

Pupils' bike initiative wins award

Ambassadors want to see more girls riding to school

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Students at an Upminster school are leading a campaign to get more girls cycling.

The group are Youth Travel Ambassadors for Coopers' Company and Coborn School and have won the Princess Diana award for encouraging classmates to ride to lessons.

The school, in St Mary's Lane, said cycling was popular with boys but an effort was needed to get more girls to cycle.

Since becoming ambassadors, the pupils have recruited their friends to travel to school with them.

Lee Hanford, the school travel co-ordinator, said: "Some of the girls did worry

about things like their hair being messed up or needing to get changed after cycling and they are able to use the locker rooms to do this.

Peer pressure

"It's one of the hardest groups to get to cycle because of peer pressure but we have encouraged others to support them to do this."

The girls received their award on Wednesday for their "ambitious and forward-thinking campaign".

One of the ambassadors, Kayleigh Locke, 13, said: "I started cycling because it's a faster way to get to school and you get a lie-in because it's quicker to get in."

"Some people don't like cycling before school as it messes up your hair but it doesn't really bother me. Be-



■ Izzy Hazael, Kayleigh Locke, Anna Stodart and Harriet Honeywell on their bikes

sides you can always bring a brush and pretty yourself in the loos anyway."

Fellow ambassador, Izzy Hazael, 12, said: "I love cycling because I feel free and I love riding beside my two dogs on the weekends. I really think other girls should just do it."

Classmate Harriet Honeywell, 13, said the free Biker Breakfasts offered to pupils who ride to school encouraged her.

The award comes after activities including Beauty and the Bike from Havering Council to persuade more girls to get into cycling.

“I feel free and I love riding beside my two dogs on the weekends

Izzy Hazael, 12