# Solihull College & University Centre Travel Plan (2025)



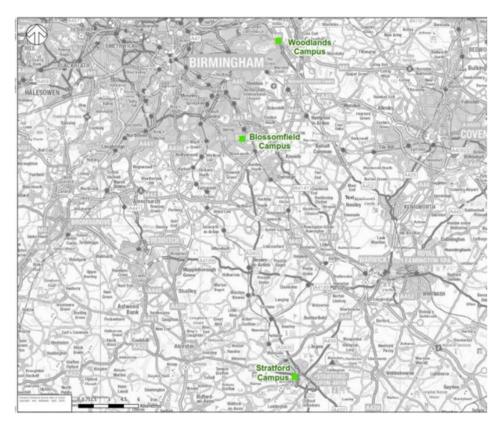
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# 1. Introduction

# BACKGROUND

Solihull College and University Centre is a further education college located in the Metropolitan Borough of Solihull in the West Midlands. The college offers further education, higher education and apprenticeships (full-time and part-time) across a wide range of subject areas.

The College and University centre has three campuses; Blossomfield Campus, Woodlands Campus and Stratford-upon-Avon College.



# SCOPE AND PURPOSE

The 2025 travel plan is an update and review of the previous 2019 travel plan. This review has been conducted by the Head of Sustainability and this iteration builds on the 2019 version setting out the college's aims to promote sustainable transport methods (specifically active travel and public transport), car sharing and EV / hybrid vehicle use over diesel / petrol single-use car travel. The travel plan also sets out recommendations to support staff, students and visitors to the college with this transition.

# **BENEFITS OF A TRAVEL PLAN**

An adopted travel plan supports the College's sustainability goals objectives as set out in its <u>Strategy</u> Plan Ambition 5 and Sustainability Strategy (2022-2030) to become a sustainable Net Zero College.

It provides a framework to monitor, manage and influence change in travel preferences, benefiting students, staff, visitors and the local community by prioritising pedestrians and cyclists on-campus, reducing air pollution and traffic congestion, promoting healthier lifestyle choices and offering attractive public transport option.

# NATIONAL AND LOCAL POLICY

The National Planning Policy Framework (<u>NPPF</u>) states that "All developments that will generate significant amounts of movement should be required to provide a travel plan" in addition to any transport statement or assessment.

Development applications should promote sustainable transport modes, ensure safe access for all users, mitigate significant transport impacts, prioritise pedestrian and cycle movements, facilitate access to high-quality public transport, address the needs of people with disabilities, create safe and attractive places, allow efficient delivery of goods and enable charging of ultra-low emission

vehicles.

# 2. SITE DETAILS AND CURRENT PROVISION

# **INTRODUCTION**

The existing conditions at Blossomfield campus, Woodlands campus and Stratford-Upon-Avon College are detailed below, including access and provisions in relating to walking, cycling, public transport and car use.



# 2.1 BLOSSOMFIELD CAMPUS

Blossomfield Campus is located on Blossomfield Road, Solihull in a mixed-use area including residential, leisure and employment sites. It is the largest of the three campuses, delivering further education (FE) and higher education courses (HE) across a wide range of subject areas.

The opening times, during term time, for the Blossomfield campus are as follows:

- Monday 8:30am 5:00pm
- Tuesday 8:30am 9.00pm
- Wednesday 8:30am 9.00pm
- Thursday 8:30am 5:00pm
- Friday 8:30am 4:30pm

# WALKING AND CYCLING

#### Walking

Blossomfield Campus is well connected to the local pedestrian network with footpaths on both sides of Blossomfield Road. There are two pedestrian access points along Blossomfield Road, one with a signalised crossing and central refuge. The other access point lacks pedestrian crossing facilities. A path through Tudor Grange Park also provides access to the town centre. The footways are well maintained and safe, allowing reasonable pedestrian access.

#### Cycling

Blossomfield Campus is well connected to the local cycle network. There remain concerns, however, on the effectiveness and safety of the dual use cycle / bus lane along Blossomfield Road which was constructed a number of years ago as part of the Council's Blossomfield Road reconfiguration.

There is a segregated cycle route along the one-way road through the campus, connecting to Tudor Grange Park. The campus offers secure cycle parking with 48 covered spaces outside the main reception.

# **PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

#### Bus

Blossomfield Campus has very good accessibility to the local bus network with the nearest bus stop located just 50m from the campus on Blossomfield Road, which is a red route.

