

OUR LADY OF THE MISSIONS PRIMARY, GIFFNOCK

SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN VOLUME 2 - APRIL 2010



Introduction

Our Lady of the Missions Primary School is a Roman Catholic denominational primary school run by East Renfrewshire Council. The school teaches Primary 1-7 pupils from age 5-11. The school has a roll of 701 pupils and is a feeder school for St Ninian's High. The school works hard on the Eco Schools Project and has appointed Junior Road Safety Officers. The school is supported by an active Parent Council which meets monthly.

There are two district distributor roads in the area:- the A77 Fenwick Road to the east and the A727 Rouken Glen Road to the south. Two local distributor roads surround the school:- Orchard Park Avenue to the north and Robslee Road to the west.

A School Crossing Patroller currently operates on Robslee Road on the zebra crossing adjacent to Crum Avenue.

What is a School Travel Plan?

The way we travel has a huge impact on our economy, health, environment, and the resources available for future generations. In 2007 road transport in Scotland accounted for approximately 25% of Scotland's carbon dioxide emissions. The transport sector also generates other environmental impacts like airborne and waterborne pollutants. For these reasons it is easy to understand why encouraging more efficient, convenient and sustainable travel is important.

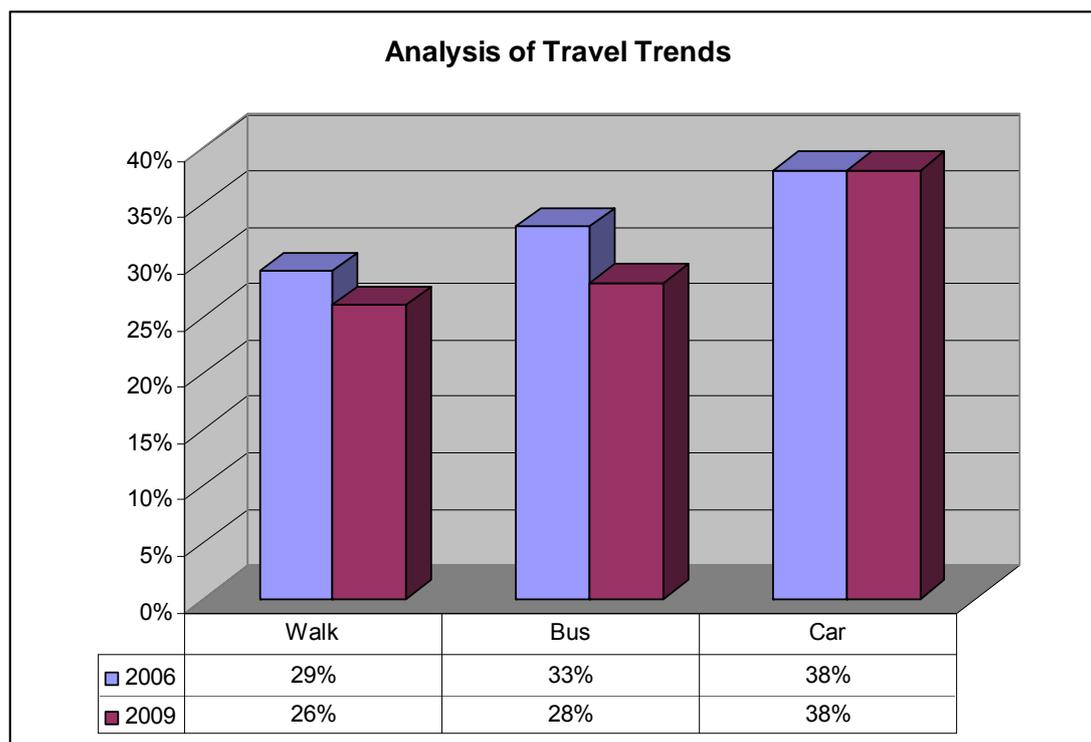
It is estimated that one-fifth of all vehicles on our roads at 8.50am are involved in school travel and of course, the challenge is to put sustainable transport measures into practice - for example; by providing the information, support and infrastructure to help those travelling to and from school to choose to walk, cycle, take public transport, or trip share more often than they currently do.

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.



Analysis of Travel Trends

In September 2006 pupils completed a questionnaire on travel patterns. This data will be compared in this section to results obtained from the annual national 'Hands Up' survey which took place in September 2009.

