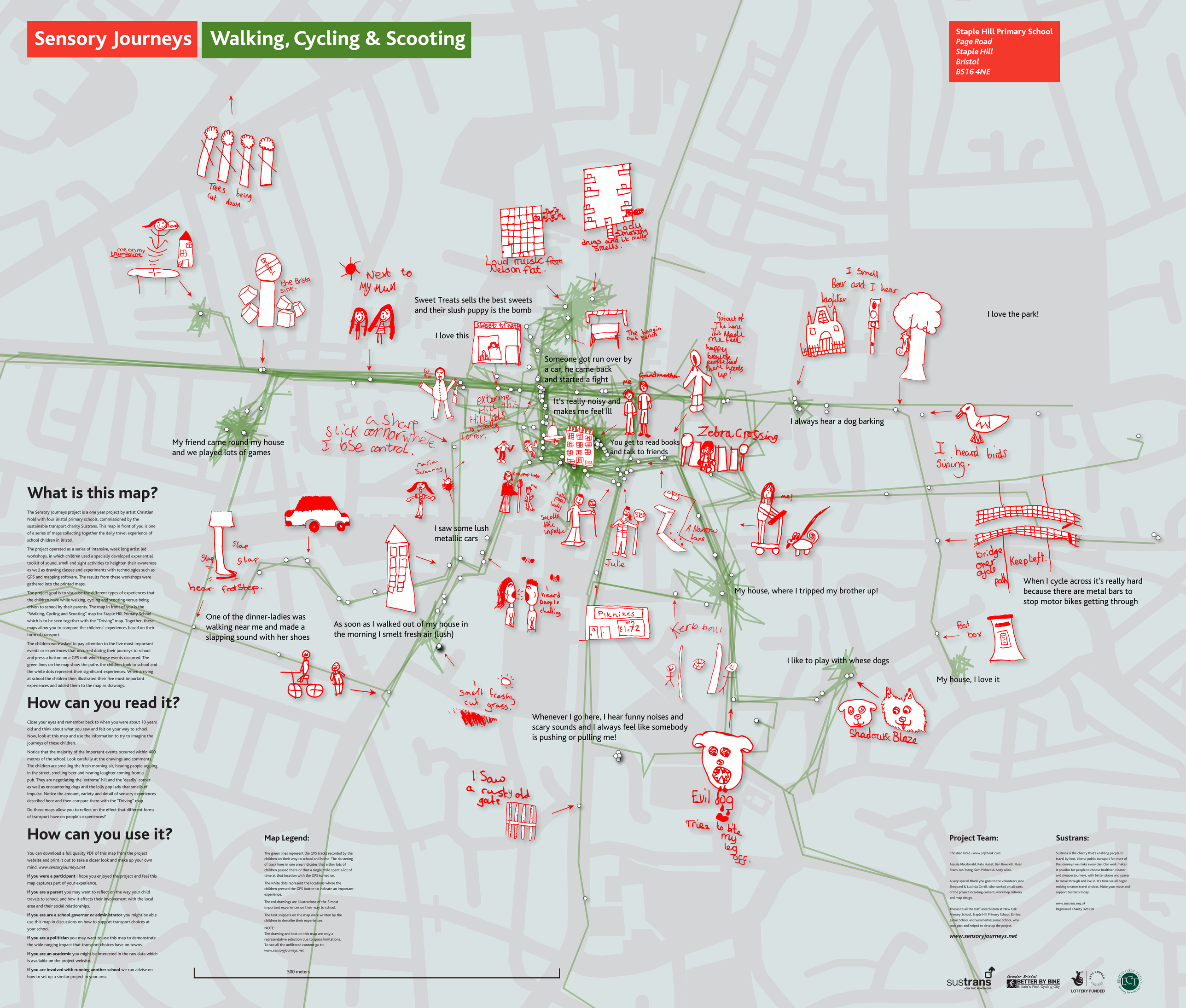
Sensory Journeys | Walking, Cycling & Scooting

Staple Hill Primary School
Page Road
Staple Hill
Bristol
BS16 4NE



What is this map?

