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William Gilbert Endowed (Church of England) Primary School & Nursery

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Headteacher: Mrs H Britten



31st January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to share some exciting news regarding our continued commitment to the health and wellbeing of our pupils and the wider school community. Derbyshire County Council has formally approved a long-term pilot for a School Street along Vicarage Lane, as outlined in their attached letter. This marks a significant step towards a safer, cleaner, and more sustainable environment for our children.

At William Gilbert Primary School, we have been working diligently with the support of local councillor Gez Kinsella, to establish a School Street as part of our broader initiative to promote active lifestyles in our children, improve air quality, reduce traffic congestion, and create safer journeys for our pupils. While similar schemes, known as Safe Havens, operate successfully in Derby, this will be the first operational School Street in Derbyshire.

Over the past two years, we have actively encouraged sustainable travel by installing scooter pods and bike racks, participating in initiatives such as Derbyshire's Travel Smart Weeks, Modeshift's Travel Wise Week, and Sustrans' Big Walk and Wheel initiatives. Most recently, we have been shortlisted as a finalist for a prestigious award in the 'Best Modeshift TravelWise Week Campaign – School category.

Feedback from our Parent School Street Fume Free Friday survey, is available on our school website, <https://www.williamgilbertend.derbyshire.sch.uk/active-travel/> which highlights the positive impact of these initiatives, with many families embracing walking, scooting and cycling as preferred modes of travel.

For those who need to drive into the village, we encourage you to use our 'How to Get to William Gilbert School' map, which details designated Park and Stride locations. This can be accessed via the following link: <https://www.williamgilbertend.derbyshire.sch.uk/active-travel/>

As part of this exciting initiative, we have been invited to involve our pupils in designing artwork for permits to be issued to residents and other exempted vehicles. This is a wonderful opportunity for children to contribute creatively to the project, and we will be sharing more details on how your child can get involved in the coming days.

If having read the attached letter from Derbyshire County Council, you have further questions or concerns please do not hesitate in contacting the school office.

Yours Sincerely,

E H Britten

