

# NEILSTON PRIMARY SCHOOL, NEILSTON

SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN  
VOLUME 1 – JANUARY 2007



## **Introduction**

### **Neilston Primary, Neilston**

Neilston Primary School is situated in a housing estate off High Street at the heart of the village of Neilston. The local traffic distributor road, Main Street lies to the west of the school and carries a large volume of traffic throughout the day. The school currently has a school roll of 355 pupils. School Crossing Patrollers currently operate on Main Street at its junction with High Street, Main Street at its junction with Station Road and on High Street at its junction with Station Road.

Neilston Primary School is one of 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 road safety improvements.

### **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, local Councillor and parents. The document outlines the schools needs and problems regarding travel to school with the aim to address related issues.

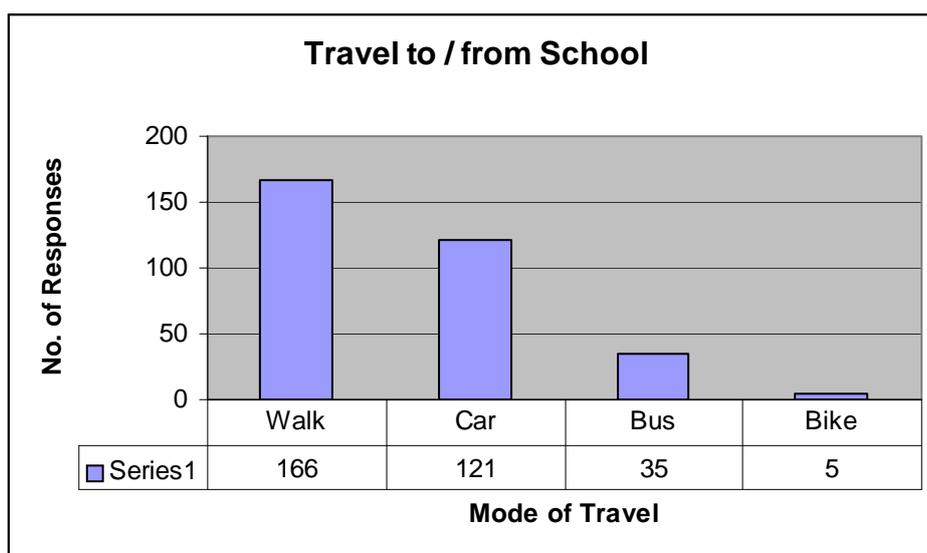
School Travel Plans are not just about transport though, they are also about improving health, broadening education, improving the environment, contributing to the community and combating social exclusion. Improvements may therefore cover a range of areas including physical changes to the area around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

## Identifying Travel Trends

In November 2005 327 pupils completed 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. Not all pupils answered all the questions, therefore the number of respondents differ from question to question. Below is a brief summary of the main findings of the survey:-

The pupils were asked how they currently travel to / from school and the results are as follows:- of the respondents currently 121 (37%) pupils are currently driven to / from school, 166 (51%) pupils currently walk to / from school, 35 (11%) pupils are bussed to school and 5 (2%) of pupils cycle to school.

