Sompting Village Primary School

Travel Plan

March 2009



ADUR & WORTHING
PLANNING SERVICES

PLAN	AWDM/0996/16
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TRAVEL PLAN

MARCH 2009

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STATEMENT BY THE HEADTEACHER AND CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

The Governors and staff of Sompting Village Primary School are extremely concerned with the on-going safety of pupils in relation to travel to and from the school. Before amalgamation in September 2008 concerns were also expressed by both White Styles Middle School and Templars First School. Local residents and the parents of pupils have also voiced their concerns, especially when incidents have occurred that could have resulted in injuries to children.

The school has set up a Working Party with representatives from the school, parents and the local police and we continue to seek advice from relevant outside agencies regarding practical help in improving the situation at the school gate and surrounding roads.

In school, staff and pupils have been considering issues about the environment, pupil fitness and approaches to teaching healthier life styles.

This Travel Plan is the culmination of these endeavours.

Parents and pupils have been canvassed for their opinions and a full survey has been undertaken involving all the families connected with the school. We appreciate the help and comments we have received and are therefore delighted to endorse this Travel Plan for Sompting Village Primary School.

We are convinced that when it is fully implemented there will be evidence that our pupils are enjoying a healthier life style; are travelling to and from school daily in a safer fashion; and that their parents and local residents will have greater peace of mind regarding the issues of traffic in the area of the school.

Signed: [redacted] [redacted]

Richard Cave
Headteacher

Rob Leng
Chair of Governors

INTRODUCTION

The Village of Sompting

Sompting is part of the Adur district about a mile from the sea. It is an old small village community which is surrounded by large housing developments and bounded on two sides by busy main roads. The A27 runs to the north, to the east are Western Road the main road linking the A27 to the A259 and West Street. West Street runs parallel to the A27 at the other side of Sompting Green and is part of the old village. It is still essentially a surfaced country lane, much of which has no pavements and despite traffic calming measures is subject to high levels of fast moving traffic using it as a rat run for the A27. Sompting occupies a flat area although there is a steep slope down to Western Road which increases hazards for children using bicycles and scooters unsupervised. There is a small nucleus of ancient and listed buildings but most of the properties have been built post-1945. There is very little local employment. As many parents travel to work by car they tend to drop off children at school on their way.

Distribution of school pupils

The vast majority of children of our catchment attend Sompting Village Primary School. They later go on to Boundstone Community College across Western Road. A small number of children attend from Lancing and Worthing. 73% of the current pupils live within the "natural" catchment area, all of which is within 1 -2 kms of the School.

Location of the school

The school is situated in a wholly residential area. Vehicular access is solely by Whitestyles Road, which allows only two lanes of traffic and in which residential parking is permitted. A voluntary one-way system operates for half an hour before and after the start and close times at school. However strangers to the area or, those forgetting the time, do use it mistakenly. Pedestrian access is generally by the same route, although it is possible to reach the school by a rear access designed principally for pedestrian traffic but now used by cars and parked on by parents and residents. There are currently no other access routes to the school other than the footpaths which are secure from the main car park at the front of the building. For safety reasons, cars are not permitted to enter the school gates at the start and finish of the day, apart from staff arriving or leaving the premises. No children are permitted to enter or leave via the car park.

The Travel Plan survey

The survey of travel to and from school went to all families, and there was a 36% paper return of the completed questionnaires.

THE ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

There are major safety and community issues that we need to address regarding vehicles

- Parental parking in the road outside the school, especially at the end of the day
- The convenience of residents at the start and end of the day
- The safety of pedestrians and cyclists in the vicinity of the school
- The difficulty for pedestrians crossing Western Road at the point nearest the school
- The difficulty for pedestrians crossing West Street with the junction of Dankton Lane

In addition we wish to consider:

- The health of our pupils and the frequency and extent of their physical exercise
- Improved arrangements for travel to school that will make for both safer and healthier lifestyles for our pupils
- Any arrangements to assist pupils that might also be of assistance to the wider community

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this Travel Plan are in line with West Sussex County Council objectives that follow guidance within the Local Transport Plan. They also accord with recommendations from the DFES regarding physical exercise and healthy lifestyles for school pupils. They are:

- To improve road safety
- To reduce dependence on motor vehicles
- To raise awareness of transport-related environmental issues
- To assist pupils and their parents to make healthier lifestyle choices

The Travel Plan has been agreed with all groups associated with the school. It has defined, measurable targets that we believe are realistic and can be monitored.

