



Gold 2025-26 Connecting Schools Grant Case Study

Early childhood bike library initiative – St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School

What they did

- Established an early childhood bike library with age-appropriate bikes and equipment.
- Created a shared resource so students could practise riding in a safe, familiar school environment.
- Built regular bike riding practice into early childhood learning and outdoor play to help students develop bike skills over time.

What was achieved

- Improved access to bikes for younger students, including those without a suitable bike at home.
- Built students' balance, coordination, confidence and basic bike-handling skills.
- Helped make riding a regular, enjoyable part of early childhood learning and outdoor play.

Why it worked

- The shared model reduced access barriers and allowed equipment to be used across classes.
- Repeated practice helped students develop skills gradually and build confidence over time.
- Introducing riding early supported a positive active travel culture from the start of schooling.

Advice for other schools

- Start small with equipment suited to student age and ability.
- Build regular riding practice into existing school activities to sustain use.
- Use Your Move stories to share outcomes and help other schools adapt the idea.

“The bike library has given younger students more chances to practise riding, build confidence and experience the fun of active travel.” - Sarah Kavanagh, Your Move Champion



Background

The Early Childhood Education (ECE) Bike Library initiative was developed to make bike riding more accessible for young children and families, supporting the Your Move goal of helping school communities build healthy, active travel habits. The project aligned with the Connecting Schools Grant focus on improving bike access, skills and infrastructure so more students can walk, wheel, scoot and ride to school with confidence.

Project description

Through the Connecting Schools Grant support, the school established a bike library for early childhood education students. The initiative provided age-appropriate bikes and equipment so children could practise riding in a safe, familiar environment. By giving students regular opportunities to build balance, coordination and confidence, the project helped create a stronger culture of active travel from the early years.

Key steps

- The school identified a need for practical, child-friendly bike access to help younger students develop riding skills.
- Applied for grant funding to purchase bikes and supporting equipment for early childhood students.
- Promoted the initiative through Your Move stories to share learnings and inspire other schools.

Outcomes

- Improved access to bikes for early childhood students, including children who may not have a suitable bike available at home or regular opportunities to practise riding.
- Created a shared school resource that can be used across classes and year groups, helping the school get ongoing value from the grant-funded equipment.

- Supported students to build balance, coordination, confidence and basic bike-handling skills in a safe and familiar school setting.
- Helped younger students view riding as fun, achievable and part of everyday school life, rather than a one-off activity.
- Provided teachers and staff with a practical tool to include active transport learning in early childhood activities and outdoor play.
- Strengthened the school's active travel culture by introducing positive riding experiences early, helping students develop skills that may support future riding, scooting or walking to school.
- Demonstrated a simple, scalable model that other schools could adapt to reduce barriers to bike education and encourage more active travel participation.

Key takeaways

- A shared bike library is a practical way to remove access barriers for younger students.
- Starting bike skills early can help children develop confidence before they begin riding independently to school.
- Embedding bikes into regular school activities helps sustain momentum beyond a one-off event.
- Sharing the project through Your Move helps other schools learn from the approach and adapt it to their own setting.

Acknowledgements

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Read the story about this project:

- Your Move | ECE Bike Library Initiative

The ECE bike shed at St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School