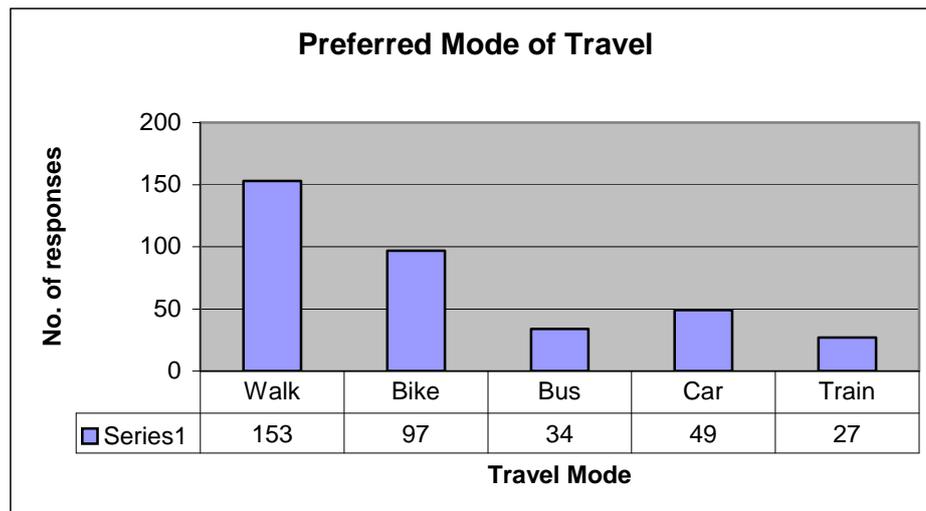
The walking percentage is lower and the driven percentage is higher than the national average. This may be in part due to traffic danger; it may also be due to the number of pupils at Neilston who travel to school from outside the village.



The above table will be used as base figures to set targets and objectives 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:- 153 (43%) pupils would like to walk to school, 97 (27%) pupils would like to cycle to school, 49 (14%) pupils would like to be driven to school, 34 (9%) would like to be bussed to school. These statistics are encouraging as it shows that 70% of respondents would like to travel to school by sustainable means (walking or cycling).



- 91% of pupils own a bike and 86% of parents own a car. Both these figures are above the national average.

## **Summary of the School's Transport and Road Safety Concerns**

- The current level 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 be preventing more pupils from walking to school.
- Traffic congestion on and around High Street.
- 84% of pupils surveyed felt that cars caused problems outside the school gates.
- Volume of traffic parked around school at peak times makes it difficult for pupils who currently walk to school to cross the road safely. Parked cars restrict visibility making it more difficult for pupils to cross the road.
- Parents parking / driving on the footway is a problem. This may be able to be addressed by erecting bollards.
- Local residents have expressed concern that parents on the school run are, on occasion, restricting access to their properties.
- It is felt that vehicle speeds are too high given the level of congestion around the school.
- It is felt that the existing pedestrian crossing is in the wrong location.
- The footpath between Main Street and High Street requires upgrading and is poorly lit.

## **Aims of the Neilston Primary School Travel Plan**

- To improve pedestrian safety in and around the school.
- To encourage more local pupils to walk to school.
- To discourage indiscriminate parking practice around the 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 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, congestion and addressing safety issues around the school.
- Attempt to reduce the speed of traffic on High Street.
- Improve access to school by upgrading local paths.

## **Neilston Primary - School Travel Policy**

- Neilston 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.
- 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 on the zig-zag markings or bus-bay is prohibited. Parking close to the school can restrict visibility for pupils crossing the road.
- Pupils will have the option of cycling 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 and dismount on approach to the school.
  - :- cycling is not permitted inside school grounds.
- Car sharing is encouraged and can reduce congestion levels around the school.

## **Proposals to Improve Road Safety**

- A part-time 20mph speed limit has recently been implemented around Neilston Primary. This enforceable speed limit covers the school frontage on High Street. The reduction in the speed limit from 30mph to 20mph will apply when pupils are either going to or returning from school. Road users will be alerted to the change in the speed limit by flashing amber lights in the corners of the 20mph part-time speed limit signs. This is an enforceable speed limit.
- The school is currently attempting to set up a walking bus. A walking bus can increase levels of walking to school and, in turn, reduce traffic congestion around the school gates.
- To widen or improve the pedestrian entrance to the school preventing a 'bottle neck' effect at the end of the school day.
- Speed humps on main driveway.
- Move towards upgrading footpath connecting Main Street and High Street. This may include improving the lighting.
- Pupils to design a banner to hang from the school railings to remind parents to park responsibly and to encourage sustainable travel modes.

