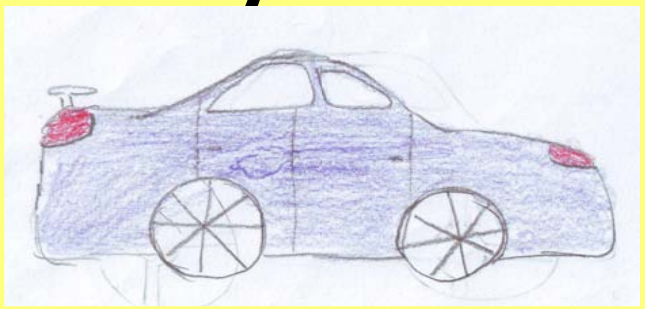
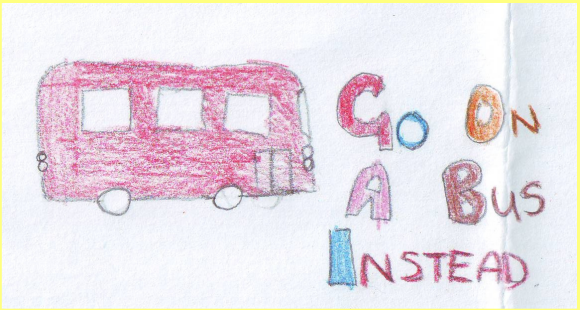
# Seaside Primary School

# School Travel Plan

## May 2008






Rebecca Gillhespy - PSHCE Co- ordinator

**Seaside Primary School**
**Safer Routes to School Project**

## Aim

To improve the children's journey to the Seaside Primary School Site.

## Objectives

To reduce the number of car journeys
To reduce the congestion at the front of the school
Encourage more children to walk to school
To improve safety
Encourage parents who need to drive, to park and walk for part of the journey
To encourage children to have healthy lifestyles and become independent adults who are not reliant on cars
To improve the environment, reduce pollution and benefit the whole community
To involve the school and local community

## Steering Group

Nicky Bleakly - Project Officer School Travel

**Thornberry**

Simon Mockford - Head teacher
Rebecca Gillhespy - Teacher ( Healthy School Leader)
Marie Maskell - Parent Governor

**Freshbrook**

Gill Richardson - Teacher
Linsie Lynn - Parent Governor

## Background

## Lancing

Lancing is a Village located on the coastal strip between Brighton and Worthing. Its about 3 miles East of Worthing. 80% of families live within 3 km of the school.
Seaside Primary School has approximately 240 Pupils attending in September 2008, aged 5-11 and is located on Freshbrook Rd. the school has the capacity for 240 children.

## Location of the school

The school is located in a residential area, with access only possible from Freshbrook Rd. There is a parking bay opposite the school with space for 4 cars and unrestricted parking in the neighbouring residential roads. Freshbrook road is a narrow road and to the West has cars parked along one side, this is the side the pavement is on and where most of our children walk. To the East there are traffic slowing chicanes.

Children can arrive at school between 8.40 and 9.00 and leave between 3.15 and 4.00 if they attend after school clubs. School starts at 8.50 and finishes at 3.15.

## A Healthy School

At a time when the government is concerned about childhood obesity, Seaside promotes its healthy curriculum with enthusiasm, focusing particularly on being active and eating a healthy diet. Presently we have large outdoor space which we utilise for sports and activities in all weathers.

**Current School initiatives include:**

**PESSCL** (Physical Education School Sports and Club Links)
The school is participates annually in the PESSCL survey. Seaside provides detailed data about the level of Sport participation in the school community and this data is collated nationally and used to create targets for sports achievement across the country.

**SSCO** (School Sports Coach Organisation)
Through our local SSCO Seaside takes full advantage of County funded coaches working in our district. Over the last 3 years every year group has been taught at least once by a specialist coach, including activities such as gymnastics, dance, rugby and cricket. The SSCO also help promote and organise partnerships with other feeder schools and Boundstone Community College.

**Eco Schools**

Seaside is an Eco School and has achieved their bronze award status. This means they have and active Action Team, the Eco School Council, who meet weekly and are working on an action plan to ensure the school reduces its impact on the environment.
The Action Team also work hard to promote an environmentally friendly ethos and attitude throughout the school.

**Cycling proficiency**

All children in year 6 are given the opportunity to take part in cycling proficiency training. It is done in school time and every effort is made to include all children.