PLEASE NOTE catchment areas can b
subject to review and change and parent
are therefore advised to check with the
Admissions Office for confirmation
regarding the catchment school for
specific properties

KEY POINTS ARISING FROM THE SURVEY AND ATTACHED COMMENTS

Question: **How far is the journey to school?**
49%: Less than 1 km. 34% less than 2km (1-2 km 84%)
The "natural" catchment area for the school contains 85% of families, most of whom are within the 1-2 km boundary, making walking a reasonable option for the older children. However currently only 65% are walking to school. This could be because for a parent with one or two children under 5 this can seem a very difficult journey to accomplish safely and in bad weather, undesirable.

Question: **How would your child LIKE to travel to and from school?**
28%: would like to use their bicycle/scooter or tricycle

At the moment there is no secure storage for wheeled transport or personal safety equipment. Parents have to travel back with assorted small bikes and trikes and this is not popular!

Currently children do not take their cycling training until Year 6. It is reasonable to expect that given the proper facilities a number of them will cycle to school when they are in Year 6.There is a significant number of 29% who would prefer to cycle and the distance, if not the road system, should make this viable.

Question: **How does your child usually travel TO school?**
30%: Use some form of transport all or part of the way

It is evident that a significant number of children within the 1-2 km boundary, and the "natural" catchment area, use some form of transport to get to school for a range of family and logistical reasons eg being dropped off by parents going to or from work, pre-school care arrangements etc.

It was also clear that some parents found that if they arrived on foot early either at the start or end of school there was nowhere to wait and keep dry, Thus they came in the car only letting the children out into the rain to dash into school. Further provision of shelter around the school would relieve wet weather increases in vehicular traffic to and from school.

Question: **How does your child usually travel home FROM school?**
28%: Use some form of transport all or part of the way

Again, it is evident that a significant number of children within the 1-2 km boundary, use some form of motorised transport to get home from school. Most children who are transported to school are also taken home from school although some clearly walk whilst others attending or having after-school provision elsewhere, use transport.

TRAVEL SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

MAIN PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED

LOCATION	PROBLEM	NUMBER OF COMMENTS	% OF TOTAL COMMENTS
Western Road North 30 people	Speeding cars	25	83%
	No stopping for Zebra Crossing	3	10%
	No cycle lanes	2	6%
White Styles Road 12 people	Parking on Zig Zags	6	50%
	Too many cars	5	41%
	Do not use one-way system	1	8%
A27/Busticle Lane 9 people	Difficulty Crossing	7	77%
	No pavement	2	22%
Cokeham Road 18 people	Double parking	8	44%
	Speeding cars	4	22%
	Blind bend	3	16%
	Visibility poor	3	16%
West Street/Lotts Lane 22 people	Speeding cars	13	59%
	Parked cars obstructing	4	18%
	Visibility poor	5	22%
Dankton Lane 5 people	Speeding cars	5	100%
Crabtree Lane/Cokeham Road 1 person	Difficulty crossing	1	100%
Test Road 9 people	Speeding cars	6	66%
	Visibility poor	3	33%
Loose Lane 5 people	Bad parking	3	60%
	Speeding cars	2	40%
Alleyways 4 people	Uneven paths	2	50%
	Poorly lit	2	50%
Western Road/Seafront 1 person	Above speed limit of 30 mph	1	100%

125 questionnaires returned

Results of Pupil First Hand Experiences of Reported Traffic Blackspots from surveys returned

On **Western Road**

- having to wait at the zebra crossing as cars on the opposite side to the group did not stop even when cars on their side had
- a heavy build up of traffic, vans, lorries and cars going to the traffic lights and almost constant traffic coming down from the filter turning lights on the A27
- visibility to cross the road was difficult even at the crossing because of their size and some parked cars
- some cars crossed the zebra crossing while they were still on it - commercial and taxis were the offenders
- in any one minute period there was a vehicle every 3 seconds
- some seemed to be travelling faster than the 30mph allowed
- older pupils crossed at the West Street junction where the traffic comes from 4 directions and this was thought to be dangerous although many were taken across there by parents

In **West Street** cars and lorries

- took little notice of their presence at the road side
- travelled at least at the maximum speed allowed
- approaching up West Street from the Western road junction were generally travelling faster because they had applied power to get up the sharp rise

DETAILS OF THE WORKING GROUP

The Core Working Group has the following members:

Mr Richard Cave	Headteacher
Mrs Julie Dunn	Travel Plan Coordinator
Mrs Cindy Simmonds	Parent Governor who lives close to the school
Miss Sally Carman	Local Police Community Support Officer

Pupils are involved in the development of the plan through consultation in assemblies and their opinions are considered and incorporated into the travel plan. Pupils are encouraged to express their views relating to the travel plan to members of the existing working party. The school will be working towards National Healthy School Status emphasising pupil involvement in promoting walking and cycling both as recreational activities and as independent mobility.

