



School Travel Plan

Carstairs Primary School

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Introduction

Carstairs Primary School's Travel Plan intends to set out measures and best practice regarding travel arrangements for both staff and pupils. The school recognises the importance of promoting sustainable transport in order to reduce the current trend of car reliance. We believe that a School Travel Plan (STP) will help to address many of our road safety and transport problems and have a very positive effect on the local community as a whole.

The STP has been devised with input from staff, parents, pupils and local residents. We have carried out a questionnaire survey to obtain an outline of their views. A Road Safety committee has been set up, comprising staff and pupils.

The main objective of Carstairs Primary School's STP is:

- To improve road safety in the areas surrounding the school grounds.

Further objectives are to:

- Reduce congestion around the school.
- Improve the safety of routes to the school.
- Reduce the detrimental impact that cars have on our environment.
- Improve the health and fitness of pupils.

We aim to meet these objectives by encouraging staff, parents and pupils to adopt sustainable transport alternatives to travel to school. These are set out and fully expanded in the Key Initiatives with Objectives and Targets and Programme for Implementation sections.

Brief Description of the School

Carstairs Primary School is situated on Green Avenue, Carstairs and has an approximate roll of 135 pupils. We are currently an Eco School (now working towards our fifth Eco flag), we are a Gold Health Promoting School, Gold Sport Scotland School and have also received accreditation as being a Rights Made Real School. Most of our children are within walking distance however, due to the nature of our catchment, with many children living in surrounding rural areas approximately 15 children are transported to school via the school bus. The school opening hours are 9am to 3pm, with before and after school clubs available, as circumstances allow, with our service regularly spanning (out with Covid circumstances) 8am to 4pm.

The school is located at the end of Green Avenue, Carstairs. Local shops and businesses are within walking distance from the school. Avenue Road, one of the school's key access points, is also a main route to accessing the Village Green (Village Centre) and it also has the only entrance / exit point to the local graveyard, at the foot of the hill exiting the school. Traffic on Green Avenue is mainly local residents and there are a significant number of cars parked in the area.

There is a staff car park on the school grounds, with space to turn. At the main gate there is only room for one car to pass at any one time. Local residents' car parking spaces are located right at the entrance to our main school gate.

Many families make use of our Avenue Road gate (to be found at the opposite end of the car park). This area includes a steep hill, which has the entrance to the local graveyard at the foot of it. Visibility on to the road at the foot of the hill is poor, due to trees and walls in the area. Speed of the traffic and inappropriate parking on this road is a concern. There is no space for any parking at this gate either.

Avenue Road is a main thoroughfare for the community, accessing the Castledykes area – a busy residential area, which houses many local families with children of all ages. This route is also a main access point to the Village Green – the heart of the Village. This is the location of the local shop, the road outside of which often has many parked cars. Avenue Road only has one pavement, owing to private housing and trees on one side of the road.

The school has worked hard to promote safety messages with children and families, over a number of years, making changes to where staff offer supervision and amending times that the car park is available, to meet the changing needs. Many children already walk, ride or scoot to school, with the school's bike shed being full to capacity each day. The school has ensured high levels of safety signage at appropriate points, including children's own designs, and staff work hard and give much time over to high levels of pupil supervision at morning drop off and evening pick up times.

Evidence of consultation

Pupil responses summary (91 responses)

91 pupil responses were received with 64% of pupils living less than 1 mile from the school. The normal travel modes to and from school are 52% walk, 29% bike, 29% car, 19% bus and 17% scooter.

When pupils were asked if they could choose, how they would like to travel to and from school, 27% selected walk, 52% by bike, 20% by car, 10% by bus, 7% by train and 13% by scooter. The main three issues selected which make it difficult for pupils to walk or cycle to school were bad weather (47%), roads too busy (39%) and traffic too fast (33%).

A variety of comments were detailed on how can the journey to school be made safer with many suggesting cars go slower, parking issues and general comments about how to keep safe.

