

USING GOOGLE MAPS FOR JOURNEY PLANNING



 30-40 MINS



COMPUTER ACCESS



SOLO ACTIVITY FOR Y4, Y6, Y8

Independent travel planning: learn how to understand your new journey to a new school, so you can feel confident travelling how you want.

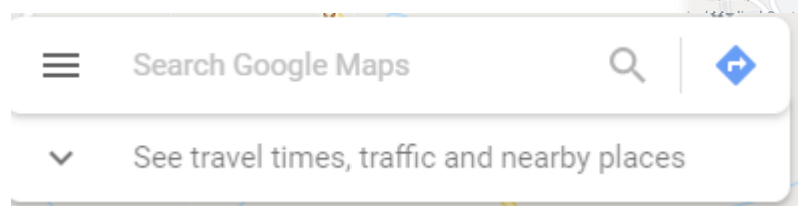
Open up Google Maps (www.google.com/maps)

Can you find where you live on Google Maps?

Can you find the school you go to now?

Can you trace the route on the screen that you currently use to travel to school?

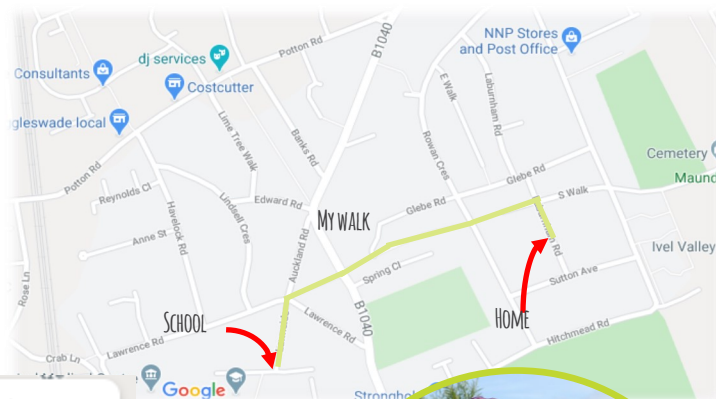
Click on the Google Maps menu (see below)



And click on the directions icon 

Enter your:

- Home postcode (your parent can help if you don't know this)
- The name of your current school
- The way you usually travel to school - walking, cycling, driving, transit (bus/train).



Does Google Maps show you the route you usually take? Is the time it takes accurate?

If not, is your route better? Using the white dots along the route, drag the route along the paths and roads you usually take.

 Click on the three horizontal lines and choose 'Bicycling'. This shows bike routes near to where you live.

You might also want to take a [look at some local travel maps](https://www.cbtravelchoices.co.uk/cycle-maps) if you live in a town (<https://www.cbtravelchoices.co.uk/cycle-maps>).

These show some routes ideal for walking and cycling (as well as bus routes).

The Active School Travel Programme is an exciting initiative for schools who wish to see more of their pupils choosing an active and healthy journey to school. The programme provides schools with the skills and knowledge to get more children walking, cycling and scooting as their main mode of transport to school. Find out more at www.sustrans.org.uk

In the Destination, replace your current school with your new school.

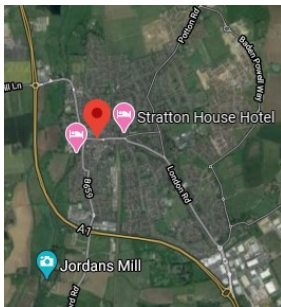
Choose the mode of travel which you want to use—walking, cycling, driving, transit (bus/train).

Adjust the route to suit you.

Can you:

- Avoid busy roads
- Re-route around tricky crossings
- Find places to meet up with friends along the way?

Find out **how far** the journey to your new school is and **how long** it will take.



Click on 'Satellite' view in the bottom left.

You will now see your journey from the sky (from a satellite image).

Practice zooming in and out using the + and - in the bottom right. (Try with the wheel of your mouse if you are using one, or double clicking your left and right mouse buttons.)



Click and drag the yellow person in the bottom right hand corner, dropping them over your house. Can you see your house? Practice navigating around your neighbourhood, spinning around and looking at things.

Now try to use **Street View** to do your journey to your new school virtually.

Note any things along the way that might be tricky, i.e. busy roads or crossings. Think about what you will need to do here so you can stay safe. Are there ways of avoiding these areas by choosing an alternative route?

Once you are happy, you can try out your route for real.

Now do some experimenting in Google Maps. Can you **plan a trip to somewhere local for your family**? Try and choose somewhere you can walk or cycle to, but a place that you think is fun.



How would you cross this tricky junction?

Extension: Plan a Longer Journey

For when it is OK to use buses and trains again, find out if it is possible to travel to these places without using a car or an aeroplane (from your nearest train station or bus stop):

- London
- Milton Keynes
- Brighton (the seaside)
- Paris
- Amsterdam.



The only place in Central Bedfordshire that is more than five miles from a train station is Haynes. It takes less than 30 minutes to ride five miles. Can you find a route to your nearest train station that uses cycle routes and avoids main roads?

Are you planning on going on holiday in the summer or later in the year? Can you help plan the route and even take a sneak peek of where you are going to go using street view.

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