

Case Study

ESTYN and infrastructure changes

Romilly Primary School
Barry, Vale of Glamorgan
Primary School



Figure 1: Construction of bike shelter with eco roof.
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Background

Romilly Primary School has been serving a diverse student population for over 100 years. The active travel school plan was initiated by a passionate school governor and the deputy head teacher to address accessibility issues and safety concerns from high traffic during pick-up/ drop-off times.

The school had already been invested in several active travel initiatives, such as the Living Streets WOW tracker, the Sustrans Active Journeys programme and the annual National Travel to School Hands Up Survey. Creating an active travel school plan aimed at further promoting student health and encouraging even more pupils to travel actively.

Key components

These included improving drop-off/ pick-up points to discourage dangerous parking, opportunities for pupils to travel actively, and working with the Vale of Glamorgan Council Active Travel team to find ways to reduce congestion.



Achievements

The active travel school plan significantly advanced the school's efforts to promote active travel.

Data gathered through a parental questionnaire, alongside the writing of the plan, paved the way for the installation of additional bike/ scooter storage in 2024.

Additionally, due to the collaboration between the school and the local authority, a new bike shelter with a green eco roof could be installed, keeping bikes dry and creating a bio-habitat for insects. This was made possible through additional funding granted by Vale Local Nature Partnership.

The school hopes to continue collaborating with Sustrans Cymru and parents/carers to develop community-led initiatives.

Examples include:

- Piloting a parent-led walking bus along a high catchment route
- Forming an active travel working party, which will facilitate greater engagement from parents and pupils.

The school recently went through an Estyn inspection. The school's Governing Body were proud to highlight that active travel was a priority for the school community and that improvements had been made to school infrastructure as a direct result of the active travel school plan.

Quotes/ Stats



“The pupils know how to keep themselves healthy and fit and their active travel plan was part of that, specifically in terms of demonstrating how the school encourages and provide opportunities for exercise and movement.”

- ESTYN report

“I’m enthusiastic of all measures suggested. They are a great opportunity to change the current, not ideal situation.”

- Romilly Primary Headteacher