

# Guidance for Walking Zones activity

Better by...



## Step Before you start - Planning

1.

- Look into the walkability of the area surrounding your school focusing on busy roads or other barriers that may affect walking to your school.
- Find out if there is any restricted parking around your school and think about how far you want to recommend for people to walk, a 10-minute distance should be the walking boundary.

## Step Preparing the walking maps

2.

- Contact your local borough officer to see if a local area map is readily available. If not, Google Maps is a good alternative.
- Print an A3 map of the local area (for example a scale 1:5000) and mark the school's entrances and restricted parking.
- Using a compass, draw circles representing distances from the school entrance. For example, you could have 5cm and 10cm diameter circles representing 400m and 800m distance from your school gate.

## Step Make it a class activity - Creating the Walking Zone

3.

- This exercise is better suited to children in KS2 as part of a geography or maths class.
- Give pupils copies of the map created during the preparation phase.
- In groups, have them copy where the parking restrictions are onto their own map and using a compass ask them to draw circles representing (for example) 400m and 600m distances from the school entrance.
- On the outside of each circle, indicate what is a 5-minute walk (400m) and an 8-minute walk (600m).
- Using the maps created, organise a walk around the area with pupils to finalise the Walking Zone and include any significant landmarks that may make the journey easier.
- This is also a good opportunity for pupils to consider and then map how they can plan their journey to school.

## Step Implementing the Walking Zone in your school community

4.

- Put a copy of the map in the school newsletter and on your website. Advise that the map is here to help parents find somewhere to park outside the 5-minute walking radius.
- Have a launch event and a competition, where children who take part are asked to draw what they see from the edge of the Walking Zone to the school.
- It may be helpful to mark the edge of the 8- and 5-minute walking zone with a ribbon or poster on obvious landmarks, so it is clear to parents where this begins.

## Step Ongoing activity

5.

- Promote the Walking Zone map at the beginning of each term and when events such as National Walk to School Week or Month take place, in May and October each year.

- What you'll need**
- A map of the school's local area (scale 1:5000 recommended).
  - Information from your borough council about parking control zones in the local area.
  - Compass and pens.