The working group meets as part of their routine involvement with the school. The policy of the Governors is to communicate by email and to function in small groups, with responsibility delegated to individuals, reporting to the Full Governing Body when appropriate.

Following approval of the plan, the Working Group will meet termly to monitor progress and report to the Full Governing Body.

The whole school community, including pupils, has been involved in the process, gathering information and canvassing opinion in the locality.

Pupils have taken an active approach to the issue of road crossing by paying supervised monitoring visits during school time to reported blackspots.

The school staff have been consulted on the educational aspects of the plan and initiatives are in hand to ensure that the school curriculum addresses issues relating to health and safety and the environment.

Parents are kept informed of the Travel Plan through items in the regular School Newsletter.

Summary of the Results of the Survey:

The survey shows that we still have on-going issues with certain areas within our community:

- Speeding cars along Western Road
- Complaints by residents about the constant blocking of access in White Styles Road and Blacksmiths Crescent at both the front and rear of the school at the beginning and end of each day
- Parking on zig zag lines outside the school
- Speeding cars along West Street
- Safety of bicycles on school grounds
- Blind spots/poor visibility at Dankton Lane/West Street junction

Actions to be undertaken by our school.

We shall be:

- approaching parents who regularly make these areas part of their journey to keep a week's diary of "wait times" and other observations and difficulties they encountered with crossing. These will be undertaken throughout the year at specified times etc pre-Christmas, predicted wet weather weeks, Walk to School Week, after the changes to the clocks etc

- contacting our local councillors to alert them to the issues regarding children's safety on the roads

- contacting the Highways Department about making the rear entrance to the school and the Dankton Lane/West Street junction more pedestrian friendly by cutting back regularly overhanging vegetation which deters them using the pavements

- asking The Highways Department if the Western Road zebra crossing could be pedestrian controlled some or all of the day.

Actions to achieve the objectives of the travel plan are outlined in the action plan below:

Action	Who?	When?
To continue to undertake cycle training for Year 6 pupils	Year 6 Teachers	Annually in Spring Term
To enter the Annual Road Safety and TravelWise Quiz	Years 5 & 6 teaching staff	October 2009 and annually thereafter
To publicise the voluntary one-way system and appropriate parking close to school.	Letters to parents from pupils	Summer term in preparation for new entrants September 2009
Continue Mountain Biking club	Staff	On-going
To investigate the possibility of setting up a walking bus	Parents	Spring term 2010
To participate in Natuibak Walk to School Week in May	Teacher or member of non-teaching staff	May 2009 and annually
To set up a 'parking promise' scheme	Parent or teacher with pupils	Autumn term 2009
To set up a 'walking initiative' such as Walk on Wednesday (WOW) or an incentive scheme for inter-class competition	Pupils with teachers in registration time	Autumn term 2009
To set up a cycle permit scheme for pupils wishing to cycle to Sompting Village Primary (similar to a home-school agreement)	Teacher/Head Teacher	Autumn term 2009
To publicise the travel plan at new parents' evenings and transfer day	WSCC with any interested pupils	Summer term 2009 and annually
To publicise the travel plan when children join the schools through the year, pointing out safe pedestrian access	All staff	On-going
Encourage staff to consider sharing cars		Courses/Events
Local Visits- walking eg Boundstone, harvest, beach	Pupils and staff	On-going
Investigate Park & Stride - possibly from Marquis of Granby Pub, Balltree Inn or Community Centre	Staff	Summer 2009
Investigate possible cycle routes	Headteacher + Staff	Summer 2009
Promote 3 in 1 Travel Cards	All staff	Summer 2009

SUMMARY OF THE TARGETS THAT ARE PROPOSED

By the end of July 2009:

- To have secure further cycling storage on the school site
- To have more 4-8 year pupils cycling to school regularly
- To increase pupils cycling to school
- To have 65% of all pupil journeys to school undertaken on foot or by cycle - we hope by July 2009 this will be nearer 70% if storage and shelters in place
- To have accommodation for waiting parents/carers
- To promote the 3-in-1 Travel Cards

ACTION PLAN

We aim to

- Make pedestrian walkways both safer and more pleasant so that others can be encouraged to join in
- Encourage even the youngest children to travel to school by wheeled transport – cycles, scooters, tricycles - if they could keep up with the speed of an anxious mum with a pushchair!
- Provide more secure cycle and cycling equipment storage
- Reduce vehicular traffic and parking
- Liaise with the County Council regarding a more enforceable one way system..
- Provide dry accommodation outside for parents:
  - Arriving earlier than start time
  - Waiting to collect at the end of the day
- Continue to reduce staff car use by:
  - Shared transport to courses,
  - Car sharing where possible
  - Staff walking or cycling to school when or where possible
- Encourage more frequent visits from either the police or the Community Wardens at the crucial times of day, especially around 3.15 pm as children leave the school
- To benefit children and local residents - parking and stopping restrictions would be enforced so that essential drivers get into the habit of parking away from the school
- Speak with individual parents about their repeated bad parking
- Through newsletters and direct contact, constantly remind parents about safeguarding <u>all</u> children's safety and not just their own offspring
- Promote through invited speakers into school, promotional packs for pupils etc, the 3-in-1 Travel Cards
- Implement a Parking Promise Day. Encourage everyone, through pupil input, not to park on the zig zag lines outside the school

CURRICULUM IMPLICATIONS OF THE TRAVEL PLAN

Promote travel choice as part of our units of work within "Environments" and "Ourselves". These both afford opportunities to look at both health and safety issues around walking or cycling to school.

"Environment" contains work on

- safe routes to school
- safe routes on harvest deliveries
- pollution
- use of natural and renewable energy resources

"Ourselves" contains work on

- Keeping safe
- Physical health and well-being
- Opportunities for exercise and play

We endeavour through any work we undertake to make relevant links to all curriculum areas but particularly Geography, ICT, Citizenship, PSHE and Science.

Each year we have whole school cross-curricular days or weeks where we explore issues that affect us daily. Safety Week has a major element about Road Safety but also keeping safe when playing out or travelling independently. These elements should help to address some of the concerns for parents and pupils about "stranger danger".

We will use travel as an element when studying a local issue. We have already begun to look at traffic movement along Western Road and West Street, parking around the school and routes around Sompting. We intend to continue and develop this activity and focus further.

We will encourage pupils to participate in 'Walk to School Week' and give praise for walking a distance to the school playground. For some pupils this may mean establishing a dropping off point at some place further from school than usual. We shall encourage parents to watch as their children walk into school from these eg top of White Styles Road, in Test Road for the rear access etc, to ensure parents are sure children are safe.

The children have been consulted about ways we can encourage more children to walk to school and some of their ideas have already been incorporated into the plan.

We intend to develop this with them and their parents further. They are particularly keen to pursue the provision of wheeled transport and equipment storage as there are a significant number of pupils who see this as their preferred method of travel.

MONITORING AND REVIEWING IMPLEMENTATION

The Headteacher will from time to time conduct a 'show of hands' questionnaire to monitor the travel arrangements for children. This will be done at least termly and the results reported to the Travel Plan Working Group.

The Travel Plan and its Action Plan and targets will be reviewed on an annual basis at a meeting with the School Travel Advisor

The Governors will continue to engage parents and other members of the community in personal conversations regarding travel arrangements for children.

The Working Group will meet again in May to further consider developments once the Travel Plan has been submitted to County.

The Headteacher and Chair of Governors will continue to engage with the relevant bodies and community partners to improve walking conditions

The curriculum issues raised by the Travel Plan will be discussed at the Governing Body meetings in relation to their responsibility to monitor the curriculum.

The school staff responsible will keep under review the curriculum arrangements relevant to the Travel Plan and report to the Governors Curriculum Committee.

Sompting Village Primary School:

- Will include information about the school travel plan in our induction programme for new parents
- Will include a group of questions about travel to school in annual parent surveys
- Will include information about the school travel plan in their Prospectus
- Will maintain public awareness by including regular updates on the plan in newsletters, using assemblies for awareness raising and once up and running, via the school website
- Will continue to host Community Panel Meetings on a regular basis

How far is the journey to the school?

