

STREET CHILD

THE BIG RIDE 2026 STARTER INFO PACK



THANK YOU FOR TAKING ON THE BIG RIDE!

Taking on The Big Ride is no small feat, so first and foremost—congratulations on signing up! By taking on this challenge, you're not only pushing your own limits but also making a real difference.

The Big Ride is the most important moment of the year for Street Child, consistently raising over £1million each year to keep thousands of children safe, in school and learning.

We hope that over the course of your training and fundraising, and at the event itself, you'll take the time to learn more about our work and the massive impact you're having to transform the lives of children and families in some of the world's most remote and vulnerable places.

This is a helpful starting guide that should answer any initial questions you have about the event. A more detailed guide will be shared closer to the event including information about transport and with more specific timings.

Thank you so much for taking on this epic challenge and for choosing to support Street Child. See you in The Chilterns, UK!

KEY PLANNING INFORMATION

ACCOMODATION

When is the Big Ride taking place?

Tuesday 16th June: Base Camp opens from 18:00

Wednesday 17th June: Day 1 of Challenges: Cycling & Hiking

Thursday 18th June: Day 2 of Challenges: Cycling & Running/Walking

Friday 19th June: Base Camp closes at 10:00

Where is the Big Ride taking place?

The Big Ride is taking place in The Chilterns at Show field, Culden Faw Estate, RG9 3AS

Where will I stay?

All accommodation for the 2026 event will be at the event base camp on the Culden Faw Estate.

The base camp will be open from 18:00 on Tuesday 16th June, until 10:00 on Friday 19th June 2026.

Accommodation will be housed in a premium bespoke campsite with all facilities located on site. You will be allocated a two-man tent that will be for your sole use during the event.

Accommodation is included once you have been confirmed for the event. All your meals (breakfasts, snacks, lunches and dinners) from dinner on 16th June up to and including breakfast the morning of 19th June are also included.

Can I stay off site?

Should you decide not to join us at base camp alternative accommodation and all logistics of getting to and from base camp will be your responsibility and all costs will be your own.

KEY PLANNING INFORMATION TRAVEL TO AND FROM THE EVENT

How do I get to the event?

By car: The event will take place at Show Field, Culden Faw Estate, RG9 3AS. The estate is about an hour outside of central London and 40 minutes from Heathrow.

By shuttle service: When registering for the event online, please indicate if you will be driving or if you will require the shuttle service. A travel survey and subsequently a shuttle timetable will then be issued closer to the event. Please note shuttle services will only run to coincide with basecamp opening times. Early arrivals will not be able to gain access to basecamp due to health and safety.

London Heathrow will be the only airport with a free shuttle service to the event. We are looking into other possible transport locations currently and therefore we recommend holding off booking travel for now until all final locations are shared.

Please note: Taxis and transfers taken outside of these times need to be arranged by the participant and are at the participant's own expense.

Is there parking?

Yes, plenty of parking available.

Bikes booked on flights

We will be unable to transport bikes on any shuttles, if you are transporting your own bike please also make your own arrangements from the airport to base camp.

All participants must depart by 10:00 on Friday 19th June.

WHAT TO EXPECT ON THE DAY

ROUTES & DISTANCES

Cycling Routes

The routes will include some hill climbs and so it is strongly recommended that **adequate training is undertaken before the event**. You will be asked to sign up for your preferred routes at registration, but should you wish to change once you get on site this is possible by speaking to one of the onsite reception staff.

The Big Ride cycling routes are categorised by colours:

The Blue route is considered moderately challenging and is ideal for those less experienced, those who may not have completed the training for the longer rides or for those looking for an enjoyable half day ride.

The Red route is considered challenging due to its mountainous terrain, significant elevation gain, steep climbs, making it a tough ride even for experienced cyclists, particularly if not adequately prepared. While not as long as the Black route, it still demands a good level of endurance and climbing ability.

The Black route is considered very challenging, due to its mountainous terrain, significant elevation gain, steep climbs and long distance, making it a tough test even for experienced cyclists who need to be well-prepared to complete it successfully.

Run/Walking Routes

There are three running routes, which you are also welcome to walk, which are mostly flat and are as follows:

Purple route: 10km – 1 lap

Yellow route: Half marathon – 1 lap

Orange route: Marathon – 2 laps of the half marathon

Hiking Route

After last year's popularity, the hike (white route) is back and this time it has been extended to c.10 miles for a real challenge! Please note this is different to walking the "run" route and will include steep climbs and mixed terrain.

