

Abstract International Cycling Safety Conference 2014

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Bikeability – Cycling proficiency for the 21st century in Britain

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ABSTRACT

Bikeability is a government funded national cycle training scheme that was set up in 2006 after extensive consultation with cycling experts throughout the country, it was designed to give the next generation the skills and confidence to ride their bikes safely on today's roads.

Our instructors are trained over a 4 day course and have to qualify to train cyclists to the national standards and all are CRB/ DBS checked on an annual basis.

Funding for 2014/2015 has been agreed at £12 million and this amount has also been guaranteed for 2015/2016. It is estimated that more than 1.5 million young cyclists in Primary and Secondary schools will have been trained by March 2015.

There are 3 levels of Bikeability and children will typically start lessons once they have learnt to ride their bikes. **Level 1** helps new riders to control their bike before they move on to developing on road skills at level 2. **Level 2** is usually tackled by Years 5/6 (10 -11years old) before they leave Primary schools and is taught on the quieter roads initially , graduating onto slightly busier roads. **Level 3** teaches trainees how to ride in busier, more challenging traffic situations and is usually completed by trainees at secondary school level.

This is a very brief coverage of the scheme and by no means comprehensive but it has already started to create an ethos of cycle training as a part of normal school activity and will form the base of safe cycling in Britain into the foreseeable future.

References

1. contactus@bikeability.org.uk
2. <http://bikeability.dft.gov.uk>