

Schools

Westmeath Sports Partnership and Westmeath County Council have secured funding from the Department of Transport to support cycling events during **National Bike Week 2026**.

Schools are invited to apply for funding to organize their own **FREE** Bike Week event during Bike Week 2026. The scale and scope of your National Bike Week event is up to each applicant; however, applications that focus on the following event criteria will be prioritized:

Event Criteria:

- The event **MUST** take place from the **9th to 17th May 2026**
- The Event must be **FREE** to take part in.
- Fun Cycles (5k, 10k etc) Slow Bike Races, Cycling Obstacle Courses, Nature Cycles,
- Cycle to School Days (particularly Wednesday 13th May which is COW (Cycling on Wednesdays)
- Lunch Time Cycles, Cycling Games and Activities. These events can be complemented by Arts and Craft classes with a cycling theme, bicycle maintenance workshops & safety talks
- Focus on inclusion, non-competitive, community focus, family, local school participation.
- Need some ideas, then check out some of the potential events on **page 2**

Funding Availability:

The maximum amounts are available per School is **€300**

Application:

To apply please complete the online application form, closing date for applications is **Midday Wednesday 15th of April**. The application is online and will take approximately 9 minutes to complete.



[For the full list of application questions see page 3.](#)

Successful Applicants will be contacted on or before **Monday 20th April**.

Funding will be issued post the event and pending submission of a brief event report. Report forms will be provided to all successful applicants.

For further information please see our dedicated Bike Week page or contact Westmeath Sports Partnership on e-mail at info@westmeathsports.ie or by phone 044 93 90208

Ideas for potential events:

- Week long cycle festival
- Family fun cycle
- Cycle challenge 5km, 10km, 20km ... (Couch to 50k) – build up in weeks preceding BW
- Cycle to Work (record previous weeks commute time & compare to this week, prize for most time saved/ stories/ pictures)
- Cycle to School
- Competitions
- Bike Repair Workshops / Basic bike repair demonstrations
- Leisure cycling involving community groups (e.g scouts, youth clubs etc.)
- Cycle for your breakfast/lunch/BBQ /picnic etc.
- Colouring, 'Bling your Bike' and Bike related photography competitions.
- Mystery/History/Scenic Tours of area (guided/self-guided) – Discover 'Place'
- Treasure Hunt
- Bike orienteering
- Women Only events
- Group cycles:- active retirement groups, nursing homes, work colleagues (lunchtime fitness) etc.
- Close a street for a bike festival with Balance Bikes, Jenga, Bling your bike, Soccer etc. (involve traders)
- Cycling skills course
- Restaurant bike crawl
- Mountain bike rides
- Road rides
- Tandem Bike events for the visually impaired etc.
- Cycling events for children/adults with a physical/intellectual disability
- Dawn Cycle – 'Darkness into light' type event
- Bikes available to try, electric bikes, cargo bikes, tandem, folding, trailers, child carriers etc.
- Donate unused/unwanted bike (local bike shop repairs, then donate to good cause such as local refugee centre)
- Movie/documentary screening of cycling related content.

Other Considerations: -

- Consider refreshments, bike related prizes/voucher, medal/trophy.
- Consider entertainment: band/music, performers, face painters, carnival entertainers.
- Consider stands: bike displays, maintenance, repair demo, cycling information.
- Consider events showcasing new/existing infrastructure/facilities: greenways, cycle lanes, national parks, bike parking, public bike schemes.

Potential Partners: -

- Cycling Clubs/ Industry, including
- Local Cycling Clubs – organise and or support events
- Cycling Shops
- Cycling Hire
- Cycling Tours
- Cycling Organisations (Cycling Without Age etc.)
- Local business

Generally, when considering the suitability of events, consider the aims of Bike Week - to encourage those that never (or seldom) use a bike to use it more.

Bike Week Application – list of questions

| | |
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| Q1 | Name of School, Cycling Club, Community Group or Business applying |
| Q2 | Address |
| Q3 | Contact persons name |
| Q4 | Contact person mobile number |
| Q5 | Contact person e-mail address |
| Q6 | Bike week event title |
| Q7 | Aim of event |
| Q8 | Event description |
| Q9 | Event date |
| Q10 | Event location |
| Q11 | Event start time |
| Q12 | Event meeting time and location |
| Q13 | Who can take part (families , kids , adults) |
| Q14 | How many participants do you expect |
| Q15 | Funding request for event |
| Q16 | Breakdown of event costs |
| Q17 | Declaration |