

GIFFNOCK PRIMARY SCHOOL

SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN VOLUME 1 – MARCH 2007



Introduction

Giffnock Primary, Giffnock

Giffnock Primary School, Giffnock is situated in the heart of the bustling Giffnock town centre. The school is situated on Academy Road adjacent to the busy A77, Fenwick Road. The school roll currently stands at 269 pupils.

The school vehicle and pedestrian entrances can be accessed off Academy Road, which is a one-way street for vehicles running northwards. A school crossing patroller currently operates at the pedestrian crossing on Fenwick Road at its junction with Orchard Drive to assist pupils who currently walk to school.

Giffnock Primary School is amongst the first schools in East Renfrewshire to undertake their School Travel Plan. The Council is offering support to the school in terms of personnel and funding for measures that will increase levels of sustainable travel.

What is a School Travel Plan?

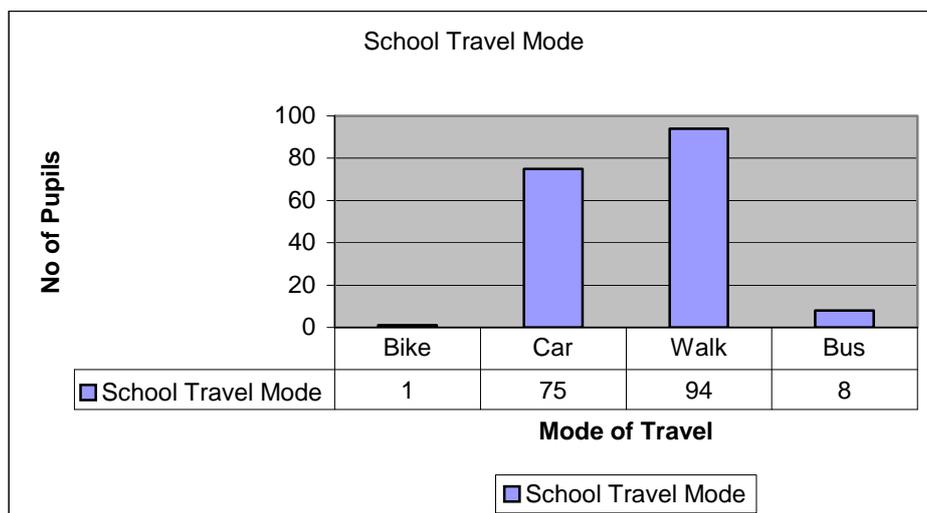
A School Travel Plan (STP) is a document written by the school with input from interested parties, such as teachers, pupils, school travel co-ordinator, Police, Councillors and the school board. The document outlines the school's needs and problems regarding travel to school with the aim to address related issues.

School Travel Plans are not just about transport but about improving health, broadening education, improving the environment, contributing to the community and combating social exclusion. Improvements may therefore cover a range of areas including physical changes to the area around the school, curriculum work, promotional events, training and so forth.

Identifying Travel Trends

In February 2006 all the pupils in the school carried out a travel survey questionnaire which asked about their existing and preferred mode of travel, distance travelled to school and safety concerns on the school run. Below is a summary of the main findings of the survey:-

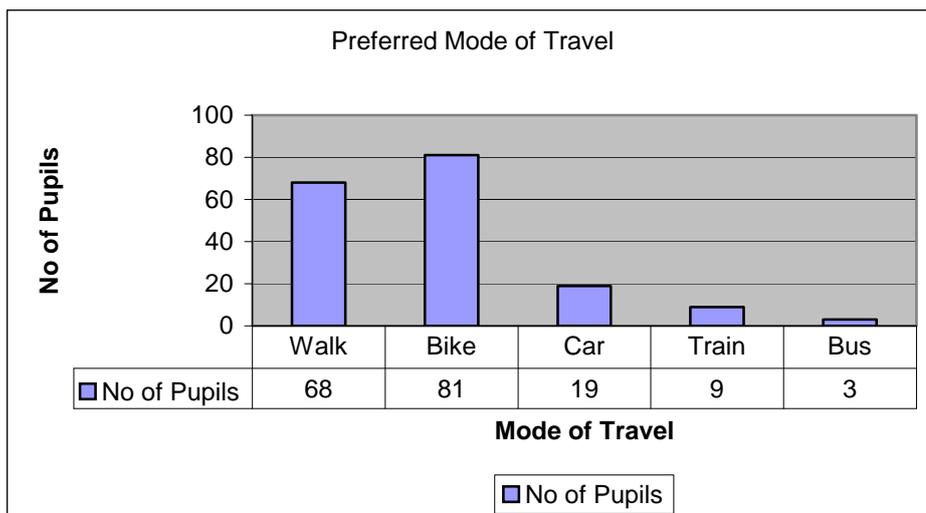
Of the respondents currently 75 (42%) pupils are currently driven to/from school, 94 (53%) pupils currently walk to/from school and 8 (5%) pupils are bussed to school. The walking percentage is slightly lower and the driven percentage higher than the national average. This may be due to the number of pupils at Giffnock who are on placement requests and travel from outside the school catchment area. However, 88% of pupils of p4-p7 age live within 1 kilometre of the school suggesting distance is not the main barrier to sustainable means of travel.



