Aylesbury High School Travel Plan & School Travel Policy (2026/27)

Incorporating Modeshift STARS Accreditation Requirements and Buckinghamshire Council Guidelines

1. Context and Current Travel Snapshot

Aylesbury High School draws a significant proportion of its student body from across the Aylesbury Vale, Milton Keynes, and surrounding Buckinghamshire villages.This document outlines our strategic Travel Plan and formal School Travel Policy to promote safe, healthy, and sustainable travel choices.

Travel Mode	Main Access Points / Infrastructure	Current Focus Areas
Walking & Cycling	footpaths. In-site secure cycle storage available	junctions encouraging use of designated walking bubbles, and securing cycle storage.
Buses & Coaches	Dedicated Aylesbury Schools Coach Park (shared with AGS & the Grange); local public routes.	Ensuring efficient flow for contract providers (e.g., Masons, Red Rose) and promoting public timetables.
Walton Road, Turnfurlong Lane, and local pedestrian	Maximising safety at busy centre).	
Rail	Aylesbury Railway Station (approx. 15–20 minute walk via the town	Providing clear, well-lit pedestrian pathways from the station and reinforcing pedestrian safety.
Car (Drop-off)	Walton Road and adjacent residential streets.	preventing idling near school gates.
	Mitigating congestion and	

2. Key Objectives & Target Goals

- Reduce Congestion: Decrease the percentage of students arriving via private car drop-offs directly outside the school gates by promoting alternative active travel
  options.

- Boost Active Travel: Increase independent, sustainable travel options (walking, cycling, and train/public bus use) amongst students to improve physical and mental wellbeing.

- Environmental Health: Establish a strict "Clean Air Zone" near the school gate by actively supporting Anti-idling initiatives.

- Safety First: Target the factors behind child pedestrian casualties during drop-off and pick-up times, focusing on road awareness and avoiding distractions (such as mobile phones).

- Accreditation Progression: Achieve and maintain a high Modeshift STARS accreditation status (aiming for "Good" or "Very Good" by embedding initiatives into everyday life).

3. Official School Travel Policy

1 Introduction and Scope

At Aylesbury High School, we are committed to promoting safe, healthy, and sustainable travel for our students, staff, and visitors. This policy supports our School Travel Plan, aligns with our Climate Action Plan, and works in partnership with Buckinghamshire Council and Modeshift STARS.

2 Expectations for Parents, Carers, and Visitors

- Parents and carers must avoid dropping off or picking up students directly outside the school gates or along yellow zig-zag lines on Walton Road.
- All drivers must adhere to Rules 238 to 252 of the Highway Code regarding waiting and parking. Parking on kerbs, across private driveways, or inside designated bus stops is strictly prohibited.
- Vehicles waiting near the school site must switch off their engines to reduce air pollution near student access points.
- Driving families are expected to use the official Modeshift 5-Minute Walking Bubble Map. Drivers should park safely at least 5 to 10 minutes away from the school gates and allow pupils to walk the remainder of the journey.
- Parents and carers are urged to sign and abide by Buckinghamshire Council's Parents' Parking Promise.

3 Cycling and Transport Infrastructure

- Dedicated, secure cycle storage racks are provided on school grounds for all pupils and staff choosing active travel.
- Cyclists are required to wear helmets, maintain functional lights for winter commutes, and ensure bicycles are roadworthy (supported by local initiatives like Coombe Bikes safety checks).
- Up-to-date bus timetables (including Arriva, Red Rose, and Masons services) and rail links via Aylesbury Railway Station are published on the school website and travel guidance portal.

4 Communication & Annual Review

- This policy will be published on the Aylesbury High School website, included in New Starter Packs every September, shared with neighbouring campus schools, and updated dynamically via the Modeshift STARS platform.

