

CROOKFUR PRIMARY SCHOOL, NEWTON MEARNS

SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN
VOLUME 1 – FEBRUARY 2007



Introduction

Crookfur Primary, Newton Mearns

Crookfur Primary School, Newton Mearns is situated to the north of Newton Mearns and currently has a school roll of around 380 pupils.

The school can be accessed from the north and the south via the busy Capelrig Road. The school lies in close proximity to Eastwood High, which exacerbates traffic congestion at school opening / closing times.

A school crossing patroller currently operates on Capelrig Road at the zebra crossing to the north of Harvie Avenue to assist pupils who currently walk to school.

Crookfur Primary School is one of the first schools in East Renfrewshire to implement their School Travel Plan. The Council is offering support to the school in terms of personnel and funding for initiatives that promote 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, 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.

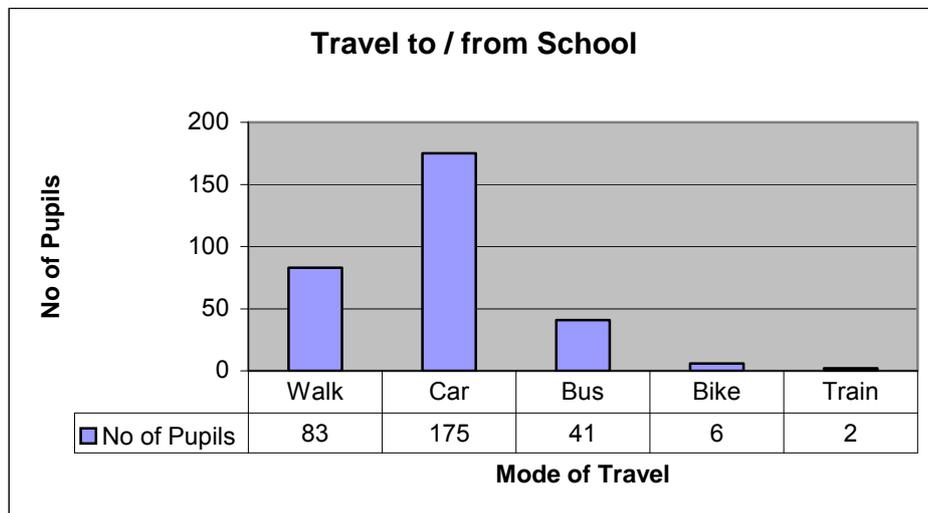


Identifying Travel Trends

In April 2006 320 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 slightly 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 175 (57%) pupils are currently driven to / from school, 83 (27%) pupils currently walk to / from school and 41 (13%) pupils are bussed to school.

The walking percentage is lower and the driven percentage is higher than the national average. This may be due, in part, to high car ownership levels and employment status of parents.

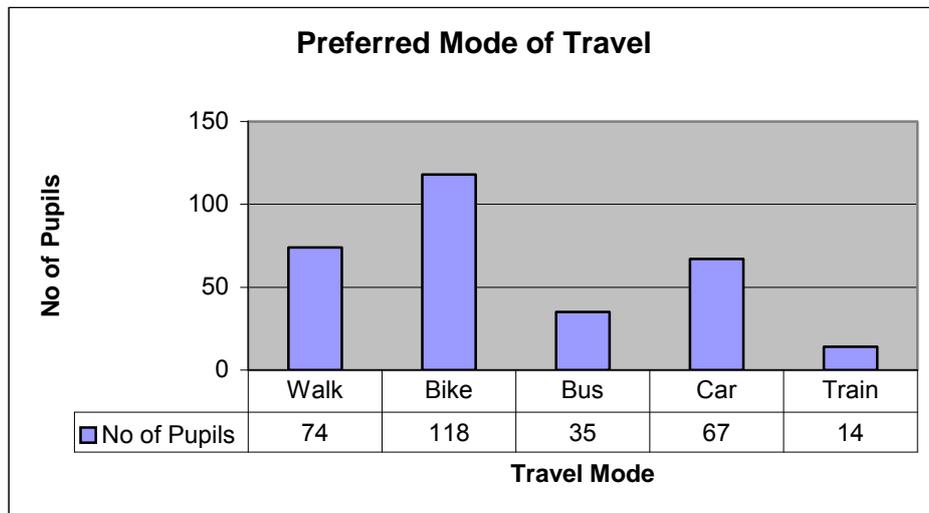


The above table will be used as base figures to define the aims and set targets and objectives for the travel plan. It is proposed to re-survey the pupils in the future once travel initiatives outlined in this document are up and running in order to gauge progress that has been made.



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:- 74 (24%) pupils would like to walk to school, 118 (38%) pupils would like to cycle to school, 67 (22%) pupils would like to be driven to school, 35 (11%) would like to be bussed to school. These statistics are encouraging as it shows that 62% of respondents would like to travel to school by sustainable means (walking or cycling).



- 91% of pupils own a bike. This figure is above the national average of 85% for school children. 99% of parents own a car, this is significantly 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.
- Parents continue to drive into the teachers car park against the schools wishes.
- Traffic congestion on Capelrig Road, Harvie Avenue and Lomond Drive.
- Volume of traffic parked around the school at peak times makes it difficult for pupils who currently walk to school to cross these roads safely.
- Parents parking / driving on the footway is a problem.
- 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.
- Parked cars restrict visibility making it more difficult for pupils to cross Harvie Avenue, Lomond Drive and Capelrig Road.
- Parents parking on zig-zag markings and blocking bus-bays.