**Healthy Eating**

The school has worked hard over the last two years to promote healthy eating. This included running a healthy eating week where pupils tasted food, learnt about a balance diet and parents were invited into school to learn more. Healthy eating is also a prominent feature in the science and PSHCE curriculum.

**Healthy Schools Status** (working towards)

Seaside is making good progress towards achieving the Healthy Schools status. Strengths and weaknesses have been identified and we are now following an action plan to address the areas that need development. Emotional Health and P.E. provision were have been identified as strong areas.
It was felt that in view of the school merger, it was more beneficial to apply for the status after September 2008.

**Tournaments/Sports**

The Adur area is lucky to have a wide range of inter school sports tournaments and activities, Seaside takes part in all of these enthusiastically. Activities include football, tag rugby, netball, rounders, stoolball, athletics and fun days. Thornberry also runs its own, wide range, of after school sports clubs run by a mixture of teachers and community sports coaches.

**Swimming**

Every Child in Seaside has the opportunity to take part in swimming in year 5. We also take part in a swimming catch up in year 6, where pupils who need extra support with their swimming take part in a 4 week catch up course.

**Parking at the school**

Parking and traffic congestion at the front of the school has been an area of concern for several years. In the last six months there have been two incidents involving pupils and cars. One pupils was hit by a car, another was very nearly hit. The safety of the pupils is compromised by the large number of cars parked along the street, making it more difficult to cross, and by the high volume of traffic in both directions (see photo ).

There is a bay opposite the school where parents can drop off, however this still means children have to cross the road. The staff parking area is very small, but a small number of disabled parents are allowed to drop off and pick up from here.

Local residents are constantly complaining about parents parking in their streets. Common complaints being that they are often blocked in or that parents park or turn around in their driveways.




**Photo A**

**Pavements**

As well as parking and traffic congestion, there is a problem with pedestrian congestion outside the school and on Freshbrook road. Outside the school the pavement is fairly narrow and all other areas are grass. During wet weather parents, understandably, avoid standing on the grass. This means the pavement and path, especially at the West end of the school, become very congested. This results in pupils and other parents being forced to walk out on the road to get past (see photo B). Further up Freshbrook road the pavement (which only runs on one side) is narrow. In places it is not wide enough for two push chairs to pass, to make this issue worse, there are cars parked along this stretch of the road. So if someone wants to overtake on the pavement they could be force to go out into the road and around a parked car.




**Photo B**

## Travel survey

In July 07 we conducted the Safer Routes to School travel Survey. Pupils from years 5,6 and 7 completed the survey online at school. Parents then completed a similar survey at home. From the home survey we received a 25% response.
Summary parent school travel survey:

