

Cycling makes life simpler

Nowadays riding a bicycle has become more of a leisure trend than a means of transportation, in fact we mostly see them in skateparks. It would be very effective, both economically and health-wise to use them even for mobility purposes. Thanks to the ¹Green Plan Survey done on the initiative of the EkoSkola Year 10 Committee of St Benedict College, it was found that in fact there are students and staff who come to school riding a bicycle.

What do the cyclists think about the routes?

In order to encourage people to come to school or elsewhere by a bicycle we'd have to show them that it's secure. One of the cyclists said "The routes are never 100% safe due to the lack of cycling paths and the condition of the Maltese streets". Moreover "due to lack of knowledge some drivers may find a difficulty on what to do when they encounter a cyclist on the road" he added. "Only experienced cyclists like myself may be comfortable cycling on the Maltese roads"- This was a student who cycles daily to our school. Mr Buttigieg a teacher and a cyclist from the same school agreed with the student and said that there should be more bicycle lanes for cyclists. Mr Buttigieg cycles almost daily from Marsascala to Kirkop.

Are there enough spaces where bicycles can be parked?

"Bike parking spaces seems to be a big problem in school", said one of the students. He explained that there is one rack

¹ Green School Travel Plan 2021-2022, St Benedict College, Secondary School, Kirkop

with five bicycle spaces and this may not be attractive for students to use a bike, also because the present rack is considered by many as a wheel bender. He went on to state that about a month ago an office was built next to this rack leaving it almost inaccessible. Mr Buttigieg agreed with the student, and he also added that there need to be ample space, possibly sheltered, to protect bikes from rain and sun and maybe even a space where cyclists can store their helmet and clothing.

The EkoSkola identified a place where bike racks, of the Sheffield type, can be installed and they are also trying to find a sponsor so that PV panels will be installed on top of the bike station so they can be sheltered and at the same time generate electricity



What are the benefits of coming to school by bike?

Both student and teacher agreed that whilst having fun riding a bike, it is even good source of exercise and environment-friendly. The student stated that “Students coming to school with the bike over for example being driven by car, would make a significant difference to global warming and air pollution in general and for every new cyclist there can be another person inspired to do the same”.