

School Travel Plan

St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School



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1.0 Introduction

St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary is developing its travel plan to ensure our children, staff and visitors have a safe route to school. It will also be an extension to our healthy schools initiative.

The aims of the travel plan are to give children and staff a healthier and safer start to the school day, enhancing part of our development plan to improve attendance and time keeping. It is our belief that healthier and more active children make happier learners. This travel plan also supports our ambition to become a healthy school by offering the children additional physical activity in addition to a safer route to school.

This plan also aims to promote the use of sustainable forms of transport for both school staff and the many visitors who come throughout the year. Whilst trying to promote more sustainable forms of transport to ease congestion, we also recognise the health benefits that would be created by the use of a bicycle or walking to school.

2.0 School Details

Travel Plan Co-ordinator: Olivia Schofield

Head Teacher: Liam Daniels

Number of Staff: 52 Number of Pupils: 365 Age Range: 2-11

Address: St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School
Webster Street
Litherland
Liverpool
L21 8JH

Start time: 8.55a.m. Finish time: 3.00p.m.
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3.0 Site location, catchment area and transport links

The school is located quite close to the docks, in an area of social deprivation. The school has good bus and rail links, with the nearest train station being Litherland on the Northern Line, which is a 10 minute walk away. There are also several buses which serve the school and stop nearby. These include the numbers 55 and 52.

The houses in the surrounding streets are terraced which have no gardens or driveways, resulting in a lot of parked cars on the roads. Linacre Road is also a main road to Liverpool docks. The school is across the road to another

primary school, with whom we liaise closely with. There is shared congestion in the narrow streets. The school does not have a playing field on site. The entrance to the school is off Webster Street. Once the gates to the playground have been locked, the only way that children can get into school is through the extremely congested car park in front of the school office. We feel that this is a health and safety hazard, as there is insufficient parking space for the members of staff who currently drive to school. We intend to re-develop this car park area to make it safer for all members of the school community.

The majority of children in the school live in the local area and generally, most children walk to school. However, due to work and other commitments, some parents need to use their cars for onward travel. Whilst we have encouraged parents to park considerately, this does not always happen, despite pleas in school newsletters, on the school website and text messages sent to all parents. The Community Police Officers have also patrolled the areas to ensure safe parking, but this only has a short term effect.

The majority of school staff who live close to the school travel by foot. However, many staff live further afield in Crosby, Formby and St Helens. Due to the amount of resources they bring to and from school, plus childcare commitments, using public transport is not a feasible option.

4.0 Consultations and involvement

4.1 Questionnaire Surveys

- Hands up surveys were done with the children to establish how they usually travel to school and how they would prefer to travel.
- Surveys carried out with staff as to how they travel to school and why they do not use other sustainable forms of transport..

4.2 The School Travel Plan Action Team

Olivia Schofield	Travel Plan Co-ordinator
Liam Daniels	Headteacher
Frances Williamson	Assistant Headteacher
Father Barry McCallister	Chair of Governors
Sara Kielty	PTFA/School Governor
Chris Sullivan	Parent Liaison

The Team will meet termly to discuss relevant issues and ensure the actions in the plan are progressing. The team will be led by the Headteacher.

The role of the team will be to ensure the health and safety of the pupils, staff and visitors.

The initiatives to be implemented will include – Park Away Days, assemblies on road safety, involving the children in designing a banner and posters for promotion of the scheme.

Some of the initiatives will be short term and others over a longer timescale. Parents will be kept informed of all initiatives.

4.3 Whole school involvement

The following steps will be taken to ensure the whole school community are involved in the travel initiatives:

- Involving pupils in promoting the ethos of the scheme
 - Assemblies
 - Parents newsletters
 - Road Safety Team presentation- (Joe Morris)
- Display board to be kept and regularly updated
- Parents will be kept updated in the newsletters
- Work in conjunction with the Healthy Schools Initiative
- Meeting with parents at the new intake meeting to discuss the Travel Plan and invite their views.
- Include the Travel Plan on the school website
- Involve the School Council in the consultation process
- Public transport routes advertised
- Visitors encouraged to park away

5.0 The school travel situation

We need to ease congestion at the drop off areas. Lander Road school is on the adjacent road and as a result there is very heavy traffic congestion in the mornings and afternoons. The children come from a wide catchment area and many parents use cars to get to school, as an essential form of transport.

We intend to have a Park Away Day. We are currently looking at setting up a Walking Bus, to improve both safety and attendance. A daily Breakfast Club is operated in school and parents are encouraged to send their children to this for a healthy start to the day. Also, the more people that we can get into school before peak times, the less congestion there will be in the streets.