Parent responses summary (22 responses)

Parents informed that 64% of children travelled less than half a mile to school with 64% travelling by foot, 32% by car, 18% by bike and 18% by scooter. Parents, if they could choose would prefer their child to travel to school on foot (64%), by bike (41%), by scooter (18%), by school bus (14%) and by car (9%).

Parents were supportive of pupils walking and cycling to school. Safer crossing places (77%), slower traffic speeds (76%) and more road safety education (45%) were the top three areas that would encourage or enable their child to walk or cycle to school. 59% of parents would support a Park and Stride initiative with a few suggestions for locations given.

Lots of comments were received about any ways the journey to school be made safer with the main points being – speed of traffic, signage / road markings and additional barriers.

Staff responses summary (3 responses)

3 staff members completed the surveys and owing to the distance to travel required, all travel by car. Staff highlighted concerns about traffic around the school, in particularly the speed and the parking.

Summary of School's Transport and Road Safety Problems

Although Carstairs Primary School is located at the end of a relatively quiet road (Green Avenue), we have some significant problems with the congestion that the school run traffic can cause. For example, we do find that inappropriate parking takes place around Avenue Road is an issue, especially when weather is poor, and that often cars on Avenue Road go too fast. This causes significant concern for safety of the children crossing, in a poor visibility area.

Congestion and speed concerns do also present in Green Avenue. Space there for parking is for use by local residents and the space provided is filled by residents' vehicles. Parental vehicles in these parking areas cause concern for children's safety and also cause issues for local residents, at times. There is a bottle neck at the main gate. Visibility can be affected and the speed of vehicles entering at a point where visibility can be an issue, can cause some concern.

Measures have been put in place for a significant period of time to close access to the car park at certain times, to alleviate congestion and speed concerns, giving priority to the school bus and disabled access only, in the school car park.

Signage indicating that there is a school in the area is not effective. Over a long period of time, the school has frequently reminded families about safety around the roads surrounding our school. The weekly newsletter and school app are frequently used (and have been over a lengthy period of time) as reminder prompts safety reminders for families.

The school are vigilant in ensuring that appropriate posters are displayed to support safety however the community would perhaps benefit from further static signage and / or other permanent measures being put in place, in support of this message and in support of children's safe crossing. There is a clear need for support to reduce the speed in the area and to support with safe crossing.

Key Initiatives with Objectives and Targets

Objective 1 – Reduce Speed of Traffic

We will continue to contact our local Police Scotland station and continue to inform them about the speed issues that we are experiencing around the school and ask that they can have a visit to help reinforce the message about travelling at a safe slow speed around our school.

‘Exploring Speed through Active Learning’ is a resource folder that contains lesson plans and a song for all class stages and introduces the character Speeding Ted. We will look to utilise this where appropriate, in support of the curricular plans already in place.

Through our school newsletter and social media platforms, we will continue reinforce core safety messages with parents, around speed and driving safely, if they have to bring the car.

Targets

- increase level of support gained from other agencies, in helping to reduce speed around school
- continue to ensure that road safety and keeping traffic speed minimal, is regularly brought to the attention of all stakeholders, using different channels of communication

Objective 2 – Ensure Safe Parking

We will introduce the Park Smart campaign with banners, posters and leaflets to reinforce the message about safe parking around the school. These resources are available for the school entrance and school keep clear marking and will be a great visual reminder about parking safely and away from the school entrances.

Park and Stride locations were suggested and will be investigated. In the meantime, we will continue promote a general Park and Stride, asking those that have to bring the car to park further away from the school and walk the remaining distance. We will continue to ask car users for support with this and continue to ask them to park safely, in a suitable location and walk the remaining distance with this child.

When we contact Police Scotland regarding the speed of traffic, we can also inform them about the parking issues and make them aware of these too.

Through our social media platforms, safe parking initiatives and information will continue to be shared with all school users.

