



## IDENTIFY:

# SETTING UP A CLUB CYCLE BUS

## What is a Cycle Bus?

A cycle bus is a coordinated group of young cyclists, accompanied by responsible adults, travelling to the club grounds. Being part is a cycle bus is a great way for younger club members to travel to training, matches and club activities by bike safely and in confidence.

A cycle bus is led by a number of parents/guardian cyclists. The cycle bus takes a specific route to the club grounds and has pre-agreed stops along the way where young club members can join.

There should always be at least two adult volunteers (one at the front and one at the back) for the cycle bus with additional volunteers in the middle for groups larger than six children. Enlist the support and advice of the club Children's Officer to ensure child safeguarding measures are fully adhered to at all times.

## How can we start a Cycle Bus in our club?

1. Contact the parent/guardian group(s) of the relevant teams.
2. If there is a local cycling club, invite them to get involved or to lead the initiative.
3. Hold a meeting to decide the cycle bus route.
4. Nominate the cycle bus lead coordinator/s and encourage them to set out a cycle bus volunteer rota.
5. Encourage the parent/guardian volunteers or local cycle club to carry out a cyclability audit of the chosen route, using the Green Club Cyclability and Route Audit template, and to submit any relevant findings to your local authority point of contact.
6. Consider organising safe cycle training in your club for cycle bus participants (Contact the relevant officer in your local authority or see <https://www.cycleright.ie/courses> or <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/our-blog/projects/2019/northern-ireland/cycle-training-in-northern-ireland/>).
7. Encourage participating parents/guardians to communicate and coordinate through a messaging app/group.
8. Encourage the lead coordinator(s) to ensure that the route, stops, timings and club cycle bus guidelines are clearly communicated to all participants.

## Participants in club Cycle Buses should:

- Wear high visibility clothing.
- Have lights on their bikes.
- Have a bike that is in good working order, with both front and back brakes working properly.
- Cycle sensibly as to not cause danger to themselves or others.
- Have taken measures to carry all gear and equipment safely while cycling.
- Hi-visibility vests, armbands and bags are available from <https://www.rsaorders.ie/>

## Where can we get more information or support?

The Green Schools Programme, run by An Taisce, promotes cycle buses for school students and has information and guidance available at:

<https://greenschoolsireland.org/travel/cyclebusnetwork/>

If you need further support or guidance in setting up a cycle bus for your club, contact your local authority point of contact (<https://learning.gaa.ie/greenclub>).

If a school, cycle club or parents' group in your area is already running a cycle bus, get in touch for recommendations and advice. If no local school or parents' group currently runs a cycle bus, consider following up to share your club's experience once your own cycle bus is up and cycling.

