

How children travel to school

Mode in 2005

The National Travel Survey shows that in 2005 almost half (46%) of all 5-16 year olds walked to school - with the proportion slightly higher for younger pupils. A third of pupils were taken to school by car - but the proportion of primary school age pupils driven to school is more than 40% compared to approximately 20% of secondary age pupils. Buses are used by only 6% of primary age pupils, but almost a third of secondary school age pupils.

	5-11 yrs	11-16 yrs	5-16 yrs
Walk	49%	44%	46%
Bicycle	1%	2%	1%
Car/van	43%	22%	32%
Private bus	3%	9%	6%
Local bus	3%	20%	12%
Rail	-	1%	1%
Other	1%	2%	1%
All modes	100%	100%	100%

Length of journey to school

The length of journey to school in 2005 was on average 1.5 miles for a pupil of primary school age and 3 miles for a secondary school pupil - equivalent to 2.3 miles on average. These have all increased since 1995 when the average for primary school was 1.3 miles, for secondary 2.9 miles and 2.1 miles overall.

How travel is changing

The modes used have changed slightly since 1995 with a lower proportion of primary school pupils walking to school - down from 53 to 49% in 2005 and a corresponding increase in car use. For secondary age pupils there has been a slight increasing in the proportion walking from 42 to 44%, and a drop in bus use but increase in car use.