The above table will be used as base figures in order to set targets for the travel plan. It is proposed to re-survey the pupils in the future once travel initiatives outlined in this document are up and running in order to gauge progress that has been made.

Preferred Mode of Travel

The pupils were asked what their preferred mode of travel to school would be and interestingly, the results are as follows:- 68 (38%) pupils would like to walk to school, 81 (45%) pupils would like to cycle to school, 19 (11%) pupils would like to be driven to school. The remainder would like to travel to school by bus or train. This shown that there is a clear demand amongst the pupils to walk and cycle to school.



- The above shows that there is a latent demand amongst pupils to travel by sustainable modes:- Cycling and Walking (83%).
- Only 11% of pupils stated their preferred mode of travel is by car.



Summary of the School's Transport and Road Safety Concerns

- The high number of pupils being driven to school makes it more dangerous for pupils who currently walk to school. The current level of vehicular traffic and the associated safety risk may prevent more pupils walking to school.
- Conflict between pedestrians and vehicles on Academy Road, St Cathrines Road and Orchard Park.
- Traffic congestion around the school and associated noise and air pollution.
- Volume of traffic parked inconsiderately around the school at peak times make it difficult for pupils who currently walk to school to cross roads safely.
- Parking / waiting on the middle of Academy Road is strictly forbidden as this obstructs drivers and halts the movement of traffic.
- Parents parking / driving on footways is a problem.

These concerns are sending negative messages to the children regarding the importance of sustainable travel and environmental problems.

Aims of Giffnock Primary's School Travel Plan

- To improve pedestrian safety in and around the school.
- To encourage more local pupils to walk and cycle to school.
- To identify "Park and Stride" drop-off sites to encourage parents to park remotely from the school gates and allow pupils who are driven to walk part of the way to school.
- To raise awareness amongst pupils, parents and staff of the wider health and environmental problems associated with increased car use.
- To raise awareness amongst pupils, parents and staff of the health benefits of walking, and where feasible cycling to school.
- To ensure those pupils, parents and staff are supported and encouraged to make positive, healthy travel choices.
- To improve the local environment for everyone by reducing pollution, reducing congestion and addressing safety issues around the school.
- To improve relationships between the school and local residents by encouraging parents who drive to school to park considerately.

Giffnock Primary - School Travel Policy

- Giffnock Primary would like to reduce levels of car emissions around the school. Parents who drive to school are encouraged to switch off their engines whilst waiting for pupils. This is important as many pupils have asthma.
 - Large vehicles and 4x4's are not the most suitable vehicle for the school run. Parents who have to drive to school and have access to two cars are encouraged to use the smaller car on the school run.
 - Parents who drive are encouraged to car share.
 - Park and Stride:- Older pupils are expected to walk at least part of the way to school to reduce congestion around the school gates.
 - Parents are encouraged not to park on footways, as this can be dangerous for pupils walking on footways. Parking close to the school also restricts visibility for pupils crossing roads.
 - Parking on the footway / carriageway and blocking driveways is strictly forbidden.
 - P7 Pupils will be encouraged to cycle to school if:-
 - :- they have passed their cycling proficiency training.
 - :- their parents sign a disclaimer that they are happy with their child cycling.
 - :- they wear a high visibility reflective vest (supplied by the council).
 - :- the pupils promise to cycle responsibly at all times.
- NB// Pupils of all year groups are allowed to cycle to school at their parents / guardians discretion.

Proposals to Improve Road Safety

- East Renfrewshire Council have been looking at improving access to the school on foot. To this end, pedestrian crossing facilities are currently being considered at Church Road near its junction with Rosslea Drive and have been installed at Fenwick Road near its junction with St Cathrines Road.
- It is proposed to try and reduce the congestion levels around the school gates by attempting to initiate walking bus, park and stride and car sharing schemes. Parents who currently drive will be encouraged to consider parking further from the school.
- An enforceable part-time 20mph speed limit will be implemented on Academy Road by Spring 2007. Flashing amber lights signify the speed limit being in force.
- Parking around the school will be monitored and bollards considered to prevent parking on footways.
- Pupils to design banners / posters discouraging inconsiderate parking practice and encouraging sustainable travel.