Site survey – we do not have cycle storage, but several children do cycle to school and place their bikes against the railings in front of the office. The PTFA are looking at raising funds to purchase some bike storage and once the front of school is developed, this will be installed as soon as possible. We do have a small number of children who cycle to school and their parents take their bikes home as there is currently no safe storage. Two members of staff cycle to school, but it is hoped that with safe storage, this number will increase in future years.

Car park spaces are extremely limited. The school Parking Policy is first come, first served, with no reserved bays. When the car park is full, staff and visitors are forced to block each other in. This is then further congested due to deliveries and bin collections. This is an extreme area of concern and we have worked closely with the Archdiocese and the school Governors to draw up a plan to improve the area and have secured funding to complete this. This would give much safer access to school and improve parking congestion. We have one member of staff who is disabled, and a clearly marked disabled bay would be added if we are successful with a current planning application to alter the front of school.

Visitors are verbally asked to park considerately in the surrounding roads. This is reinforced on the school website.

Most of our children do walk to school, but those parents who do drive regularly park on zig-zags, or across corners of roads. Some parents seem unwilling to park further away and walk a short distance. This is despite numerous pleas in the school newsletters and numerous parental texts. We have also used the local PCSO to tackle the situation, which improves it for a while before returning to how it was before.

Other methods to tackle the situation include assemblies, visits from Road Traffic Officers to speak to the children and individual pleas to persistent problem parents!! We have also expressed concern over the parking situation in recent newsletters and those from last year.

We endeavour to use public transport whenever possible for school trips, although due to health and safety restrictions, this is not always possible.

6.0 Targets

- To improve the safety of the main school entrance with designated bays and safer pedestrian access. This is essential as it is only a matter of time before we have an accident.
- New car parking spaces added to the front of school to ease congestion around the entrance and make access safer for all.
- Reduce the number of children travelling by car to school, and encourage those who need to travel by car to park further away and walk.
- Reduce the number of staff who travel to school by car and promote public transport.
- To investigate the possibility of starting a walking bus.
- Hold 1 walking days/park away days a term
- To continue to have regular assemblies to raise awareness.
- Improved guard railing around the main entrance and front of school
- To liaise with parents and all community groups to seek their views on the situation and look at steps we can both take to promote road safety.

- To raise funds and purchase cycle racks for safe storage.
- Plant new trees to replace existing trees which would be lost as part of proposed development. (We are awaiting delivery of new trees shortly)

7.0 Initiatives and mechanisms for change (Soft Factors)

STP Aims	Initiatives	When	Who
To promote the School Travel Plan throughout the school community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of Travel Plan as school policy • Presentations and assemblies • Newsletters • Inclusion in school prospectus • Parents evenings • New Intake pupils and parents 	<p>Nov 2014</p> <p>Throughout the year</p>	<p>Travel Plan Action Team</p> <p>Head</p>
To encourage more walking to and from school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look into Walking Bus scheme • Park and Walk • Walk to school days • Road Safety Activities • Curriculum Work 	<p>ASAP</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>STP Coordinator Whole school</p> <p>Teaching Staff Head</p> <p>Sefton Council</p>
To reduce car use when travelling to and from school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Database of willing car sharers • Publicity in newsletter and banner • Park Away Days • Liase with neighbouring school • Liaise with residents 	<p>To be investigated</p> <p>Weekly newsletters</p> <p>Termly Park away days</p>	<p>Travel Plan Action Team</p> <p>Head</p>
Public transport promotion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public transport for school trips were practicable • Bus/train timetable work • Public transport information in school prospectus and on website. 	<p>To be investigated</p>	<p>Merseytravel Teachers</p>
Curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To generate publicity through IT and Literacy lessons • Healthy schools initiative 	<p>To be investigated</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Action team Teaching staff</p>

8.0 Identification of physical improvements (Hard Factors)

- Improved lighting around school
- Improved public transport
- Improve safety of routes to make cycling more viable
- Enforced parking restrictions in local area
- Repainting of zig zags
- Improved crossing points
- Flashing warning signs
- Cleaning of dog mess in local streets

We will be liaising with Sefton Council and writing to Local MP's to try to push for these improvements.

9.0 Monitoring, evaluation and review

9.1 Monitoring

The school did have a previous Travel Plan, which was written several years ago, before the appointment of the new Headteacher. This cannot be located, so there is no means of checking if previous initiatives have had an impact.

