

How will your child travel to school in September? Help & information...

The Cherwell School

A centre of opportunity



Some 58% of Cherwell students cycle to school, 16% travel by bus and 15% walk – adding up to a total of 89% who use sustainable means of travel. In fact, the Cherwell School is the number one cycling school in the UK and is recognised as a model of good practice in promoting cycling.

The Cherwell School community is working to make travel to and from school safer, healthier and more environmentally sustainable. We recognise that some students have to come by car but we are keen to help students choose more sustainable forms of transport – bike, bus, walking – and to help them stay safe in doing so.

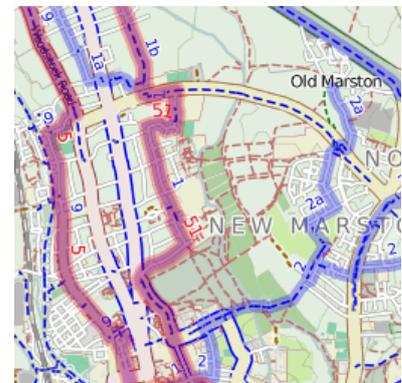
Your concerns and questions

We hope the information below will help address any concerns and questions you may have. More information is available on the school's website: visit www.cherwell.oxon.sch.uk, then click on 'Information', then 'School Travel'.

CYCLING

Safe cycling routes to Cherwell

Oxfordshire County Council has produced a map setting out routes to Cherwell avoiding main roads as far as possible. And local organisation Cyclox has published a map showing cycle and bus routes. You can download the OCC map from the school website (see link above). You can also map your own route to school by inputting your postcode into the Cyclox website (again, see link above for details).



Cycling safety

The school is aware of the risks involved in the arrival and departure of such large numbers of cyclists. Students are regularly reminded through year assemblies and school bulletins to show consideration to pedestrians and non-Cherwell cyclists, and about safety. We consistently urge students to wear helmets, and in year assemblies there are annual demonstrations of the potential consequences of not wearing one. However, the vast majority of students do not wear a helmet. The school is not in a position to enforce



Combatting cycle theft

helmet wearing. **Please** encourage your child to wear a helmet every time they cycle – wearing one yourself will set an example. (See over for discount offer.)

We would be grateful if you would talk to your child about the risks to others of cycling on pavements, and how older people are often fearful of being knocked over. We encourage the concept of polite cycling.



Most of the bike racks on the South Site are in cages which are locked during the day, and kept under surveillance during the school day. As elsewhere in Oxford with large concentrations of cycles, there are occasional thefts. You are strongly advised to ensure your child has – and always uses – a solid lock (preferably a D-lock).

Discounts on bike essentials

A Cherwell parent and owner of Summertown Cycles (200-202 Banbury Road) kindly offers members of the Cherwell community the following **discounts on some bike essentials**:

- £10 off Kryptonite (insurance-rated) U-lock – reduced from £39.95 RRP to £29.95
- £5 off any child or adult cycle helmet
- £5 off any pair of cycle lights

A voucher to take to the shop to claim your discounts can be printed off the school website (see Travel section). Bike maintenance information is also provided on the website.

BUS TRAVEL

Timetables and routes

We liaise regularly with providers of bus services. If students are experiencing difficulties with bus timetables and/or routes, do get in touch as we are occasionally able to secure changes to services. The timetables of buses serving Cherwell School can be found on the school website. The two main bus companies now have a ‘one ticket, any bus’ policy. See their websites for details: www.oxfordbus.co.uk , www.stagecoachbus.com

Bus passes

Regular bus users may already have a bus pass to come to school but did you know that you can purchase a multi-trip card for occasional or emergency use? The adult ‘Smartzone multi trip’ costs £19 for 12 trips, lasts six months and covers all zones. Parents can top up on line when the expiry date is approaching. (Meanwhile, CTAG is campaigning for a child multi-trip equivalent.)



FOR ALL PARENTS AND CARERS

If you need to bring or fetch students by car, the **only** places you are permitted to drop off or park are **either** the Rugby Club car park (South Site) **or** the Ferry Centre car park (North Site). It is not permitted to stop on school entrances or car parks under any circumstances because of the dangers posed to students and staff, and to other motorists using Marston Ferry Road. We would greatly appreciate your cooperation in this regard.

TRAVEL ACTION GROUP

The **Cherwell Travel Action Group** (CTAG) is a group of parents, staff and governors who meet once a term to work on making travel to and from school safer, environmentally sustainable and more enjoyable. We welcome your involvement and/or suggestions. If you feel that you could give a parent’s viewpoint on sustainable travel and would like to support the school by joining this parent/school link group we would love to hear from you.

For more information, to receive notifications about CTAG meetings and initiatives, or to send queries/suggestions, please contact:

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