Summary of Objectives and Proposals

Objectives	How	By When	Who
Improve cycling standards.	* Active schools co-ordinator, to assist P5's in cycle skills training.	Ongoing	Melanie Neef – Active Schools Co-ordinator (ASC), Greg Brown – School Travel Co-ordinator (STC)
Maintain pass rate for cycling proficiency at over 90%.	* Teachers and parent helpers to continue to assist P6 pupils with Scottish Cycle Training Scheme.	Ongoing	Parent Volunteers. Teacher Volunteers.
	Cost - N/A		
Increase levels of pupils cycling to school.	* Increased training levels (see above).	Ongoing	As above
	* Provide pupils who are cycling to school with reflective tabards, and snap-wraps.	Ongoing	STC
	Cost – To be met by ERC		
To encourage an improvement in the number of pupils, parents and teachers walking to and from school.	* Set up a 'walking bus'.	Ongoing	Pupils, STC, Parent Volunteers
Target = 10% increase in walking by summer 2008.	* Identify 'Park & Walk' or 'Park & Stride' drop-off and collection zones.	Ongoing	J.R.S.O's, Pupil Council
	* Upgrade pedestrian access to school.	Ongoing	Greg Brown – Schools Travel Co-ordinator.
	* Whole school take part in 'Walk to School' week events.	Twice annually	STC, ASC
	Cost – To be met by ERC		

<i>Objectives</i>	<i>How</i>	<i>By When</i>	<i>Who</i>
To improve access to school.	* Support proposal for pedestrian crossing at Church Road and promote use of new crossing on Fenwick Road.	Ongoing	Giffnock Primary
	Cost - To be met by ERC		
To improve road safety around school.	* Install part time 20 mph speed limit on Academy Road.	Spring 2007	Greg Brown East Renfrewshire Council
	* Prevent parking on footways by installing bollards. Replace bollards on Academy Road.	Ongoing	Greg Brown
	* Educating parents / pupils.	Ongoing	Teachers, J.R.S.O's, Pupil Council
	Cost - To be met by ERC		
Continue effective liaison with all partners and stakeholders with regard to school travel	* By keeping an eye on school travel issues and ensuring all partners work in tandem to achieve goals.	Ongoing	Pupils Council, Teachers, School Board, Community Police, STC, Education and Roads Depts, Local Cllr, ASC, Parent volunteers
	Cost – To be met by ERC		

<u>Objectives</u>	<u>How</u>	<u>By When</u>	<u>Who</u>
To reduce level of traffic congestion around school at the beginning and end of the school day.	* Encourage participation in walking and cycling.	Ongoing	School / Pupils / Parents
	* Reduce parking on footways surrounding school by educating parents / engineering measures.	Ongoing	Teachers East Renfrewshire Council
	* Education of parents and pupils.	Ongoing	School, Materials from East Renfrewshire Council
	Cost - To be met by ERC		
To encourage pupil awareness of road safety and safe travel to and from school.	* Develop school policy and integrate school travel into curriculum	Ongoing	Head Teacher
	* Continue to run school travel notice-board	Ongoing	Teachers at Giffnock, JRSO's
	* Promote sustainable travel through educational theatre.	Ongoing	STC
	* Start up a school travel suggestion box.	Ongoing	J.R.S.O's, Giffnock Primary Office Staff.
	* J.R.S.O's producing an educational film	Ongoing	J.R.S.O's
	Cost – To be met by ERC		
Park and Stride	* Identify locations where pupils can be dropped off to walk remainder of way to school. eg Church car park, supermarket, station.	Ongoing	Teachers at Giffnock JRSO's School Travel Co-ordinator
	Cost – To be met by ERC		

Objectives	How	By When	Who
Primary to Secondary Transition:- Ensure effective continuity between P7 pupils going to S1.	* Campus Policeman at Woodfarm High to discuss travel / personal safety issues involved in moving to High School. Involve Woodfarm High pupils in a buddy system.	Ongoing	Campus Policeman at Woodfarm High Woodfarm High Pupils
Start up a 'Fit Friday' or a 'Walk on Wednesday' scheme.	* Pupils given incentives to walk at least once a week.	Ongoing	East Renfrewshire Council
	* Distribute pedometers, stickers and snap-wraps.	Ongoing	School Travel Co-ordinator
	Cost - To be met by ERC		Teachers.

Evaluation and Monitoring

- In order to gauge progress and to see if targets have been met, it will be necessary to re-survey the pupils during the summer term 2008 and every subsequent year. It will not be necessary to complete questionnaires in the future; a simple 'hands-up' survey will be adequate to compare travel figures with our existing figures.
- Following each annual survey, a meeting should take place between all interested parties and a brief progress report compiled identifying where actions have been completed and the impact of these in meeting targets. If a target is not met, the school will review that section of the plan and revise it if necessary.