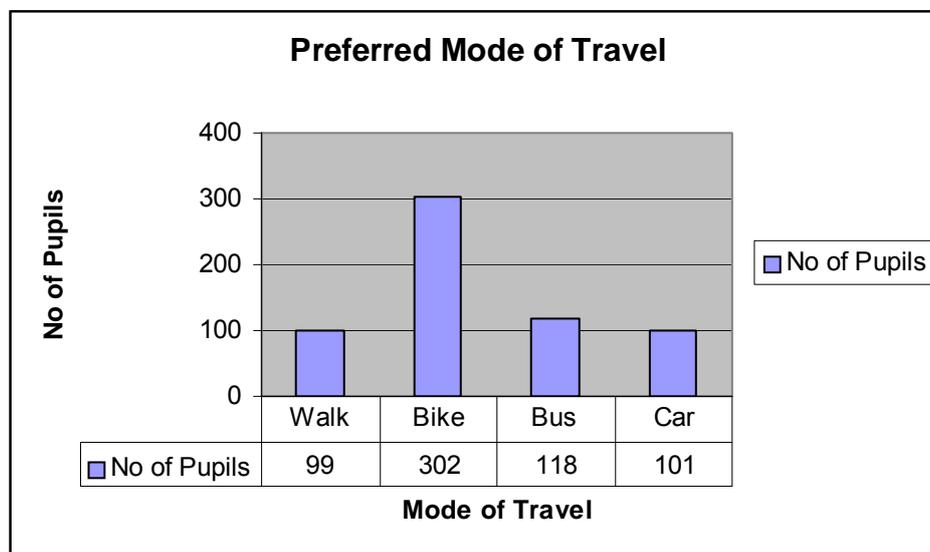


- ▶ There has been a 3% drop in pupil's walking to school in the three years since the initial survey.
- ▶ Bus travel has dropped by 5%. This is because primary school age pupils now require to live over two miles from the school to qualify for free bus travel.
- ▶ Driven to school rates have remained the same.
- ▶ In 2009, 5% of pupils parked remotely from the school and walked the rest of the way to school (no comparable 'park and stride' data).
- ▶ 17 pupils (2%) cycled to school in 2009. Only 3 pupils cycled to school in 2006.

To summarise there has not been a significant change in travel patterns. The drop in bus travel has not led to more car trips. It is encouraging that 5% of parents who drive to school are parking remotely from the school allowing the pupils to walk the remainder of the way (Park & Stride). This reduces congestion outside the school gates and gives pupils exercise. There has been a significant increase in cycling levels which is encouraging.

Preferred Mode of Travel

In 2006, the pupils were asked what their preferred mode of travel to school would be and interestingly, the results are as follows:- 99 (16%) pupils would like to walk to school, 302 (49%) pupils would like to cycle to school, 101 (16%) pupils would like to be driven to school, 118 (19%) would like to be bused to school. These statistics are encouraging as it shows that 65% of respondents would like to travel to school by sustainable means (walking or cycling).



- 95% of OLM pupils own a bike.
- 99% of all parents own a car, 60% of parents own 2 or more cars.
- Car and bike ownership is well above the national average.
- Most pupils are driven or bused to school due to distance / time or are dropped off on their parent's way to work.



Summary of the School's Transport and Road Safety Concerns

31% of pupils feel that their journey to school on foot is unsafe and 43% of pupils feel that cars cause problems outside the school grounds. The main problems identified by the pupils are:-

- Cars obstructing buses:- Parents parking around the bus-bays make it difficult for the bus to access its space safely (42 pupils), Traffic Danger / Speed (42 pupils), Congestion:- Volume of traffic parked close to the school entrance 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 (41 pupils), Cars not stopping at zebra crossings (11 pupils).
- Other things noted by pupils were:- Pollution:- Many parents waiting to collect their children are leaving their engine running increasing localised pollution. (6 pupils) and difficulty crossing (5 pupils).

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. Parking and driving on the footways has also been observed around the school.

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

Aims of the Our Lady of the Missions Primary School Travel Plan

- To improve pedestrian safety in and around the school.
- To encourage more local pupils to walk and cycle to school.
- To discourage indiscriminate parking practice around the school.
- 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 and the schools car park.
- To ensure parents are aware of, and adhere to, OLM Primary's School Travel Policy (overleaf).



Our Lady of the Missions Primary - School Travel Policy

- Our Lady of the Missions 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.
- Parents are encouraged not to park on footways, as this can be dangerous for pupils walking on footways.
- Parents who drive their children to school are encouraged to park remotely from the school to reduce congestion and allow pupils to walk part of the way to school.
- Car sharing is encouraged where possible.
- Parents are forbidden from entering the school car park in the afternoon. This area is reserved for teacher parking and buses only.
- Park and Stride:- Older pupils are expected to walk at least part of the way to school to reduce congestion around the school gates.



