



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

The programme will give your school the opportunity to:

1. Improve safety at the school gate by providing 'front of school' treatments to alleviate congestion and improve access;
2. Improve access routes to school by improving walking and cycling infrastructure; and
3. Increase the number of students who cycle to school by expanding the provision of cycle parking.

The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) programme aims to improve ongoing issues of safety and congestion at the school gate and on routes to school. The programme will support active travel to school.

The programme is funded by the Department of Transport through the National Transport Authority (NTA).

The Safe Routes to School team will co-ordinate the programme and dedicated SRTS Infrastructure Officers will work with schools during the process. Local authorities will play a key part in delivering the infrastructure along access routes and at the school gate. Funding will be made available to the local authorities for infrastructure related to the programme.



KEY STAGES OF THE PROGRAMME



Safe Routes to School (SRTS) will have a dedicated infrastructure officer who will work with selected schools during the programme. The programme will have a set number of stages and these can be summarised as follows:

Stage 1: Dissemination

An invitation for participation in the programme will be sent to principals by the Department of Education and Department of Transport.

Stage 2: Expression of Interest

Schools will be asked to complete and submit the Expression of Interest (EOI) to SRTS.

Stage 3: Selection

A selection process will take place based on a number of agreed criteria.

Stage 4: Communication & Liaison

Selected schools will be informed by SRTS. SRTS will then liaise with selected schools and the relevant local authorities on infrastructural interventions for their schools.

Stage 5: Interventions

SRTS will produce an outline delivery plan for each school showing interventions at concept design stage.

Stage 6: Submission

This delivery plan will be submitted by SRTS to local authorities to take forward for further design and implementation. Local authorities can then access dedicated funding from the NTA for the projects.

Stage 7: Community Support

The school involved will act as a local champion of the proposed measures to ensure community buy-in for the proposals.

Stage 8: Delivery

Local authorities will undertake proposed interventions in relation to the front of school environs and walking & cycling infrastructure around schools to be funded by the NTA. SRTS will deliver cycle parking.



SELECTING SCHOOLS



The programme is open to all schools and various criteria is used to select schools for participation in the programme for 2021, including:

Mix of school type:

Primary, post-primary, other

Mix of location:

Urban (village, town, city), suburban, rural

Socio-economic mix:

Non-DEIS, DEIS schools

School's commitment to sustainable travel:

- (a) the school is interested in promoting walking and cycling to school, or
- (b) the school has already demonstrated a commitment to walking, cycling and other active modes by running initiatives such as Walk on Wednesday, Scoot on Wednesday, Cycle on Wednesday, Cycle Bus, Park 'n' Stride etc.

Cluster of schools:

If schools are located on the same campus or street / section of road.

The Expression of Interest letter was sent to all schools in Ireland in March 2021. In response, 932 schools applied and were brought onto the programme. All schools cannot be progressed simultaneously and as such Safe Routes to School will engage with the schools on the programme in sequential rounds based on the existing selection criteria.

The programme is not currently open for new schools to apply. Any reopening of the programme will be decided together with the Department of Transport and National Transport Authority.

WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAMME?

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