

Dartington Primary School School Travel Plan 2005

Introduction and Background to school

School Location

Dartington Primary School has around 400 pupils and 61 staff. Brimhay Nursery is on a separate site. Bidwell Brook Community School (Special School) is adjacent to the main school.

A map is included to show the location of the school, which is situated at the junction of two busy 'A' roads to Totnes A385 and South Brent and A384 to Buckfastleigh, plus the road to Cott lane and Dartington itself. The site is opposite to the Cider Press Centre, a craft and arts venue that has a constant flow of traffic into and out of its car park. The surrounding area is largely rural to the west and north and east, but the town of Totnes is just 2 miles away to the south.

General Travel Patterns

Most pupils are driven to school from the direction of Totnes. However, most of the pupils who live within the village of Dartington walk to school. While there are adequate public transport links along the main road from Totnes to Dartington, there are many children attending the school who live in more rural areas, or from 'suburbs' of Totnes, which are not served by public transport.

Issues

In the morning and afternoon, the car park adjacent to the KS1 side of the school site is always full to capacity, with many cars parked in undesignated spaces. Parents can be seen clinging on to their young children as they struggle to escort them through this chaotic and dangerous environment. Parents who have young babies in car seats and /or toddlers, or who are disabled, have to arrive at least 20 minutes early to ensure they can park close enough to the school.

As mentioned, Dartington village has two main roads running through it. There are also two roundabouts at junctions near the school. Research has shown that while roundabouts are 'car friendly', maintaining flow of traffic etc, they are pedestrian 'unfriendly', as cars rarely stop for pedestrians and are concerned primarily with giving way to traffic from the right hand side.

Many stretches of road in the village in the vicinity of the school have no pavement.

The speed of the cars travelling along the main roads on either side of the school often exceeds the legal limits.

Opposite the KS2 side of the school site there is a petrol station and a village stores/post office. The cars coming in and out of these cause additional hazards for pedestrians.

The Cott Road leading down to the school through the village is Access Only, however many cars use this as an alternative route to and from Totnes, increasing the traffic flow. This road has no pedestrian pavement along most of it and many children from the village walk along it to school.

Aims of the School Travel Plan

1. To reduce the numbers of cars travelling to and from school.
2. To increase the number of people travelling to and from school by more sustainable methods, i.e. walking, cycling, lift sharing and public transport.
3. To improve safety of access around the school site.

Objectives

1. To reduce the level of congestion, danger and pollution caused by road traffic around our school.
2. To promote health and environmental education through the topic of travel.
3. To increase the health and fitness level of children travelling to and from school.

Proposed action to meet above aims and objectives

1. To encourage parents and children to use public buses to and from school by setting up supervised journeys, and providing clear timetable information for parents
2. To explore possibilities for park and stride access to school
4. To set up a supervised 'cycle train' along the cycle path from Totnes to Dartington
5. To explore the possibility of setting up a walking bus from Dartington village to the school.
6. To identify areas of danger around school in consultation with parents and children and to present and discuss these with those responsible for pedestrian safety at Devon County Council, i.e. Road Safety Officer and Traffic Engineers.

Working Group & Consultation

School Council have been involved with our School Travel Plan and we have formed a working group consisting of:

Stuart Ludford - Deputy Head Teacher = Education Co-ordinator

Kate Walsh – Parent = Public Transport Co-ordinator

Alice/Peter Oswald – Parents = Communications Co-ordinator

Sarah Morris – Parent = Cycle Train co-ordinator

Ruth Aspland – Parent = Nursery co-ordinator

Caroline Murphy – Parent = Chair

Consultation has been carried out with:

Devon County Council – Alison McGregor (School Travel Plan Co-ordinator) and Sarah Cooke (School Travel Plan Adviser) plus Jeremy Phillips (Road Safety Officer), Ben Hubbard (Traffic Engineer, Local service Group) Mr. Salem (School crossing patrol and groundsman), Dartington Parish council and Meadowbrook Community Group.

Cycle training commenced in Year 6 run by parent volunteers.

Surveys and data

The modes of travel used by our children in 2005 are:

	%
Walking	15
Cycling	9
School bus	3
Public bus	3
Car	69
TOTAL	99

Our maps of the places the children come from show that:

72 children come from **Totnes** by car daily.

4 children come by **bus**, this number could be increased through publicity and raising standard of service.

30 children come from **Harbertonford and Follaton** by car daily.

Almost all children coming from **Dartington walk** to school.

Approximately **20 children** come from **Buckfastleigh area** by car. These would benefit from a "Park and Stride" facility from the church.

9 children come by **school bus** from the Rattery/South Brent direction, 10 come by car. Are any of the 10 entitled to free school transport.

4 children from the **Broom Park area** come by car, these could be encouraged to walk with others from the same area.

Our parent surveys show that:

84 responses were received from parents.