Less than 1km	74	45.4%
1km to under 2km	45	27.6%
2km to under 3km	18	11%
3km to under 5km	17	10.4%
5km and over	9	5.5%

How do you normally travel to school?

Bicycle	4	2.4%
Bus/Coach	9	5.4%
Car	51	30.4%
Car Share	15	8.9%
Walk all the way	89	53%

How do you normally travel home from school?

Bicycle	23	14.6%
Bus/Coach	9	5.7%
Car	34	21.7%
Car Share	9	5.7%
Walk all the way	82	52.2%

If you could choose, how would you like to travel to and from school?

Walk	88	61.5%
By car	20	14%
By bicycle	35	24.5%

If you do not normally walk to/from school, please indicate why.

NA - I do walk to school.	57	37.7%
It's too dangerous	14	9.3%
Don't have enough time	18	11.9%
Don't like walking	2	1.3%
It's too far	17	11.3%
Other	43	28.5%

How safe do you consider the route?

Safe all the way	59	38.8%
Unsafe part of the way	61	40.1%
Unsafe all the way	17	11.2%
No opinion	15	9.9%

Please give details of unsafe locations on the route to school. In addition to the road name, please include any other useful information about the location such as "junction with..." or "Road opposite the post office" and details of the exact problems experienced e.g. "speeding traffic" or "blind bend".

Would you consider joining a "Walking Bus" where trained parent volunteers walk children into school from designated drop off points

Yes	54	43.2%
No	71	56.8%

If you do not normally cycle to school, please indicate why.

N/A - I do cycle to school		8	4.4%
It`s too dangerous		34	18.7%
Don`t have enough time		16	8.8%
Don`t like cycling		13	7.1%
No cycling facilities		16	8.8%
Too young		42	23.1%
Don`t own a bicycle		10	5.5%
Too far		19	10.4%
Other		24	13.2%

How safe do you consider the cycle route to be?

Safe all the way		27	19%
Unsafe part of the way		50	35.2%
Unsafe all the way		30	21.1%
No opinion		35	24.6%

Please give details of unsafe locations on the cycle route to school. In addition to the road name, please include any other useful information about the location such as "junction with..." or "Road opposite the post office" and details of the exact problems experienced e.g. "speeding traffic" or "blind bend".

Please indicate which of the following improvements could be made at your school.

More secure cycle racks		10131	98.5%

Better location of cycle racks	13	0.1%
Better lighting	16	0.2%
More space for storage of helmets, pump etc	50	0.5%
Protection from rain	74	0.7%
Other	3	0%

If you do not normally travel to school by bus, please indicate why.

N/A - I travel to school by bus	10	4.3%
It`s too expensive	10	4.3%
There`s no service available	36	15.3%
Too Young	36	15.3%
It`s too far to walk to bus stop	8	3.4%
Live too near school	79	33.6%
It`s quicker/easier to get a lift	10	4.3%
The bus takes too long	9	3.8%
Don`t know which bus to catch	9	3.8%
No supervision	9	3.8%
Overcrowding / pupils behaviour	9	3.8%
Other	10	4.3%

How safe do you consider the route to the bus stop to be?

Safe all the way	20	15.5%
Unsafe part of the way	25	19.4%
Unsafe all of the way	8	6.2%
No opinion	76	58.9%

Please give details of unsafe locations on the route to the bus stop. In addition to the road name, please include any other useful information about the location such as "junction with..." or "Road opposite the post office" and details of the exact problems experienced e.g. "speeding traffic" or "blind bend".



Do you have a bus pass?

Yes	20	16.4%
No	102	83.6%

How many other pupils travel with you in the car?

N/A - I do not travel to school by car	57	38%
One	26	17.3%
Two	35	23.3%
Three	23	15.3%
More than three	9	6%

Is the journey to school usually:

N/A - I do not travel to school by car	54	41.2%
A special journey to go to school	26	19.8%
A continued/combined journey e.g. to work	41	31.3%
Part of a car share arrangement	10	7.6%

If suitable parking was available, would you be prepared to "park and walk", i.e. park a short distance away from the school and walk the rest of the way

N/A - I do not travel to school by car		42	31.6%
Yes		33	24.8%
No		28	21.1%
Maybe sometimes		30	22.6%

Would you consider joining a car-sharing scheme?

Yes		31	28.2%
No		79	71.8%

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