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



Aims of the Crookfur Primary School Travel Plan

- To improve pedestrian safety in and around the school.
- To encourage more local pupils to walk to school.
- To encourage more pupils to cycle/scooter safely to school:- see school travel policy.
- To discourage indiscriminate parking practice around the school.
- To raise awareness amongst pupils of the wider health and environmental problems associated with increased car use.
- To raise awareness amongst pupils of the health benefits of walking, cycling and scootering to school (where applicable).
- To ensure those pupils 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.
- Improve access to the school by foot.
- To improve relationships between the school and local residents by encouraging parents who drive to school to park considerately.
- To ensure parents are aware of, and adhere to, Crookfur Primary's School Travel Policy (see below).

Crookfur Primary - School Travel Policy

- Crookfur Primary would like to encourage parents who drive to school to switch off their engines whilst waiting for pupils. This will reduce the amount of localised pollution around the school.
- 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/scooter to school at their parents / guardians discretion.
- Parents are encouraged to car-share when possible. This reduces emissions and congestion around the school.
- 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 pedestrians. Parking close to the school restricts visibility for pupils crossing the road.

Proposals to Improve Road Safety

- The school is currently seeking 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.
- Congestion levels can be further reduced by setting up car-sharing and 'park and stride' schemes.
- A part-time 20mph speed limit on Capelrig Road between Barcapel Avenue and Harvie Avenue will reduce vehicle speeds.
- Guard-rail, bollards, lining and signing work will be considered to assist the pedestrian.
- Re-allocate parking space at front of school.
- Ensure road markings are in good order.



Summary of Objectives and Proposals

Objectives	How	When	Who
Increase number of pupils passing cycling proficiency test from 64% to at least 80%.	* Active schools co-ordinators, teachers and parent helpers will assist pupils with training prior to cycling proficiency tests. Improve trainer to pupil ratio.	Summer 2007	Marie Bennett – Active School Co-ordinator (ASC) Teacher and Parent helpers
Offer P4 / P5 pupils cycle skills training.	* School Travel Co-ordinator to train trainers to train pupils.	Ongoing	Marie Bennett Greg Brown – Schools Travel Co-ordinator (STC),
Increase cycling levels.	* See training above and school travel policy.	Ongoing	Teachers, Parents, STC, ASC
Encourage pupils to scooter to school.	* Install cycle parking	Autumn 2006	STC
	* Provide storage facility if required.	Ongoing	STC
	* Training / advice on use.	Ongoing	David Henderson – Road Safety Training Officer
<u>Cost To be met by East Renfrewshire Council</u>			
To encourage an improvement in the number of pupils walking to school. Target 35% by summer 2008.	* Set up a 'walking bus' to serve school.	Ongoing	Angela Biggart – Principal Teacher
	* Identify 'Park & Walk' or 'Park & Stride' drop-off and collection zones.	Ongoing	Greg Brown – Schools Travel Co-ordinator
	* Whole school take part in 'Walk to School' week events.	Twice annually (May and October).	Whole School
	* Class based pedometer projects.	Ongoing	Whole School STC, ASC
	* Devise incentive based green travel ideas.	Ongoing	Whole School
<u>Cost To be met by East Renfrewshire Council</u>			

Objectives	How	When	Who
To improve road safety around school.	* Install part-time 20 mph speed limits;	Ongoing	Greg Brown – School Travel Co-ordinator
	* Reduce congestion by encouraging sustainable travel and sensible parking.	Ongoing	East Renfrewshire Council (ERC)
	* Ban parents entering school grounds. Design banners to discourage this.	Ongoing	Crookfur Primary
	<u>Cost To be met by East Renfrewshire Council</u>		
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
	* Continue to support 'Junior Road Safety Officer' scheme.	Ongoing	Crookfur Primary, David Henderson (ERC)
	* Promote sustainable travel through educational theatre.	Ongoing	Greg Brown – School Travel Co-ordinator
	* Whole school 'health promotion week'.	Ongoing	Active Schools Co-ordinator Teachers and Pupils
Link Travel Plan activities with Eco-schools project	* Liaison between Eco-school and Travel Plan staff to ensure continuity.	Ongoing	Fiona Louden Angela Biggart Julie McLuskey
Raise awareness of sustainable travel initiatives and promote new ideas from the pupils.	* Create a section on school notice board for school-travel issues.	Ongoing	JRSO's., Pupil Council, Eco-Council.
	* Start up a school travel suggestion box.	Ongoing	J.R.S.O's
	* Design healthy travel posters and banners.	Ongoing	Teachers, Pupils
	<u>Cost To be met by East Renfrewshire Council</u>		

Objectives	How	When	Who
To reduce level of traffic congestion around school at the beginning and end of the school day.	* Encourage sustainable travel, car sharing and considerate parking.	Ongoing.	Pupils Parents School Board Teachers Community Police East Renfrewshire Council Education Department
	* Stop parking on footways surrounding school. ERC roads to produce leaflet to discourage poor parking practice.	Ongoing.	
	<u>Cost To be met by East Renfrewshire Council</u>		
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	Ongoing	Campus Policeman at Eastwood High.

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 a year after release of the plan 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.