The bus stops on Blossomfield Road are sufficiently accommodating for public transport users. Bus stops are well lit, covered and clean, with seating and timetable information available.

There are a number of bus routes, that operate close to the campus providing good accessibility for staff and students with a frequent service especially during commuting hours.

## Rail

Blossomfield Campus is about 900m from Solihull Railway Station, which is well-lit, has real-time information, seating areas, CCTV and step-free access. The station serves destinations including Birmingham, London, Leamington Spa, Kidderminster and Worcester.

# CAR TRAVEL

Vehicle access to the campus is via Blossomfield Road, a two-lane single carriageway B-Road, which connects to Solihull Town Centre, Solihull Railway Station, Tudor Grange Leisure Centre and Solihull Sears Retail Park.

There is one access route from Blossomfield Road to the campus and one egress route from the campus onto Blossomfield Road, following the campus's one-way system. The egress junction with

Blossomfield Road has limited traffic signage to assist vehicles joining the main road / crossing the dual use cycle / bus lane.

# PARKING

There are 755 car parking spaces at Blossomfield Campus, 32 of these spaces are for disabled users across five car parks (with reserved areas for staff) which also includes 10 motorcycle/scooter parking spaces.

Parking at Blossomfield Campus is free and operates on a first come, first served basis. It is for college use only. Visitors are able to use the car parks free of charge. Parking availability is generally sufficient, but demand can increase during busy periods of the year and due to increased visitor numbers (e.g. during external conferences at the Business Centre).

# 2.2 WOODLANDS CAMPUS



Woodlands Campus is located on Auckland Road, North Solihull in a predominantly residential area. It is the smallest of the three campuses and delivers further education (FE) and higher education (HE) courses, with a focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) provision.

The opening times, during term time, for the Woodlands Campus are as follows:

• Monday 8:30am – 5:00pm

- Tuesday 8:30am 9.00pm
- Wednesday 8:30am 9.00pm
- Thursday 8:30am 5:00pm
- Friday 8:30am 4:30pm

# WALKING AND CYCLING

## Walking

Woodlands Campus has well-lit and well-maintained footpaths. Pedestrian access is via a single entrance/exit on Auckland Drive, which is also used by vehicles. There is an uncontrolled crossing at the entrance. There is no pedestrian crossings on Auckland Drive due to the lack of a footpath on the opposite side. Within the campus, there are several uncontrolled crossings with dropped kerbs and road markings. Overall, pedestrian access is considered adequate.

## Cycling

Woodlands Campus has good access to the local cycle network, with a shared use route on Auckland Drive connecting to other nearby cycle routes, including one to Castle Bromwich. There are no cycle lanes on campus, so cyclists share the road with vehicles. The campus provides 30 covered bicycle parking spaces at the entrance.

# **PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

#### Bus

Woodlands Campus is well connected to the local bus network. The nearest bus stop is 50m from the entrance on Auckland Drive, with six more stops within 800m. The 94 bus serves Auckland Drive, while the 71, X12, 55, and 96 buses stop within walking distance of the campus.

The bus stops on Auckland Road are well-lit, covered and clean, with seating and timetable information available.

# Rail

There are no railway stations within the immediate vicinity of Woodlands Campus. Marston Green and Lea Hall railway stations are approximately 3.5km from the campus.

# CAR TRAVEL

Vehicle access to Woodlands Campus is via Auckland Drive, a two-lane single carriageway. Auckland Drive runs parallel to the A452 and M6 and is near Chester Road and Birmingham Road, major trunk roads in the West Midlands. There is one access and egress route from Auckland Drive to the campus, with two lanes leading to the car park. There are no traffic signals at the junction with Auckland Road. Overall, vehicle access to the campus is good.

## Parking

Woodlands Campus has 216 parking spaces in the main car park, with additional spaces by the construction and automotive block for staff. There are eight disabled spaces and two areas for motorcycle parking with capacity for eight motorcycles. The car park is free and operates on a first come, first served basis. It is for college use only and is available for visitors free of charge. Parking provision is considered to be adequate although the car park can become full during busy times of the year (e.g. start of the autumn term).

# 2.3 STRATFORD-UPON-AVON COLLEGE



Stratford-Upon-Avon College (also referred to as 'Stratford Campus') is located on Alcester Road in Stratford-upon-Avon. It offers higher education courses with a focus on Creative Arts and a growing Construction and Built Environment provision. The campus recently underwent a major refurbishment project to improve the site layout and provision including a 'green heart' external space at the centre of the campus.