WHAT TO EXPECT ON THE DAY

ROUTES & DISTANCES

Maps and GPX files for routes will be made available closer to the event as they are still subject to change.

Day 1 Start Times: Cycling & Hiking

09:00 – 09:30 Black route cyclists start window

10:00 – 10:30 Red route cyclists start window

11:00 – 11:30 Blue route cyclists start window

10:00 – beginner hike group starts (white route)

10:30 – intermediate hike group starts (white route)

11:00 – advanced hike group starts (white route)

Day 2 Start Times: Cycling & Running/Walking

09:00 – 09:30 Black route cyclists start window

10:00 – 10:30 Red route cyclists start window

10:30 – 10:45 Run/Walkers warm up and set off

11:00 – 11:30 Blue route cyclists start window

Please note: These timings are subject to change over the next few months whilst we work on route permissions, but for now are to provide you with a guide.

We advise that participants riding the black route cycle be on site the night before their event to ensure being ready for the earlier start time. If you are arriving on site of the morning of your event, please arrive one hour to prior to your allocated start time to ensure you have time to register, collect jersey/vest, eat breakfast

FUNDRAISING, COSTS & CANCELLATION

Here is a reminder of the fundraising costs for each challenge:

- Two-Day Challenge + Camping (3 nights): £3150
- One-Day Challenge + Camping (2 nights): £2100
- One-Day Challenge - No Camping: £1575

Liberty Global and Liberty Global OpCos please disregard the above costings.

What if I want to cancel?

Contact details to withdraw from The Big Ride: events@street-child.co.uk

Charges if you pull out

If you pull out of the event after midnight on 19th May 2026, you will be charged a cancellation charge of £850. We cannot refund your sponsors if you pull out or are forced to cancel. We cannot refund your sponsors if the event is cancelled or shortened for unforeseen circumstances.

Fundraising Page

We'll support you through your fundraising journey, keeping you up to date on our work on the ground. For now, the first step is to set up a fundraising page!

Please ensure you create your page through the correct link below:

- Liberty Global employees [sign up here](#)
- Liberty Blume employees [sign up here](#)
- Virgin Media O2 employees [sign up here](#)
- Virgin Media Ireland employees [sign up here](#)
- Telenet employees [sign up here](#)
- Sunrise employees [sign up here](#)
- VodafoneZiggo employees [sign up here](#)
- If you work at another company, please [sign up here](#)

Click on the **Start Fundraising** button and follow the steps from there.

If asked which event you are taking on, you can skip this step.

FUNDRAISING FOR STREET CHILD



Fundraising at The Big Ride has never been more important.

Global aid for education is falling fast. Cuts led by major donors, including the UK and US, have triggered a 25% drop in funding. Primary education, which is Street Child's focus, is expected to see funding reduced by about a third. These cuts put an additional 6 million children at risk of dropping out of school. At the very moment when children's needs are soaring, support for their education is shrinking.

These cuts are landing on vulnerable children already living through profound disruptions. Across conflict-affected countries like Nigeria and Ukraine, in communities hit hard by climate disasters, and in places where poverty is rising sharply, millions of children are seeing their education interrupted, and their futures pushed further out of reach.

Street Child is built for this moment. With deep experience working in fragile, hard-to-reach, and rapidly changing environments, we deliver education where others can't or won't. Education isn't just something to be protected. It's the best path to possibility. By taking on The Big Ride, you can help keep classrooms open, teachers paid, and children learning.



WHAT TO BRING RECOMMENDED KIT LIST

What do I pack?

We recommend layering up so that you can add or remove items of clothing to keep you at a comfortable temperature. Always make sure you carry waterproof layers with you and buy clothes made from a fabric that is designed specifically for exercise that will absorb sweat and dry out quickly.

Travel / Evening Wear

It is very important that you keep baggage to a minimum as there is limited space within your personal tents. Pack warm and comfortable, casual evening-wear for when we kick back and relax in the evenings. Please note that although the event takes place in the summer, evenings can become cool.

