

## **St. Patrick's Primary School celebrates 15 years of the UK's biggest active travel challenge.**

St Patrick's Primary School pupils will be taking part in the UK's biggest inter-school active travel challenge.

Taking place 11-22 March 2024, the Sustrans Big Walk to School Challenge inspires pupils to make active journeys to school, improve air quality in their neighbourhood and discover how these changes benefit their world.

The event sees schools compete each day to make the most journeys by walking to school.

Sustrans aims to make walking to school easier and is delivering the challenge in partnership with headline sponsor Schwalbe.

The challenge is seeing its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary and is celebrating the success enjoyed across the years for pupils, parents, and schools.

Sustrans Big Walk to School Challenge is open to all primary and secondary schools in the UK, including SEN/ASN/ALN schools, with prizes to be won every day.

Free resources are available to encourage pupils to help reduce air pollution and learn about the benefits of active travel for themselves, their school, their neighbourhood, and the whole planet.

Not only does the event help reduce pollution around the school gates but in recent years has helped parents to save [£1.6million in petrol costs](#) (1) during the fortnight.

Teachers find pupils who walk to school arrive more relaxed, alert and ready to start the day than those who travel by car.

Just under 2.7million active journeys to 1,862 participating schools took place during the 2023 challenge, saving an estimated 1,890 tonnes of CO2 emissions if the journeys logged had otherwise been made by car (2).

### **15 years of the Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel**

Since data collection for the challenge began in 2011, a staggering 23.9 million miles (1) have been travelled by pupils taking over 15.9 million active travel journeys to school.

That's around 200 trips to the moon, or over 1,900 journeys around the Earth (1), saving 12,700 tonnes of CO2 polluting the air on the school run, from 31.7 million car journeys had the participants been driven to and from school (1).

**Xavier Brice, CEO at Sustrans, said:**

*"It's great to see St Patrick's Primary School, Hilltown taking part in the Sustrans Big Walk to School Challenge this year. For 15 years, millions of pupils across the UK have enjoyed taking part in the challenge by walking to school with friends and family...and winning prizes along the way!"*

*"The challenge shows how people of all ages want to travel actively. Parents save money by not having to drive and children get to be out and about exploring their world. This gives our children healthy habits they can take with them into adulthood."*

**Parents you can join in too!**

Comment, share, use the hashtag #BigWalkandWheel

[Find out more about registering for the Big Walk 2024](#)

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**About Sustrans**

Sustrans is the charity making it easier for people to walk. We connect people and places, create liveable neighbourhoods, transform the school run and deliver a happier, healthier commute - [find out more](#).