Targets

- continue to ensure that road safe and unselfish parking, is regularly brought to the attention of all stakeholders, using different channels of communication
- link with other professionals to support the sharing of key safety messages, as far as possible

Objective 3 - General Road Safety

There were some general road safety comments in the survey about in-car safety, walk to school, wear something bright. We will share ideas within our school noticeboards, newsletters and via social media.

Our whole school health and wellbeing curriculum already embraces Road Safety at Early, First and Second Level. Safety messages also regularly feature as part of whole school assemblies. We participate annually in the South Lanarkshire Council road safety calendar competition.

We will continue to ensure that road safety is taught through our curriculum and whole school assemblies, as well as continue to participate in annual and other appropriate awareness raising competitions. We will seek to embrace support from South Lanarkshire Council road safety mascots, where appropriate.

We have made links with colleagues to see through the implementation of Active Travel workshops within our school. These ideas and activities will be brought to life and shared with our whole school community in 2021, promoting active routes to school and sustainability.

Targets

- up-level awareness of be bright, be seen this winter, with all stakeholders
- link with other professionals to support the sharing of key safety messages, as far as possible

Objective 4 - Engineering Measures

Many suggestions for markings, cutting trees, better signage, speed bumps and bollards were detailed in the reports. In August 2020, the school raised safety concerns and a site visit took place. The school were advised that no further safety resources would be allocated. The safety concerns remain and the parental consultation has continued to highlight this.

The school will continue to seek support from other SLC resources, in support of reviewing the permanent road markings / fixings for road safety, with a particular focus on the Avenue Road area. Consultation responses will be passed to the Engineering Officer for our school area and a further site visit to investigate will be requested.

Targets

- secure the support of other departments and professionals to support appropriate engineering measures to help overcome ongoing issues

Publicity and Awareness

The school will raise the profile of the School Travel Plan through their social media channels. Safety upon the roads surrounding our school will continue to be a standard feature in our weekly newsletters and will also be kept as a regular agenda item at our Parent Partnership meetings, as appropriate.

Programme for Implementation

We have created a timeline to show our proposed action plan to implement our objectives, targets and measures.

August – December 2020

Full consultation and travel plan update
Liaison with Parent Partnership
Liaison with Support Services
Liaison with Local Police
SLC posters carefully positioned and displayed
Safety posters (children's designs) created and displayed appropriately
Liaison with School Travel Plan Co-ordinator
Whole school road safety assembly (x2)
In class road safety lessons P1-P7, in line with whole school planning
Make contact with Engineering Officer
Updated School Travel Plan shared with all stakeholders via school's communication channels

January 2021 – June 2021

Liaison with Parent Partnership
Liaison with Engineering Officer
Liaison with School Travel Plan Co-ordinator
Liaison with Local Police
Continued use of school social media channels, for appropriate messaging
Implementation of Active Travel workshops and sharing of outcomes with all stakeholders

June 2021 - Review success of liaison with other agencies and actions taken to date, amend planning and actions, as required for June 2021-June 2023.

We will begin work on these plans as detailed in the objectives and targets. All stakeholders will be involved in the implementation of these proposals. We will identify people's strengths and ask them if they would like to be responsible for a particular aspect or action. We will continue to keep the plan under regular review, should any further items not already detailed arise as part of our ongoing self evaluation processes.

Plans for Monitoring and Review

The plan will be monitored and reviewed at our regular Road Safety committee meetings. These meetings are held termly. As with all of the processes to implement our ideas, the pupil's views will be represented by our Junior Road Safety Officers at the meetings that he/she attends. Copies will be available in the school for parents, pupils and local residents to browse. Copies will also be circulated to all relevant parties:

- Community Police.
- Engineering Officer.
- School Travel Plan coordinator.
- Any other interested party.

Any amendments that are to be made to the plan will be inserted by the committee. All changes and amendments will be inserted as soon as possible and updated copies available to all stakeholders immediately. This is not a prescriptive plan and it should not be seen as a 'finished article'. We are intending to treat this as an active, ongoing 'work in progress' and add to the plan when we can.