## Summary of Objectives and Proposals

<b>Objectives</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>By When</b>	<b>Who</b>
Sustain number of pupils passing cycling proficiency test at over 80%.	* Teachers and parent helpers will assist pupils with training prior to cycling proficiency tests. Improve trainer to pupil ratio.	Ongoing	Teacher and Parent helpers
	<b>Cost - N/A</b>		
To encourage an improvement in the number of pupils walking to and from school. Target 57% by summer 2008.	* Set up a 'walking bus' to serve school.	Ongoing	Teachers and pupils
	* Identify 'Park & Walk' or 'Park & Stride' drop-off and collection zones.	Ongoing	Greg Brown – Schools Travel Co-ordinator, Pupils, Teachers
	* Whole school take part in 'Walk to School' week events.	Twice annually (May and October).	Pupils
	* Look into setting up pedometer projects to encourage walking.	Ongoing	Marie Bennett – Active Schools Co-ordinator
	<b>Cost – To be met by East Renfrewshire Council</b>		
To reduce level of traffic congestion around school at the beginning and end of the school day.	* Encourage use of 'Park & Walk' or 'Park & Stride' scheme.	Ongoing	Pupils Parents School Board Teachers
	* Stop parking on footways surrounding school. ERC roads to produce leaflet to discourage poor parking practice.	Ongoing.	Community Police East Renfrewshire Council Education Department
	<b>Cost – To be met by East Renfrewshire Council</b>		

<b>Objectives</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>By When</b>	<b>Who</b>
Improve access to the school.	* Move to upgrade footpath between Main Street and High Street, including lighting.	Ongoing	Greg Brown – School Travel Co-ordinator
	<b>Cost - To be met by East Renfrewshire Council</b>		
To improve road safety around school.	* Install part-time 20 mph speed limits;	Complete	Greg Brown – School Travel Co-ordinator
	* Consider traffic calming measures on entrance to school.	Ongoing	East Renfrewshire Council
	* Ensure road markings, bollards, guard-rail supplied as required.	Ongoing	Greg Brown – School Travel Co-ordinator
	<b>Cost - To be met by East Renfrewshire Council</b>		
To encourage pupil, parent and teacher awareness of road safety and safe travel to and from school.	* Develop school policy and programme of study for P1 to 7 on road safety, establishing link with Health Promoting School and Eco-School projects.	Ongoing	Teachers - Neilston Primary School Crossing Patroller Community Police
	* Look into starting and maintaining the 'Junior Road Safety Officer' scheme and Street-Sense.	Ongoing	East Renfrewshire Council
	* Promote sustainable travel through educational theatre.	Autumn 2007	Greg Brown – School Travel Co-ordinator
	* Whole school 'health promotion week'.	Ongoing	Teachers and pupils
	<b>Cost - To be met by East Renfrewshire Council</b>		
Encourage cycling to school	* Install cycle parking facilities to meet demand.	Ongoing	Greg Brown – School Travel Co-ordinator
	* Supply reflective tabards to cyclists	Ongoing	Greg Brown – School Travel Co-ordinator
	<b>Cost - To be met by East Renfrewshire Council</b>		

<b>Objectives</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>By When</b>	<b>Who</b>
Raise awareness of sustainable travel initiatives and encourage new ideas from the pupils.	* Create and maintain a section on school wall for school-travel issues.	Ongoing	Pupil Council and Eco-Council, J.R.S.O's
	* Start up and maintain school travel suggestion box.	Summer 2007	J.R.S.O's, Neilston Primary Office Staff.
Park and Stride	* Identify locations where pupils can be dropped off to walk remainder of way to school.	Ongoing	Pupil Council and Eco-Council, J.R.S.O's, School Travel Co-ordinator
	<b>Cost - N/A</b>		
Primary to Secondary Transition:- Ensure effective continuity between P7 pupils going to S1.	* Campus Policeman at Eastwood High to discuss travel / personal safety issues involved in moving to High School.	Annually	Campus Policeman at Eastwood High.
	<b>Cost - N/A</b>		

### **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 2007 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.