The Sensory Journeys project is a one year project by artist Christian Nold with four Bristol primary schools, commissioned by the sustainable transport charity Sustrans. This map in front of you is one of a series of maps collecting together the daily travel experience of school children in Bristol.

The project operated as a series of intensive, week long artist led workshops, in which children used a specially developed experiential toolkit of sound, smell and sight activities to heighten their awareness as well as drawing classes and experiments with technologies such as GPS and mapping software. The results from these workshops were gathered into the printed maps.

The project goal is to visualise the different types of experiences that the children have while walking, cycling and scooting versus being driven to school by their parents. The map in front of you is the "Walking, Cycling and Scooting" map for Staple Hill Primary School which is to be seen together with the "Driving" map. Together, these maps allow you to compare the childrens' experiences based on their form of transport.

The children were asked to pay attention to the five most important events or experiences that occurred during their journeys to school and press a button on a GPS unit when these events occurred. The green lines on the map show the paths the children took to school and the white dots represent their significant experiences. When arriving at school the children then illustrated their five most important experiences and added them to the map as drawings.

How can you read it?

Close your eyes and remember back to when you were about 10 years old and think about what you saw and felt on your way to school. Now, look at this map and use the information to try to imagine the journeys of these children.

Notice that the majority of the important events occurred within 400 metres of the school. Look carefully at the drawings and comments. The children are smelling the fresh morning air, hearing people arguing in the street, smelling beer and hearing laughter coming from a pub. They are negotiating the 'extreme' hill and the 'deadly' corner as well as encountering dogs and the lolly pop lady that smells of Impulse. Notice the amount, variety and detail of sensory experiences described here and then compare them with the "Driving" map.

Do these maps allow you to reflect on the effect that different forms of transport have on people's experiences?

How can you use it?

You can download a full quality PDF of this map from the project website and print it out to take a closer look and make up your own mind. *www.sensoryjourneys.net*

If you were a participant I hope you enjoyed the project and feel this map captures part of your experience.

If you are a parent you may want to reflect on the way your child travels to school, and how it affects their involvement with the local area and their social relationships.

If you are are a school governor or administrator you might be able use this map in discussions on how to support transport choices at your school.

If you are a politician you may want to use this map to demonstrate the wide ranging impact that transport choices have on towns.

If you are an academic you might be interested in the raw data which is available on the project website.

If you are involved with running another school we can advise on how to set up a similar project in your area.

Map Legend:

The green lines represent the GPS tracks recorded by the children on their way to school and home. The clustering of track lines in one area indicates that either lots of children passed there or that a single child spent a lot of time at that location with the GPS turned on.

The white dots represent the locations where the children pressed the GPS button to indicate an important experience.

The red drawings are illustrations of the 5 most important experiences on their way to school.

The text snippets on the map were written by the children to describe their experiences.

NOTE:
The drawing and text on this map are only a representative selection due to space limitations.
To see all the unfiltered content go to:
www.sensoryjourneys.net

500 meters

Project Team:

Christian Nold - *www.softhook.com*

Alessia Macdonald, Katy Hallet, Ben Bowskill , Ryan Evans, Ian Tsang, Sam Pickard & Andy Allan.

A very special thank you goes to the volunteers Jane Sheppard & Lucinda Orrell, who worked on all parts of the project including content, workshop delivery and map design.

Thanks to all the staff and children at New Oak Primary School, Staple Hill Primary School, Elmlea Junior School and Summerhill Junior School, who took part and helped to develop the project.

www.sensoryjourneys.net

Sustrans:

Sustrans is the charity that's enabling people to travel by foot, bike or public transport for more of the journeys we make every day. Our work makes it possible for people to choose healthier, cleaner and cheaper journeys, with better places and spaces to move through and live in. It's time we all began making smarter travel choices. Make your move and support Sustrans today.

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