

Dear Headteacher,

Please would it be possible to circulate the letter below to the parents/guardians of pupils in your school.

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I appreciate the unprecedented times we are currently facing have been especially challenging for pupils, teachers, parents and guardians. I hope that things are going well with the return to school this month.

As a county council we have recently launched an online Active Travel Consultation which features an interactive map where the public can leave comments on what walking and cycling infrastructure works well and where things could be improved. The map is for everyone who wants to make journeys on foot or by bike across our region, for any purpose, including those who don't walk or cycle often and people who use mobility aids. Comments will then be used, alongside those we have already gathered from transport and planning experts, to help plan the Carmarthenshire Active Travel Network. This network will be planned with people, not cars, as the priority, with routes that are safe and accessible for all.

You can access the consultation here: <https://cyclewalkcarms.engaged.space/>

(please be aware that this platform functions best in newer browsers such as Firefox/Chrome/Microsoft Edge and on mobile devices)

It is especially important to us that we gain insight from children and families who use the existing network and will go on to use new routes we create in the future. Over the lockdown period we have seen a huge increase in the number of people walking and cycling and we want to maintain these positive behavioural changes as we return to our day to day routines. Changes brought about by the lockdown such as an increase in home working may allow parents more time to walk or cycle their children to school and we want to make that as feasible as possible. For older pupils we want to create a network where parents feel comfortable allowing their child to access school independently, whether by walking or cycling.

We have been awarded Welsh Government funding to implement 'temporary' measures (which may lead to more permanent interventions in the future) which make sustainable transport modes the most accessible option for all. Within this funding we have scope to consider 'Routes to School' and so any comments left on our map by families who select the 'School Travel' category on question 4 will be considered in our programme.

We look forward to seeing your responses!

Kind Regards,

Samara Hicks

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