

## Safe Routes to School

### introduction

The Safe Routes to School scheme is a national programme, taking a whole school approach to transport, safety and health, extending lessons out of the classroom in a flexible way .

The aim of the project is to support a shift from school related journeys by private cars towards walking, cycling and public transport, by increasing the independence and road sense of pupils and contribute to a greater perception of their personal safety by both pupils, parents and the wider community.

As well as focusing on improvements to the physical infrastructure of our roads, the scheme has additional long-term health benefits as it encourages walking and cycling to school.



### project

During 2003 Groundwork Thames Valley has supported 8 schools in Hillingdon helping them work through the national Safe Routes programme. Groundwork provides each school with practical help and guidance throughout the scheme.

Funding for the Safe Routes project is provided by Transport for London and distributed by London Borough of Hillingdon.



### services provided

Groundwork helps by:

- Tailoring the scheme to the individual need of the school, bringing contact with resources and contacts to run a SRTS scheme in the school. Helping them obtain funding for capital improvements.
- Organising activities for the schools and local residents such as mapping exercises to plot danger hot spots, 'walk to school' days, and safety workshops, including cycle competency, and road safety.
- Facilitating activities such as as a walking school bus, and actively involving staff, parents and pupils in practical solutions to congestion problems .

### quote

"Belmont School has seen an increase in traffic problems over the years as concerns over safety inhibit pupils from walking or cycling to school," comments from Dave Elmer, Teacher at Belmont School and Chair of the Safe & Healthy Routes Steering Group. "This project provides us with a fantastic opportunity to address these issues and work with the whole community to find a solution to enable our children to walk and cycle to school in a safe and confident manner."