Photo:- Head Teacher Charlie Jamieson addresses pupils and adult volunteers gathered outside Eastwood Leisure Centre as part of a walking and cycling to school initiative.



Proposals to Improve Road Safety

- A part-time 20mph speed limit has been implemented on Robslee Road. 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.
- 'Park and Stride' - Parents who drive to school are encouraged to drop pupils off remote from the school to reduce congestion levels around the school gates (improving road safety for other pedestrians) and to improve the fitness of the children. The car park at Wood Farm Hall is one location that has been identified for this purpose.
- Speed cushions have been installed on Robslee Road. Raising the two zebra crossings to make speed tables has also been completed.
- Look to improve / maintain local path networks.
- Pupils to design fliers, posters and banners to hang in the school and distribute to parents to remind them to park responsibly.
- Further signing, lining and road infrastructure will be considered to improve road safety and assist in the development of the Travel Plan.



Photo: - OLM pupils walking to school.

Summary of Objectives and Proposals

Objectives	How	By When	Who
Increase and maintain number of pupils passing cycling proficiency test to 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 Greg Brown - ERC
	* Greg Brown to assist training as required. Cost:- N/A		
Raise awareness of sustainable travel initiatives and encourage new ideas from the pupils.	* Create and update section on school wall for school-travel issues.	Ongoing	Pupil Council, Eco-Council, J.R.S.O's.
	Cost:- N/A		
To encourage an improvement in the number of pupils walking to and from school. Target 35% by Summer 2011.	* Identify 'Park & Stride' drop-off and collection zones.	Ongoing	STC, Pupils, Teachers
	* Whole school take part in 'Walk to School' week events.	Annually, focus on May	Pupils
	* Set up 'buddying' walking project whereby P6 & P7 pupils volunteer to walk with younger pupils.	Ongoing	Teachers, Pupils
	* Look into setting up pedometer projects to encourage walking.	Ongoing	Active Schools Co-ordinator (ASC), Teachers. ASC to provide pedometers and walking resources.
	Cost:- To be met by East Renfrewshire Council		

Objectives	How	By When	Who
Park and Stride.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Local sports centre car park already identified and signed. Eastwood Park for 'Ride or Stride' events. * Identify and promote locations where pupils can be dropped off to walk remainder of way to school eg Eastwood Park, Berryhill Road, car park at bottom of Berryhill Drive. 	Completed	School
	Cost:- N/A	Ongoing	ERC, Suzanne Martin (Teacher)
To reduce level of traffic congestion around school at the beginning and end of the school day.	* Discourage parking on footways surrounding school.	Ongoing	ERC, Community Police, Pupils
	* Pupils to design banners and posters to discourage school-gate parking and promote healthy travel.	Ongoing	Pupils
	* Hyperlink to Travel Plan + active travel events to be posted onto school website.	Pending	Suzanne Martin
Cost:- To be met by East Renfrewshire Council			
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.	Ongoing	Campus Policeman at Woodfarm High.
	Cost:- N/A		

Objectives	How	By When	Who
Undertake 'Travelling Green' with P5 pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * All P5 pupils to undertake 'Travelling Green'. This resource both encourages and raises awareness of the many benefits of sustainable travel. 	Ongoing	P5 Pupils, Teachers.
	Cost:- Met by East Renfrewshire Council		
To encourage pupil, parent and teacher awareness of road safety and safe travel to and from school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Involve the 'Junior Road Safety Officers', undertake 'Street-Sense 2'. * Promote sustainable travel through educational theatre. * Whole school 'health promotion week'. 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Feb 2007, and where funding permits.</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Greg Brown - ERC</p> <p>STC</p> <p>Nicola Cochrane, STC, Various Agencies</p>
	Cost:- To be met by East Renfrewshire Council		
Support those who cycle to school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Push towards 'Cycle Friendly School' award. * Install additional cycle parking facilities to meet demand. * Consider 'Cycle Skills' training for P5 pupils. * Supply reflective tabards to cyclists and walkers. * Additional training. 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Suzanne Martin, Pupils, STC, ASC</p> <p>STC</p> <p>STC, ASC</p> <p>ASC, STC</p> <p>Road Safety Training Officer, STC, ASC</p>
	Cost:- To be met by East Renfrewshire Council		

Evaluation and Monitoring

- Subsequent annual 'Hands Up' survey data will be used to record trends in travel behaviour and assess progress that has been made.
- Following each annual survey, a meeting will take place between all interested parties and a report compiled to assess the Travel Plan and revise it as necessary.



Photo:- OLM pupils cycling to school.