The opening times for the Stratford-upon-Avon campus, are as follows:

- Monday 8:30am 5:00pm
- Tuesday 8:30am 5.00pm
- Wednesday 8:30am 5.00pm
- Thursday 8:30am 5.00pm
- Friday 8:30am 4:30pm

# WALKING AND CYCLING

#### Walking

Stratford Campus is near the town centre and is well connected to the local pedestrian network with well-lit and well-maintained footpaths. Pedestrian and vehicle access is via one entrance/exit off the Alcester Road roundabout onto Willows Drive North. The roundabout has uncontrolled crossings on all sides to assist pedestrians. Within the campus, there are several uncontrolled pedestrian crossings with road markings.

#### Cycling

The Stratford Campus has good access to the local cycle network. A shared use route is provided on Alcester Road which provides access to additional cycle routes in the vicinity. Ample covered and secure cycle rack capacity was created as part of the campus refurbishment.

# **PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

#### Bus

The Stratford Campus has excellent accessibility to the local bus network with the nearest respective bus stops located approximately 60m from the site entrance and 150m east of the college campus on Alcester Road. Various bus services stop outside the campus including 15, X19, 229. The bus stop located outside the college is well lit and clean.

The Railway Station Bus stop (Alcester Road) is located approximately 150m east of the college campus.

The frequency of bus services especially during commuting hours provides good accessibility for staff and students.

#### Rail

The Stratford campus is located just 200m away from Stratford-upon-Avon Station. The station is well lit, has RTI and timetable information, seating areas, CCTV and provides stepped access throughout.

The station directly serves various key destinations including Birmingham, London, Stourbridge and Leamington Spa.

# **CAR TRAVEL**

Vehicle access to Stratford Campus is via the Alcester Road roundabout (Willows Drive North). Alcester Road is a key part of Stratford-upon-Avon's road network, connecting the rail station, town centre, and A46. There is one access and one egress route from Alcester Road to the campus. Overall, vehicle access is good.

#### PARKING

In the main car park at the rear, there are currently 136 standard parking spaces and 5 disabled spaces. There are also 11 standard spaces and 7 disabled spaces in the smaller front car park. Parking is free and operates on a first come, first served basis. Staff and students must register to use it and it is available for visitors free of charge.

# **3. STAFF TRAVEL SURVEY RESULTS**

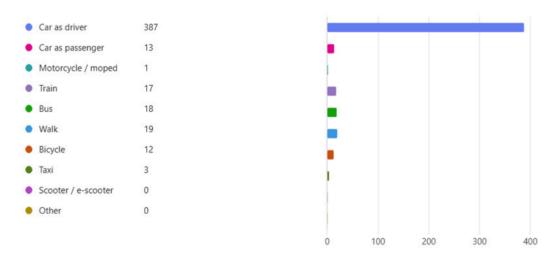
During 2024, a travel survey, similar to the survey carried out in 2019, was sent out to all full-time and part-time staff and a total of 470 staff responses were received.

Campus	No. of Responses
Blossomfield	343
Woodlands	56
Stratford	71
Total	470

Almost all of the staff responding (99%) come to College during the day with 1% attending during the evening.

