors

4.

Ask local schools and community groups to join or support your campaign



5.

Connect people and share your plans (web pages and Facebook groups are handy)

6.

Publicise your campaign with posters, petitions, and events

7.

Use facts and evidence to strengthen your case (see our Facts and Evidence on Walking below)

8.

Write to your local councillor or MP



9.

Tell your local newspaper or radio station what you're up to and why

10.

Track your progress and keep people informed

USING EVIDENCE TO STRENGTHEN YOUR CAMPAIGN

THERE IS STRONG EVIDENCE SHOWING THE BENEFITS OF WALKING TO SCHOOL AND THE HARM CAUSED BY PEOPLE TRAVELLING BY CAR. USING FACTS WILL HELP YOU STRENGTHEN YOUR CASE FOR CHANGE. INCLUDE THEM WHEN YOU WRITE TO YOUR COUNCILLOR, START A PETITION, OR SPEAK TO THE MEDIA.

PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

Walking reduces the risk of heart disease, respiratory problems, high blood pressure and diabetes

If we all walked more we could save the NHS as much as £17 billion over the next 20 years

A short walk to and from school counts towards children's and adult's daily activity targets

Physically active children are more likely to remain active as teenagers and adults

In England, only 1 in 5 boys and 1 in 6 girls age 5-15 gets enough physical activity

Walking to school benefits children's mental health and mood. It also reduces adults' stress

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AND BEHAVIOUR

Walking to school supports improved academic performance

Physical activity can improve children's behaviour—especially in children with additional needs

Children who walk to school have higher spatial awareness and a better understanding of safety risks than children who are driven to school.

Children who walk to school feel more connected to their community, have broader social networks, and a stronger understanding of their local area—walking builds life skills

THE COST OF CAR TRAVEL

During the morning peak, 1 in 4 cars on the road is taking a child to school

Travel congestion cost UK drivers £37.7 billion in 2017

Over 2,000 schools and nurseries in England and Wales are within 150 meters of a road with unsafe and illegal levels of nitrogen dioxide—a gas that comes from motor vehicles and causes harm to human lungs and respiratory systems

Government evidence shows road transport is the cause of 80% of nitrogen dioxide emissions

Air pollution is particularly dangerous for children, especially those with asthma

Being in the car offers no protection for children from harmful air pollution, but reduces their physical activity

LETTING EVERYONE KNOW WHAT YOU ACHIEVED

KNOWING THAT OTHER PEOPLE ARE STANDING UP, SPEAKING OUT AND CAMPAIGNING ON SHARED CONCERNS IS POWERFUL. TELLING THE STORY OF YOUR CAMPAIGN SUCCESS COULD INSPIRE OTHER PARENTS, CARERS, AND GRANDPARENTS TO CAMPAIGN FOR CHANGE TOO. LET'S SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT WHAT'S POSSIBLE WHEN PEOPLE GET TOGETHER TO MAKE WALKING BETTER.

Share your story @LivingStreets on Twitter and Instagram and on Facebook @LivingStreetsUK, using #walktoschool. Or you can email campaigns@livingstreets.org.uk with your news, updates, and photos—we love to celebrate what our campaigners are doing and share your news.









Giving local groups a helping hand

- Our team has years of experience helping local groups make walking to school safer and more enjoyable. We'll be:
- Helping you cut through red tape
- Giving you facts and evidence to strengthen your campaign
- Connecting you to other groups and networks across the UK
- Communicating your campaign through our website, newsletter, and social media
- Solution Series Seri
- Cheering you on!

If you need anything else, just let us know: Email <u>campaigns@livingstreets.org.uk</u>

Supporting everyone's walk to school journey

Whether you're starting your walk to school journey or campaigning for local change, our website is full of facts, ideas, case studies, and templates to inspire and support you. Head to www.livingstreets.org.uk to find out more.

We're Living Streets, the charity for everyday walking.



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