School Council carried out a 'Hands Up' survey in classes. They also asked the children their preferred method of transport. After analysing the data from the 'Hands Up' Survey, we will carry out the survey again in the next two terms. The results of the new surveys will be compared with the current to see whether the initiatives put forward in this plan have allowed for modal shift.

Attendance and punctuality figures will be reviewed to see how the plan has had positive effect elsewhere.

The results of the most recent hands up survey taken are:

Mode	Sept 14	
	TO SCHOOL	FROM SCHOOL
Parked + Walked	37	43
Walked	194	169
Car with 1 pupil	26	38
Car Share	14	13
Cycle	2	2

Bus	3	6
Taxi	6	4
Mini-Bus	0	7
TOTAL IN SURVEY	282	

PREFERRED MODE OF TRAVEL	Sept 14
Parked and walked	27
Walked	185
Car with 1 pupil	29
Car Share	1
Cycle	50
Bus	3
TOTAL	295

Comparison between the two tables shows the following;

- that more pupils would prefer to come to school on bike than actually do, no doubt due to the inadequate provision for cycling in the surrounding area and the need for secure bike stands
- The figure of those walking to school and coming in car is very close to that from the ACTUAL monitoring point
- It should also be noted that the children actually enjoy walking to school! This will be encouraged and relayed to parents

Staff survey:

Mode of Travel	Number
Car	23
Walk	27
Bus	0
Train	0
Cycle	2

Preferred Mode of Travel	Number
Car	17
Walk	27
Bus	0
Train	0
Cycle	6

From the above staff results, staff were questioned as to why they used their cars to travel to school, and not another more sustainable form of transport. The findings are below:

- Too much work to carry to/from school
- Childcare arrangements- drop off/pick up
- No cycle storage facilities
- Weather. If raining, children's books could be destroyed.
- Public transport not reliable enough and distance from train station too far to walk.

Note: It was generally the teachers who used their cars to travel to school, with the vast majority of these living more than walking distance away. Most other staff tended to walk to school. Two cars act as a car share and combine members of staff when possible.

When looking at preferred method, these are only slightly different, as most people living nearby do walk. Others said they needed their cars for the same reasons as above, but mostly due to the amount of resources they bring.

9.2 Evaluation

The Action Team will review the success of the initiatives in the summer term and see what impact they have had on both the way the pupils, staff and visitors travel to school, and also in their attitudes to them.

The School Council will provide feedback on all initiatives to the rest of the pupils.

9.3 Review

Based on the results of the evaluation, the Action Team will meet to celebrate achievements and plan for the coming year. A letter will be sent to parents outlining these achievements.

10.0 Links with other Education Initiatives

- Travel Awareness Team work
- Healthy Schools Initiative
- Citizenship

11.0 Calendar of Action

Date	Action / Event	Involved	Notes
Sept	Travel Questionnaire	All School Council	Publish results in plan and keep for review at end of year.
	First meeting	Action team	Walking Bus routes discussed and the risk
Nov	Creation of walking bus routes.	Action Team	Florescent jackets provided funding into Neighbourhood Safety Scheme
	First meeting of full travel team	Action team	Direction of plan agreed, tie in with healthy school initiatives
Dec	School Council to speak to classes re: Walking to school and traffic safety.	School Council	
	Park Away Day 1	Action Team Whole school	Raffle prizes
Jan	Hands Up Survey Questionnaire	Headteacher Teachers/Action Team	Compare to Sept survey
	Re-Development of front of school to ensure safety of all on site.	Cunliffe's Contractors	This is subject to planning approval.
Feb	Meeting to set targets	Action Team	
Mar	Purchase of cycle stands for school	PTFA Action Team	Look through catalogues and liaise with other schools for best value

Date	Action / Event	Involved	Notes
Apr	Pavement clean-up campaign and removal of dog dirt	Action Team Environmental Hit Squad	Meet with School Council to write letter
	Children to design banner to promote parking away	All teachers/pupils	Contact local printing company
	Make plan available to Lander Road School and work together on proposed initiatives	Action Team	
	Park Away Day 2		Raffle prizes
May	National Walk to School Week	Action team	
	Publicity of walk to school week in newsletter	Action team	
	Meet with Lander Road Primary to discuss any issues and future projects	Action team	
Jun	Meet with new intake parents	Sefton Council Headteacher Action team	Use work produced by children to give out leaflets
Jul	Park Away Day 3	Action Team	Use banner produced to promote parking away
	Assembly to celebrate success so far- best classes-poster competitions.	Pupils	Certificate presentation and prizes
	Review and Action Planning for next year	Action Team	