4. Action Plan & Implementation Strategy for 26/27

1 Consultation & Modeshift Registration
Autumn Term

a) Register and utilise the Modeshift STARS online platform.
b) Establish a working group to consult with teachers, parents, pupils, and governors to discover actual and preferred travel modes.
c) Use this data to submit for accreditation review milestones.
d) Publish policy on School Website

2 Introduce Walking Bubbles & Parking Campaigns
Spring Term

a) Generate free Modeshift Walking Bubble Maps to encourage driving families to park at least five minutes away from the school gates.
b) Review the council's Parents' Parking Promise (PPP) and consider whether to launch.

3.Active Travel Challenges & Transition Planning: Summer Term.

a) Incorporate Living Streets' Next Steps Walking Challenge specifically targeting Key Stage 3 students to build independent active travel habits.
b) Coordinate road safety awareness toolkits to address common risks such as distraction from mobiles or rushing near buses.

4. Highways Coordination & Training:Ongoing Integration.

a) Promote the use of the BetterPoints Bucks app, which rewards students with redeemable points for tracking active school commutes.

5. Monitoring and Review

The School Travel Plan will be updated dynamically via the Modeshift STARS portal.

AHS will conduct regular hands-up travel surveys across forms to monitor shifts in student travel choices (see appendix 1).

The school will liaise directly with the Buckinghamshire Council School Travel Plan Advisor to evaluate progress, borrow parking campaign banners, and submit documentation ahead of the formal council review deadlines.
Key School Travel Planning Contacts:

- Council Travel Plan Advisor: emma.jackson@buckinghamshire.gov.uk ●

General Council Support: schooltravelplanning@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Appendix 1 - Student Survey (Spring Term)

Aylesbury High School: Annual Hands-Up Travel Survey

Form Group: _____

Total Number of Students Present: _____

Date: _____

Instructions for Form Tutors:

1. Please read out each question to the form group.
2. Ask students to raise their hands for one option only under Section A (How they actually travelled today). Count and record the numbers.
3. Repeat the process for Section B (How they would *prefer* to travel if they had a free choice).
4. Return this completed sheet to Catherine Thackray

SECTION A: Current Travel Habits (How did you get to school TODAY?)

Tutors: Please ensure the total number of votes matches the number of students present today.

Mode of Transport	Description / Examples	Number of Students (Hands Up)
Walk	I walked the entire way from home.	
Cycle	Rode a bicycle to school.	
Public Bus	Used a standard public service (e.g., Red Rose, Redline, Arriva).	
School Coach	Used a dedicated school bus/contract coach (e.g., Masons, BCC route) to the Coach Park.	
Train	Travelled via Chiltern Railways to Aylesbury Station (and walked from there).	

Car (All the way)	Dropped off by a parent/guardian directly outside or very close to the school gates.	
Park and Stride / Walking Bubble	Driven part of the way, but dropped off at least 5 minutes away (outside the bubble) to walk the rest.	
Car Share	Travelled in a car with students from at least one other household.	
Other	E.g., Taxi, electric scooter (where permitted), or alternative combination.	
TOTAL	*(Must equal total students present)*	[ ]

SECTION B: Preferred Travel Habits (How WOULD you like to travel to school?)

Tutors: Ask students to choose their ideal method, assuming safety, weather, and distance were not barriers.

Preferred Mode of Transport	Number of Students (Hands Up)
Walk	
Cycle	

Bus / Coach

Train	
Car (Dropped at gate)	

Park and Stride	
TOTAL	[ ]

SECTION C: Barriers to Sustainable Travel (Quick Discussion)

Tutors: Ask for a quick show of hands for the main reason holding students back from walking, cycling, or using public transport. Note down the top 2 reasons mentioned by the class.

- [ ] Distance is too far (live outside Aylesbury/rural villages)
- [ ] Lack of safe crossing points or cycle paths on Walton Road/Turnfurlong
- [ ] Carrying heavy bags/musical instruments/PE kits
- [ ] Bad weather
- [ ] Public transport timetables do not align with school hours
- [ ] Personal safety concerns (e.g., walking in the dark during winter)

Top Class Concerns / Comments:

1.
2.