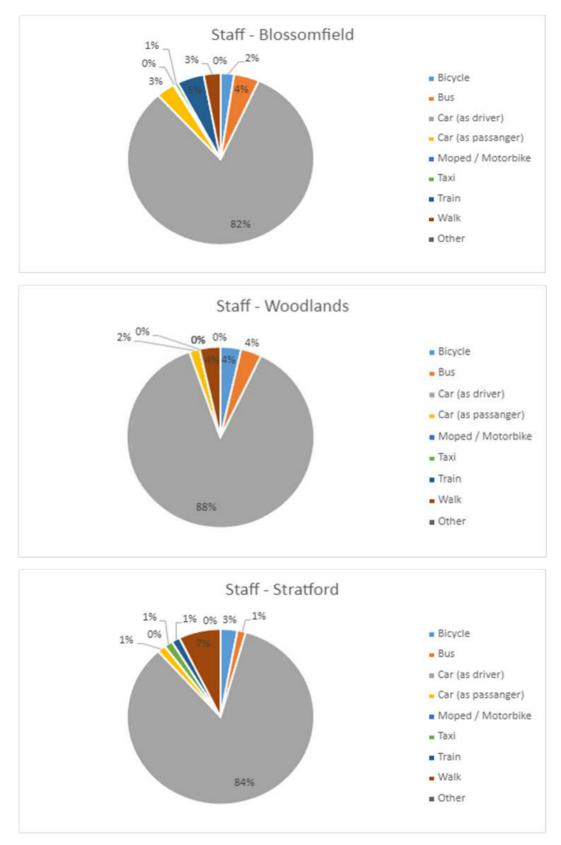
# Normal mode of transport - Staff

6. Which form of transport do you normally use to travel to the College?



The survey found the majority of staff (82%) drove themselves by car. The next highest travel options were travelling by train, by bus and walking (all 4%).

#### Normal mode of transport by campus - Staff



The survey found that most staff travel to the college by car. This is highest at Woodlands Campus (88%), followed by Stratford Campus (84%) then Blossomfield Campus (82%).

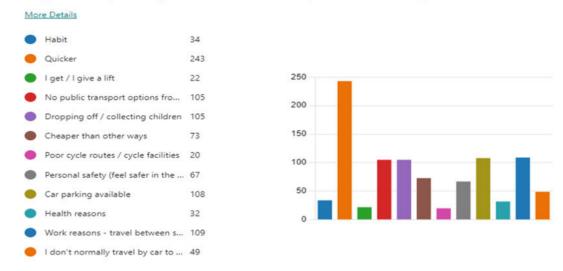
More staff walk to Stratford (7%) than Woodlands (4%) and Blossomfield (3%).

4% of staff travel by bus to Blossomfield and Woodlands, whilst only 1% travel by bus to Stratford.

## The proportion of staff who cycle to college is Woodlands (4%), Stratford (3%), and Blossomfield (2%)

## Car use - Reason for preference

10. If you normally travel by car, what are the reasons (choose one or more)



Of those travelling by car, the most selected reason was that it was quicker than other options (52%) followed by having the need of a car for work travel during the day (23%) and the availability of car parking spaces (23%).

# EV and hybrid car use

7. If you travel by car (as a driver or a passenger), please indicate the vehicle fuel type for the car you normally travel in





Of those staff who travel by car as a driver or passenger, 93% normally use a petrol / diesel vehicle and 7% travel by EV or hybrid car.

9. Would you consider using an electric car (EV) or hybrid car, or using one more often, if there were charging points at the College?



When asked if staff would consider using an EV or hybrid vehicle if there were charging points on campus, 24% said they would and another 34% stated that they might consider it.

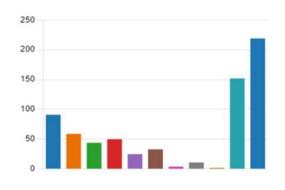
## Attitudes to Travel - Staff: Cycling

The survey asks staff which measures would encourage them to use alternative, more sustainable travel options.

14. Which of the following measures would encourage you to cycle to College? If you current cycle, which measures would you most like to see implemented? (Select up to 3)

#### More Details



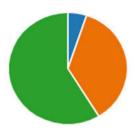


Safer cycle routes (36%) was the most popular answer given followed by improved cycle parking provision (13%) and financial incentives (e.g. cycle to work scheme) (11%).

#### Staff access to a bicycle

#### 13. Do you have access to a bicycle?



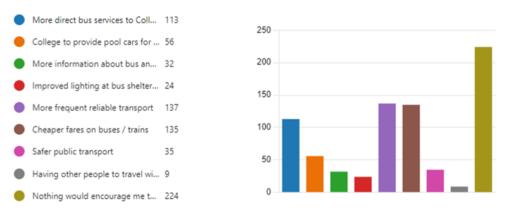


41% of staff stated that they had access to a bicycle but only 5% cycled to college.

#### **Attitudes to Travel - Staff: Public transport**

Which of the following measures would encourage you to travel to the College by train or bus? If you
currently travel by public transport, which measure would you most like to see implemented? (Select up to
3)

#### More Details



In response to being asked what would encourage staff to travel by public transport to college, cheaper fares and more frequent reliable transport were the top answer (both 39%), followed by more direct bus services to college (24%).

#### Attitudes to Travel - Staff: Car sharing

15. Car sharing (which means sharing a lift with one or more others rather than travelling alone) either as a driver or a passenger. Do you car share to travel to the College?



