



Active Transportation Travel Charter

Introduction

As the number of children being driven to schools for short trips continues to grow, community streets and spaces where children gather have greater congestion which contributes to traffic safety and air quality issues. Consistent with the papal encyclical *Laudato Si*, where Pope Francis speaks to our responsibility to the environment, The Toronto Catholic District School Board is committed to ensuring that children have an opportunity to play and engage in healthy exercise, while fostering their independence in a fresh air.

Background

Active travel is an approach to transportation that focuses on physical activity, walking, riding, skateboarding, scooting to school; as opposed to motorized means. Active travel is fundamental to the health and wellbeing to children and youth to develop active travel skills. Active travel has ceased being routine for children even though active travel provides exercise, social connections and is an environmentally responsible choice

Active travel offers the ability to build and preserve physical and emotional health healthy and age appropriate independence for children. Supporting safe, active and sustainable travel reflects the principles of Ontario's Foundation for a Healthy School.

The Toronto Catholic District School Board respects the following principles in support of Active Modes of Transportation

Physical and Mental Health

Active modes of transportation are proven to promote personal health and well-being, while encouraging physical activity as a daily exercise program.

Equity

Active Transportation is universally affordable and promotes independence and safety for all community members

Community Cohesion and Appreciation

An active transportation environment encourages and facilitates a caring and connected local community

Community Safety and Accessibility

An environment where active transportation is supported by the school and the community increases community safety for all.

Activity and Learning

Daily physical activity, including active modes of transportation prepares students for learning and success in school and the community.

Environmental Sustainability

Active Modes of transportation decrease the environmental impact of schools within the community

The Toronto Catholic District School Board will:

- Connect student's active transportation to and from school to their learning in religion, health, environmental, technological, physical education and other curriculum areas, consistent with our Catholic Graduate Expectations. *(moved to first bullet)*
- Increase students overall physical activity and mental health through positive interactions with peers, parents and staff. *(moved to second bullet)*
- Invest resources to support active, safe and sustainable transportation to and from school, including efforts made within the school itself.
- Identify and remove barriers to getting to and from school actively by partnering with stakeholders to work as a coordinated team.
- Collaborate with internal and external partners to facilitate the implementation of school travel plans and road safety education along with other measures to expand on existing programs within schools.