

Sevenoaks Primary School, Travel Plan 2014 - 2019

SUMMARY OVERVIEW

Context

Building on previous Plans produced by Sevenoaks Primary School (SPS), the School's Parent Council has led the research and production of a new School Travel Plan, to cover the period from 2014 to 2019. The Plan is fully endorsed by both the SPS Headteacher and the Governing Body.

It is a central part of the School mission statement that the children should be safe, healthy and happy. The Plan has been prepared in response to growing concerns over increasing levels of traffic around SPS, and the resulting safety of the children and parents / carers. With SPS's formal change to three-form entry in 2013, pupil numbers are set to increase from 481 in 2014 to 630 in 2019: giving an assumption of even greater traffic volumes around the School. The Plan is hence a proactive mechanism to try to tackle resultant issues.

Plan Production

Fundamental to the Plan preparation was the establishment of a baseline of current travel to / from School by pupils and parents. Consequently, in March 2014, all parents were invited to "Take 10": to answer 10 travel survey questions in 10 minutes, in an anonymous electronic survey. 196 responses were received, covering 334 children attending SPS, the Bradbourne Park Preschool and Acorns Nursery (both of which share the SPS site). 57% of children attending the site are hence represented by the Survey results.

Detailed analysis of the Survey had led to a clear understanding of current travel patterns, and the issues and perceptions that parents have about the environment around the School. This has shaped production of an overarching Aim, seven Objectives, and a detailed Action Plan. Consultation with key partners – especially Kent Police, Kent County Council and Sevenoaks District Council – has run alongside the Plan production process.

Current Travel To / From SPS

90% of all pupils live within a road distance of 1.5 miles of the School, whilst the straight-line catchment for September 2013 entry to SPS was just 0.7 miles. A significant majority – 66% - of pupils currently travel to / from SPS without access to a vehicle. Almost all of these pupils travel on foot or by scooter, with just 1% cycling.

Of the reasons why parents drive their children to / from School, the most significant was as part of an onward journey – mostly connected to work. 25% of car journeys were, however, for convenience, time-saving or were considered the safest option.

In total, 37 different travel issues and perceptions about road safety were drawn from parent narrative within the Survey results. These have been loosely categorised under five headings in the Travel Plan:

- Parking Restrictions
- Specific Road Issues
- Encouraging Non-car Use
- General Congestion and Unsafe Surrounding Roads
- Specific Improvement Suggestions

Travel Plan Aim

The Travel Plan aims to make overall journeys to and from Sevenoaks Primary School safer, healthier and more enjoyable by:

- encouraging children, parents and staff to walk, cycle and scoot to School as part of a healthier lifestyle,
- educating all about road safety,
- reducing the total number of cars used for the school journey, and
- reducing the congestion, and hence pollution, outside the School at peak times.

Travel Plan Objectives

The Plan sets seven Objectives from this overarching aim:

1. To increase the modal split for active travel of pupils from 66% to 70% by September 2015, with a longer-term target of 75% by 2019.
2. To achieve a similar 9% modal shift for staff travel from the car to more active means of travel, against a baseline to be identified in September 2014.
3. To engage with existing initiatives – particularly those of Kent CC and the KM Group – to set up at least two new mechanisms that positively encourage walking to SPS.
4. To work with public sector bodies, SPS neighbours and parents / carers to take a more holistic approach to the traffic issues around SPS.
5. To greater integrate the pursuit of more active travel for pupils into the curriculum and classroom.
6. To fundraise for, and deliver, specific on-site improvements to help achieve Travel Plan aims.
7. To promote active travel to and from SPS, alongside the negative impacts of car travel, to current and future pupils, parents, staff and visitors.

Action Plan

The focus of the SPS Travel Plan is a detailed Action Plan. This contains 53 identified actions resulting from the Survey, split under eight headings:

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| ➤ Walking (7 actions) | ➤ Cycling and Scootering (6 actions) |
| ➤ Road Safety / Off-site Works (12 actions) | ➤ On-site Improvements (5 actions) |
| ➤ Car-related Initiatives (4 actions) | ➤ Promotion (8 actions) |
| ➤ Curriculum and Education (6 actions) | ➤ Staffing (5 actions) |

Each action has a Lead, timescales, delivery mechanisms, and whether funding is needed to deliver. The Action Plan is available as a separate document to the main Travel Plan.

Delivery, Monitoring and Review

The strength of the 2014 SPS Travel Plan is that it has been produced by both parents and staff, and has a detailed suite of actions against which annual monitoring and progress review can be undertaken. SPS has appointed a staff Travel Plan Lead – Mrs Hafford-Robson – to work alongside the Headteacher in delivering the Plan. Having been produced by Parent Council representatives, it also has the full support of this important consultative body.