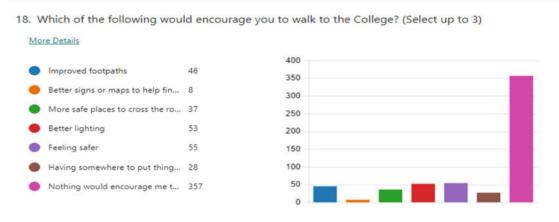
Currently, 5% of staff care share all of the time or very frequently. In addition, 13% stated that they car share occasionally.

16. Which of the following would encourage you to car share?



The most common response for actions that would encourage staff to lift share was receiving help in finding car share partners with similar commuting patterns (30%) followed by a guaranteed lift home in an emergency or if let down by a car share partner (26%). 5% of respondents stated that preferred parking spaces on campus would encourage them to car share.

#### **Attitudes to Travel - Staff: Walking**



The measures that would most encourage walking to College were: Feeling safer (12%), better lighting (11%) and improved footpaths (10%).

# 4. STUDENT TRAVEL SURVEY RESULTS

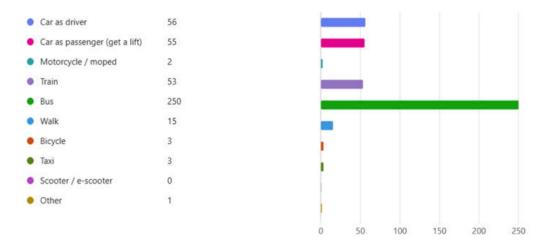
A survey was sent out to students to complete. A total of 438 student responses were received and analysed.

Campus	Student (FE) Aged 16 - 18 yrs	Student (HE)	Student (Other)	Total
Blossomfield	237	32	31	300
Woodlands	31	8	4	43
Stratford	87	5	3	95
Total	355	45	38	438

Of the 438 students who responded, 99% came in to College during the day and 1% attended during the evening.

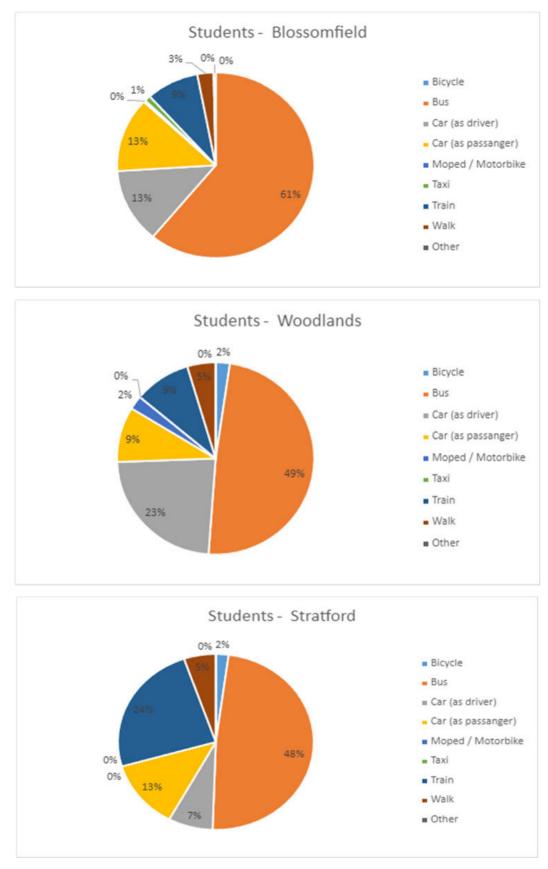
# Normal mode of transport - Students

6. Which form of transport do you normally use to travel to the College?



The most popular form of transport for students across all campuses is by bus (57%), followed by car as a driver (13%) and car as a passenger (13%) then travelling by train (12%).

# Normal mode of transport by campus - Students



Students at Blossomfield are the highest bus users (61%) followed by Woodlands (49%) and Stratford (48%).

Stratford students are the highest proportion of train users (24%) compared to Blossomfield and Stratford (both 9%).

At Woodlands, only 3% of students walk, compared to 5% at Blossomfield and Stratford.

Woodlands students are the highest proportion of car drivers (23%) compared to Blossomfield (13%) and Stratford (7%).

In terms of cycling, 2% of respondents who study at Stratford and Woodlands cycle to college whereas, no respondents indicated that they cycle to Blossomfield.