- *Passport (or National Identity Card if appropriate)*
- *EHIC Card (formerly E111) - these are free*
- *Flip flops / trainers*
- *Casual trousers*
- *T-Shirts / shirts*
- *Sweater / hoody*
- *Warm jacket*
- *Warm hat*
- *Toiletries*
- *Money for bar / bike parts*
- *Plastic bag for wet / dirty kit*
- *Torch*
- *Sunscreen*
- *Travel adapter and phone charger to charge your phone overnight*
- *Sleeping bag / pillow / roll mat*
- *Towel*
- *Battery pack*

Recommended Personal First Aid Kit

- *Your normal choice of painkillers*
- *Fabric plasters*
- *Blister fabric, e.g. RockTape/ Compeed*
- *Any personal medication (prescription or non-prescription)*

Cycling specific list

Kit

We will provide you with a Big Ride breathable, high quality cycling shirt for each day of your ride.

Please pack the following:

- *Cycling shorts*
- *Socks*
- *Cycling shoes with clip in pedals / firm-soled shoes or trainers*
- *Bike helmet: Compulsory. No helmet no ride!*
- *LED bike lights with spare batteries (for bad weather / dusk finishes) Compulsory*
- *Waterproof lightweight jacket*
- *Cycling gloves*
- *Cycling overshoes (a good idea if the weather looks bad, but not essential)*
- *Arm and leg warmers (if it looks like the weather will be bad)*
- *Sunglasses*
- *Sun cream*
- *2 x water bottles*
- *2 x bottle cages attached to your bike*
- *Mobile phone (fully charged with your emergency contact saved under Next of Kin)*
- *Medical / First aid kit (see above)*
- *Warm and comfortable, casual evening-wear for when we kick back and relax in the evenings. Please note that although the event takes place in the summer, evenings can become cool.*

Cycle repair kit

As the route is circular you shouldn't need a day sack but please ensure you carry the following with you:

- *Mini bike pump*
- *2 new inner tubes (check they fit your bike)*
- *A puncture repair kit including tyre levers*
- *Multi tool (with correct allen keys for your bike)*
- *Chain repair links (contact your local bike shop if you're unsure about chain repair).*
- *Bike/chain lubricant*

WHAT TO BRING RECOMMENDED KIT LIST

Run/walk/ hike specific list

Kit

We will provide you with a Big Ride breathable, high quality running shirt for your run.

Please pack the following:

- *T-shirt*
- *Shorts*
- *Trainers / walking boots (comfortable and worn in)*
- *Pair of socks*
- *Sunglasses*
- *Waterproof jacket (recommend lightweight)*
- *Mobile phone (fully charged with your emergency contact saved under next of kin)*
- *Race belt*
- *Sun cream*

Hike Specific

Kit

We will provide you with a Big Ride breathable, high quality hiking shirt for your hike.

Please pack the following:

Mandatory

- *Hiking shoes (recommend hiking boots with ankle support)*
- *Small rucksack (recommend 20 - 30 litre capacity, preferably with a rain cover)*
- *Waterproof jacket & trousers*
- *Spare warm gear (including fleece, hat & gloves)*
- *Waterproof bags (to keep clothes dry)*
- *Water bottles (capable of carrying 2 litres of water)*
- *Mobile phone (fully charged with your emergency contact saved under next of kin)*
- *Sunglasses & suncream*
- *Medical / First aid kit (see above)*

Optional

- *Collapsible trekking poles (if unsteady on feet or knee injury)*

FAQs BIKE

If you've got any niggling questions about bikes, here's where you'll find lots of helpful information and guidance whether it's from what kind of bike to ride the event on or whether to invest in cleats.

Which is the best bike for the Big Ride?

The ideal bike needs to:

- Be lightweight and stiff enough for efficient power transfer
- Have a comfortable saddle for a long day perched on it
- Have a wide range of gearing to ensure that you can take on significant climbs
- You can use a road bike or a hybrid bike on this route but we would not recommend a mountain bike unless you put on thinner road tyres

Can I hire a bike for the event?

We do encourage everyone to bring their own bikes as we don't have any rental bikes on site. If you would like to hire a bike, this must be organised by individual participants.

I have a hybrid bike. Will that be ok for the event?

- A good quality lightweight hybrid bike would still be suitable
- A high-end hybrid bike can be almost as fast as a similarly priced road bike whilst offering a less aggressive riding position.

What is the best gearing set up?

- For the widest range of gear ratios, either opt for a triple chainset at the front or a compact double chainset
- Both of these with a wide ratio cassette at the rear (such as 12-28T) will offer a good range of gears to get up most climbs

Is it essential to have drop (racing bike style) handlebars?