Q1. Walking children **17 = 20%.**

Q2. "Walking bus" interest **43 = 51%.**

Q3. Volunteer supervisors **7.**

Q4. "Park and stride" interest **44 = 52%.**

Totnes and Dartington locations

Q5. "Lift share" interest **39 = 46%.**

Q6. Improvements needed = **safety at crossings and on roads.**

Q7. Car usage reasons = **distance and commuting to work** **33 = 39%**

Safety and weather **14 = 16%**

Q8. Cycle train interest = **25 = 29%.**

Q8. Volunteer supervisor = **5.**

Q9. Improvements needed = **safer roads, crossings** **17 = 20%**

Q10. Public transport improvements = **better services** **20 = 24%**

Problems, Issues & Solutions

Problem/Issue	Proposed solution	Who	When
WALKING			
Large numbers of drivers from Totnes and outlying areas cause congestion and danger for walkers and cyclists around school site and near School Crossing Patrol (SCP) Mornings are worst	Reduce cars approaching site by setting up Walking Buses from Cott (route to be confirmed and risk assessed), Dartington church. Encourage more walking and cycling Encourage car sharing – school has joined www.school-run.org as a trial for this year.	School parents & Road Safety Officer Stuart Ludford to oversee	Summer term 05 Launch May Walk to School Week
Lack of pavement across garage entrance and shop parking area	Work with Local Service Group engineers and Road Safety Officer and Community Police Officer, plus garage and shop owners to see if improvements can be made	John Halliday/Ben Hubbard, Road Safety Officer	Spring term 05
Cars reversing in and out of garage and shop area where children are crossing to get to SCP	Publicise problems to parents. Ask them not to use this area and reverse into shop parking spaces	School	Spring term 05
SCP could be in wrong place Flashing lights for crossing, insufficient, inappropriately sited	Road Safety Officer to investigate	Road Safety Officer	“
Entrance to Industrial estate dangerous to cross	Road Safety Officer to investigate	RSO	“
Zebra crossing opposite mill is still dangerous as cars do not always stop as they are coming round the bend fast and not expecting a crossing point	Signs/traffic calming/reduce speed limit/flashing lights? Road Safety Officer /Local Service Group to investigate	John Halliday/Ben Hubbard	“
Mini roundabout at Cott dangerous to cross	Road Safety Officer to investigate	RSO	“
Cott Rd dangerous to walk along	Identify safe routes through Cott and use Walking Bus	Parents & RSO	Summer 05
Pavement crossing for wheelchair users, kerb too high	Road Safety Officer to investigate	RSO	Spring 05
Roundabout by Cider Press, hazard of cars not stopping	Signs Road safety Officer to investigate	RSO	“
Meadowbrook Car Park congested and unsafe for children entering school.	Road safety Officer to investigate	RSO	“

CYCLING			
End of cycleway into Nursery is dangerous no adequate link from cycle path	Road Safety Officer to investigate	RSO	Spring term 05
Danger areas above apply to cyclists too and to small children riding bikes/trikes and scooters accompanied by parents	See above Set up Cycle Train so children are supervised	Sarah Morris, Ruth Aspland	Summer term 05
BUSES			
Buses not at appropriate times for school: 165 too late	Investigate times and talk to Transport Co-ordination Services about timetable changes	Kate Wilson & TCS & Sarah Moore	Spring 05
X80 & X81 possible but needs investigation	“	“	
People unaware of bus times and stops	Publicise with easy to read timetables	“	
Children need to wait in school to catch bus	Staff to help with this	Stuart	

Details on Walking Buses action plan:

- Dartington route has been risk assessed and passed by Jeremy Phillips.
- Contact interested volunteer responses from surveys to train with Sarah Cooke, provisional date 10/03/05.
- Sarah Cooke to check if police checks required of volunteers.
- Park and Stride = Annie Tempest (Head Teacher) has gained agreement from vicar to use Dartington church car park and KEVICCS head teacher to use Elmhurst site car park.

Details of cycle trains action plan:

- Totnes route has been risk assessed and passed by Jeremy Phillips.
- Contact interested volunteer responses from surveys to train with Jeremy Phillips, provisional date 10/03/05.
- Jeremy Phillips to notify of adult/child ratio.
- Sarah Cooke to check if police checks required of volunteers.

Details of bus improvements action plan:

- Collate post codes from requests for better services e-mail to Sarah Cooke for assessment and negotiation with Chris Syms from bus companies.
- Publish services to school through school newsletter and notice boards at Key stage 1 and 2 entry gates to school.
- Investigate school bus usage to investigate ways to improve take-up.
- To commence an adult supervised bus service from Totnes.
- Contact with volunteer made, willing to do a day on Mon/Thur/Fridays.

Awareness Raising and Educational Opportunities Details and Timetable

- Road Safety Policy: **Attached**
- Road Safety Education: To include Road Safety Education in the PSHE rolling programme, using resources recommended by Devon County Council Road Safety team.
- Environmental and Health Education:
 - ~ To seek opportunities in the wider curriculum to highlight environmental and health issues, particularly through Geography, PSHE, Citizenship and Science.
 - ~ Highlight environmental and health education throughout the rolling programme identifying links and opportunities across the whole curriculum

Targets	How will we know when we have met it?	When by?
Walking 5% INCREASE TO REACH 20%	GREAT SCHOOL TRAVEL TALLY	SEPT 05
Cycling 5% INCREASE TO REACH 14%	AS ABOVE	As Above
Buses 2% INCREASE TO REACH 5%	AS ABOVE	AS ABOVE
Cars 12% REDUCTION TO REACH 57%	AS ABOVE	AS ABOVE

Other travel modes ACHIEVE 5% PARK AND STRIDE	AS ABOVE	AS ABOVE
Other targets ACHIEVE 10% REGISTERED WITH "LIFT-SHARE"	CHECK SCHOOL-RUN.ORG SITE	AS ABOVE

Monitoring, Review and Publicity

- We will monitor our School Travel Plan by completing the Great School Travel Tally every September run by Devon County Council
- We can use Young TransNet to ask for pupils' opinions: www.youngtransnet.org.uk/devon
- We can count the numbers of pupils using the Walking Bus and the Cycle Train
- We will publish a leaflet for parents showing what preferred travel options they can use and where not to park.
- We can submit our School Travel Plan for Ecoschools Award , the Devon Schools' TravelWise awards and link it to Healthy Schools programme.

Signed (Headteacher)

Signed(Chair of Governors)

Date.....