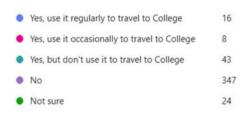
# EV and hybrid car use

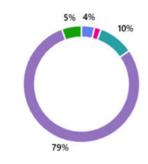
7. If you travel by car (as a driver or a passenger), please indicate the vehicle fuel type for the car you normally travel in



Of those students who travel by car, either as a driver or a passenger, 11% travel in an EV or hybrid vehicle.

8. Do you or someone in your household have a Hybrid or Electric Car (EV) which you could travel to the College in?





15% of students stated that they have access to an EV or hybrid vehicle in their household.

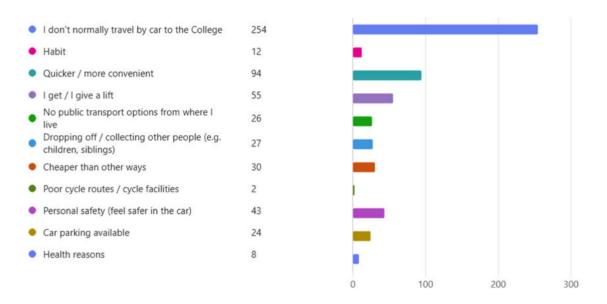
9. If you drive to College (or might drive in the future), would you consider an electric car (EV) or hybrid car if there were charging points at the College?



Of those students who currently drive to college or might in the future, 68% would consider driving an EV or hybrid vehicle if there were charging point on campus.

#### Car use – Reason for preference

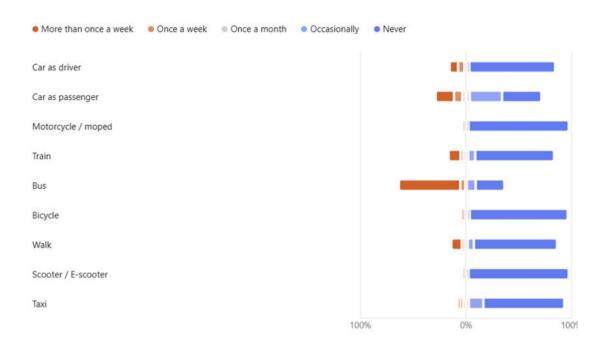
10. If you normally travel by car, what are the reasons (choose one or more answers)?



Of those students who normally drive by car, 52% did so because it was quicker / more convenient, 30% get or give a lift and 24% because they feel safer in the car. Availability of car parking was a deciding factor for 13% of students.

#### Alternative modes of transport

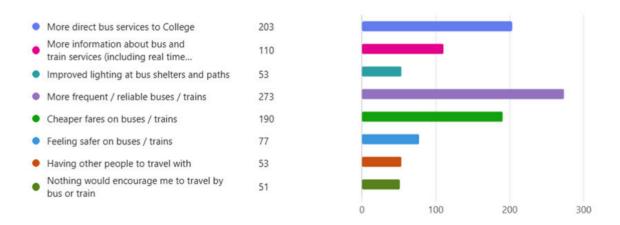
11. As well as your normal form of travel, do you use any of the to get to the College? (Select a response for each row)



When asked what other modes of transport they use to get to college (other than their 'normal' choice), taking the bus was the highest response by far followed by car as a passenger, taking the train then walking. Very few students stated that they ever travel by bicycle, scooter, e-scooter, motorcycle or moped. A few students travel in by taxi on occasion.

#### **Attitudes to Travel - Students: Public transport**

12. Which of the following would encourage you to travel to the College by train or bus? If you currently travel by train o r bus, which would you most like to see implemented? (Select up to 3)



The most popular measures to encourage students to travel by public transport are: Increased frequency and reliability (62%), More direct services to college (46%) and cheaper fares (43%).

## **Attitudes to Travel - Students: Cycling**

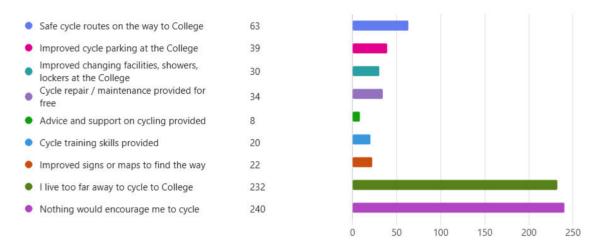
13. Do you have access to a bicycle?