- Drop bars allow a rider to get into a lower, more aerodynamic, riding position which reduces wind resistance and allows you to ride more efficiently
- Riding on the drops for any period of time can take practice to get your body used to this aggressive position. It is by no means essential, but if used correctly can be a performance advantage
- Aero handlebars are not permitted

Bike Maintenance

Please ensure you do the following:

- Go to a decent bike shop and get it set up so that it is optimised for your own body shape and size. Minor changes can make a big difference.
- Get the bike serviced before you go.
- Make sure your tyres and inner tubes are good quality and in good condition.
- Make sure your brakes and brake pads are in good working order and condition. On the red and black routes there are significant hills along the route with long steep descents. If in doubt install new brake pads before the event.
- Thicker tyres help prevent punctures. You can also buy slime that you put into your tyres and it repairs small punctures automatically.
- Learn to change an inner tube and carry everything with you to enable you to do so. This is important.

FAQs

GENERAL CYCLING

Will there be mechanical support on the road? Do I need to bring a puncture repair kit?

There will be mechanical support available out on the road and at the pit stops.

The mechanical teams will have a wide range of supplies to ensure everyone has the best chance of finishing the route. If you have a problem with your bike they will aim to fix it for free, but any components needed to fix the bike will be at a charge. Please bring cash and a bank card with you to cover this should you need parts replaced on your bike during the event.

We ask all riders to bring the following and also to be able to fix a puncture:

- Pump
- x2 new inner tubes (check they fit your bike)
- A puncture repair kit including tyre levers

If you have a problem out on the road then you can call the emergency number on the back of your bike number and the mechanical support team will come and find you as soon as possible.

Are there toilet facilities on route?

There will be toilets at each designated pit stop as well as full facilities in all areas of the base camp. Hike toilets are available at the car park where the hike starts and finishes

Do I have to wear a helmet?

Yes. Safety out on the road is paramount to us and you will not be allowed to ride without one.

Will there be support crew?

There will be plenty of support crew on hand in support vehicles, including a first aider, marshals, and bike mechanics. There will also be bike chaperones throughout the route to help encourage you throughout the day.

How should I prepare for the challenge?

We encourage people from all backgrounds and of all shapes, ages, sizes and fitness levels to sign up to The Big Ride. What we do ask is that you follow a training plan before you embark on the event so that you are able to actually enjoy the experience rather than huffing and puffing your way through it!

Is it a race?

The event is an adventure ride rather than a race.

What are the roads like for cycling?

The road surfaces for the whole trip are suitable for all bike types including road bikes. We have planned the routes to be a balance between quiet roads, beautiful scenery and good road surfaces. However, the nature of long distance cycling means that there are short periods when you may need to cycle on a busier road.

What happens if I can't complete the ride/run?

If you have trained, the Big Ride is achievable for people of all fitness and experience levels. We have different routes to challenge people of all abilities – please choose the right one for you. Should day 1 be tough then you are free to choose a different route for day 2.

If you are struggling the support vehicles can help you out. We suggest you check out our training pages for lots of tips and advice on how to get Big Ride fit.

FAQs

RUNNING / WALKING

Is the route signed?

- Yes, the run/walk route is fully signed with white and yellow arrows.

What is the terrain like?

- The route will be a mix of forest paths and country roads with a manageable amount of elevation.

What footwear is best for the terrain?

- A good pair of trails shoes, running trainers or walking boots that have soles with some grip
- Make sure you break in your chosen footwear before the event. You should have a thumb's width between the end of your toe & the end of the shoe
- For the hike we recommend a good pair of walking boots
- Socks are as vital as the shoes; the wrong pair can cause discomfort even in well-fitting shoes. Your socks should fit snugly, and be a comfortable length so they don't fall down when you're moving. Look for socks made from natural materials like cotton or wool

ANYMORE QUESTIONS GET IN TOUCH

Please keep an eye out for further event updates by email and on the Street Child website.

A full list of FAQs can be found at the bottom of the [Street Child Webpage here](#).

We will also be running regular webinars where you can have your questions answered on all things Big Ride. The dates and times are as followed:

- Thursday, 5th March at 3:00 PM (UK time) via [this Teams link](#).
- Thursday, 16th April at 3:00 PM (UK time) via [this Teams link](#).
- Thursday, 21st May at 3:00 PM (UK time) via [this Teams link](#).

To sign up for these webinars and for further event information not covered in this pack please contact The Big Ride team at events@street-child.co.uk

We wish you the very best of luck in your training and fundraising and look forward to seeing you soon!