



# BIG TRAVEL CHALLENGE

**“Making Connections with people,  
nature or places”**

**The Big Travel Challenge 2026 is open to all schools which have completed or are participating in the Travel or Global Citizenship Travel themes.**

*This year, taking part is easier than ever. Schools simply:*

1. Encourage students and staff to travel sustainably to/from school during the two-week challenge via any sustainable travel mode
2. Record the sustainable travel numbers on one, or as many days during the two weeks but submit only the highest performing day when applying
3. Send three photos and a short explanation of why they deserve to win

All participating schools will be in with a chance to receive our new Gold, Silver, and Bronze Travel School Awards!



Share your school's Challenge with us! #BigTravelChallenge  
@greenschools\_travel @GreenSchoolsIre





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## Example:

Total number of students and staff: 122

Numbers travelling sustainably on highest performing day:

Walkers: 20

Cyclists: 5

Bus users: 25

Scooter users: 2

Car poolers: 3

Park 'n' Stride (P'n'S): 15

Total: 70

*Percentage of students and staff travelling sustainably:*

$$70 \div 122 \times 100 = 57\%$$

## Challenge:

- Encourage friendly competition between year levels – and even take it up a notch by challenging nearby schools
- Try a walking bus or cycling bus challenge for 9 days
- Launch your 2026 Travel or GC Travel Flag with a WOW/COW/SOW Day
- Create a fun class competition to crown the champions of pedal power or street feet

## Whole school actions:

- Explore some [Walking activity ideas](#)
- View our [cycling concepts](#)
- Browse our [scooter sources](#)
- Design a classroom workshop to encourage students to travel sustainably. [Inspiration ideas here](#)

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## Judging Criteria for 2026:

### 1. Highest percentage of sustainable travel

Calculated as the percentage of the total school population that travelled sustainably on **one selected day** between 3–13 February. Sustainable travel includes: **walking, wheeling, cycling, scooting, park ‘n’ stride, public transport and carpooling.**

### 2. Photo submission

Schools must submit photos that clearly show sustainable travel and reflect the competition theme, Making Connections.

### 3. Why your school should win

A short statement explaining why your school deserves to win.

**The deadline to submit your application is  
4pm on Friday 27th February 2026**

**All entries must be submitted by using the BIG TRAVEL CHALLENGE  
APPLICATION FORM [here](#)**

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