# 46% of students have access to a bicycle but less than 2% cycle to college.

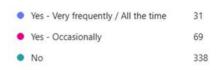
14. Which of the following would encourage you to cycle to College? If you current cycle, which would you most like to s ee implemented? (Select up to 3)



# Of the factors that would encourage students to cycle, safer cycle routes (14%) was the highest followed by improved cycle parking at the college (9%).

#### Attitudes to Travel - Students: Car sharing

15. Car sharing (which means sharing a lift with one or more others rather than travelling alone) either as a driver or a pa ssenger. Do you car share to travel to the College?





7% of students car share either very frequently or all of the time. An additional 16% stated that they share a lift with someone else occasionally.

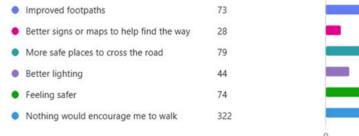
16. Which of the following would encourage you to car share?

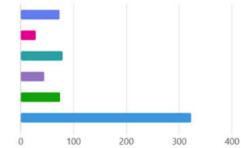


In relation to factors that would encourage students to car share, the two most popular responses were to receive help in finding car share partners and to have a guaranteed lift home in emergencies or if let down by car share partner (both 28%).

#### **Attitudes to Travel - Students: Walking**

17. Which of the following would encourage you to walk to the College? If you already walk, which of these would you li ke to see implemented? (Select up to 3)





Students would be encouraged to walk to college if there were safer places to cross the road (18%), if they 'felt safer' (17%) and if footpaths were improved (17%).

# 5. TRAVEL PLAN OBJECTIVES & TARGETS

As previously set out in the 2019 Travel Plan, the key objectives are:

- Reduce the number of students and staff who travel by car
- Increase the number of students and staff who walk and cycle
- Increase the number of students and staff who car share
- Increase the number of students and staff who use public transport

Performance and progress made over time against each of these is set out below:

Staff	2019	2025
Drive by car	78%	82%
Active travel (walk, cycle)	7%	7%
Public transport (bus, train)	11%	7%
Students	2019	2025
Students       Drive by car	<b>2019</b> 21%	<b>2025</b> 26%

The results indicate that, positively, students using public transport has gone up from 59% to 69% between 2019 and 2025 and that staff walking or cycling has remained static at 7%.

However, across all of the other measures and objectives there is a trend away from active travel and public transport to travelling by car over the last 5 years. This can be attributed, in part, to the COVID pandemic and follows a wider, nation trend of a return to car use as a travel preference.

# 6. TRAVEL PLAN MANAGEMENT AND REVIEW

# **Travel Plan Management and Review**

The 2025 travel plan is co-owned by the College's Head of Sustainability and the Estates team. Delivery and monitoring of progress against the objectives is co-ordinated through the College's Sustainability Steering Group and reported to SLT.

The Green Champions student and staff forum will lead on and deliver specific projects and the College will work with external partners as appropriate.

The travel survey will be carried out every two years (in 2027 and 2029) and the Travel Plan itself is due to be reviewed in 2029.

# 7. RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTIONS

## Recommendations

The following recommendations support the findings of the travel survey and the Travel Plan objectives of transitioning from single-use petrol / diesel car travel to car sharing, EV use, active travel and public transport options.

Further work will be carried out to explore each recommendation and, where appropriate, to develop and deliver actions, subject to feasibility, resources and budget.

# **Active travel**

Launch the staff 'borrow a bike' scheme using a digital booking system

Engage with relevant Local Authorities and other agencies / partners on:

(a) the effectiveness and safety of the Blossomfield Road dual bus / cycle lane

(b) safe walking routes to each campus

(c) air pollution monitoring and public health issues around campuses

Review the current provision of covered, secure cycle racks, showers and lockers at each campus to ascertain demand / capacity and ensure appropriate provision

Car travel

Explore options and feasibility for the provision of on-campus EV charging infrastructure

Digitise and promote the existing pool car booking system

Explore the introduction of a staff salary sacrifice EV / hybrid car scheme

Create a car share scheme to 'match up' potential users

**Public transport** 

Explore the opportunities and feasibility of public transport incentives and discounts with providers

Car parking

Review car park provision including capacity, demand, issues and opportunities

Consider the introduction of car share preferential parking spaces

Other

Set up Green Champions staff and student forum to discuss and deliver sustainable travel initiatives

Promote sustainable travel at college events and through Student Engagement programme

Review on-line resources to promote sustainable travel initiatives