Q2 **How do you travel to school?**

37% travel by car
56% walk all the way
3% car share
2% park and walk
2% other

Q4 **If you could choose how would you like to travel to and from school?**

37% Walk
1.6% Bus
22% Car
40% Bicycle

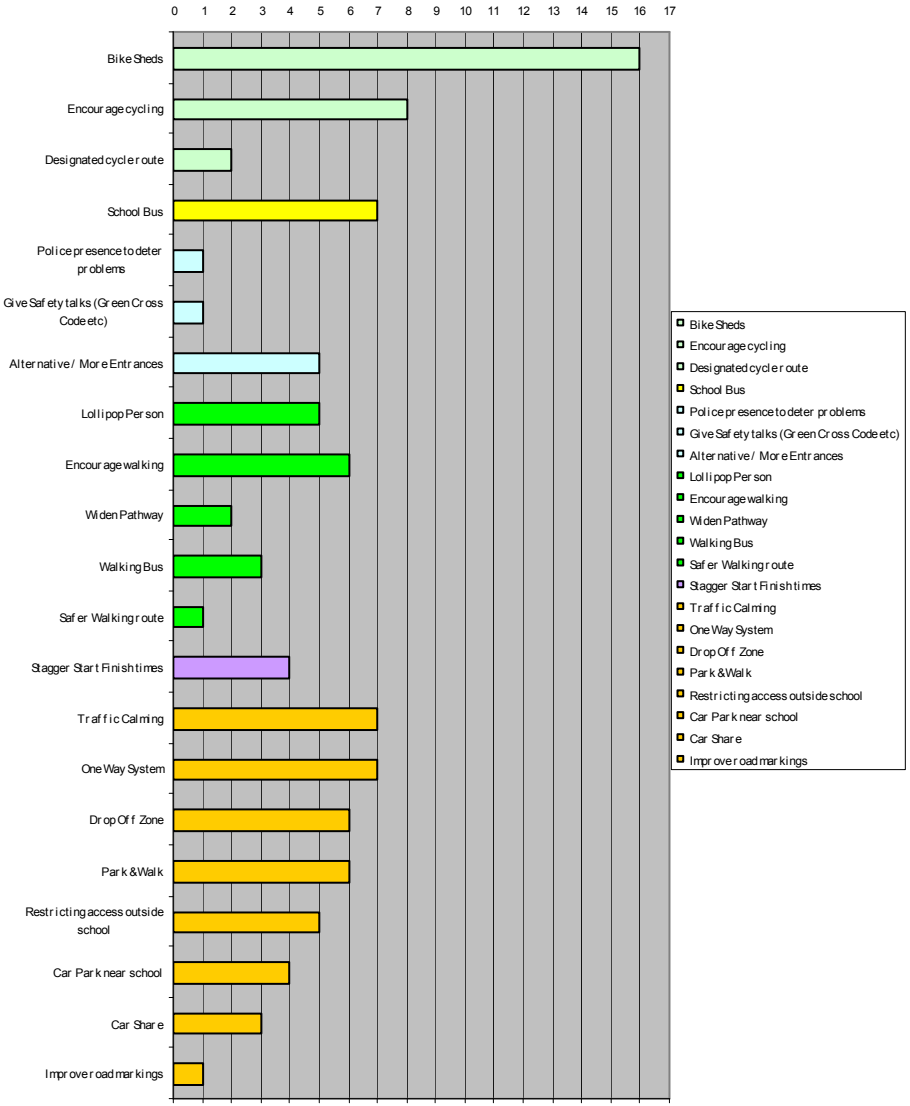
Q5 **Why do you not normally walk to school?**

7% Its too dangerous
18% Don't have enough time
3% Don't like walking
11% Its too far
8% Other

Q6 **How safe do you consider the route?**

42% Unsafe part of the way
3% Unsafe all the way
5% No opinion

## Ideas that would influence and encourage pupils



**What Prevents People walking to School**

Time seems to be the biggest restraint on our parents and pupils choice to walk to school.
The Dangers associated with walking are preventing some people walking.
Distance is an issue for some.
There were also some comments about the lack of dry waiting area at school and many parents feel they are forced to stand on muddy grass

**Cycling**

Although many of the families surveyed felt that promoting cycling to school would be a good transport solution, the school feels that Freshbrook Road and Grinstead Lane are presently too dangerous to allow children to cycle along them.
We have discussed traffic claming and a one way system with the county travel adviser and presently no plans are in place to introduce these measures.

**Health and Safety**

There were some comments about personal safety . Many people felt that Freshbrook Rd, North rd and Brighton rd are not safe places to walk, in particular:
Parked cars making it very dangerous to cross (Freshbrook rd 25)
Traffic congestion around the school
Fast moving traffic (Brighton rd 30)
Some pupils were worried about strangers (10)
Poor street lighting (4)

**Staff Survey**

Of 30 Staff: 10 walk every day,
3 Cycle regularly,
17 drive
Reasons for driving included: Lots to carry,
Too far, Evening meetings




**Public Bus**

There is no public bus that runs down Freshbrook rd, the neared drop off is Brighton rd or North rd. As a result less than 1% of pupils use the bus. Mrs R Gillhespy is the named contact for the WSCC 3in1 bus concessionary card.

**Walking Bus**

25% of those surveyed would be interested in a walking bus scheme.
We are hoping that the Walking bus will address some of the 7% who feel it is too dangerous to walk, as well as addressing the time and distance restrictions many parents have.

**Park and Walk**

34% of those surveyed would be prepared to park and walk.
We are planning to fully promote a Park and walk scheme, including a drop off zone, and a walking bus to accommodate many of the families suggestions. In addition, when the two school's merge to become Seaside Primary, the two sides will operate staggered start and finish times.

**Curriculum**

Awareness of traffic safety is covered in assembly time regularly. In addition to this year 6 pupils take part in Cycling proficiency and the travel wise quiz. Year 7 study road safety as part of a Design Technology unit, the pupils produce be safe be seen clothing and the County travel team always come and help us with the judging. Year 4 pupils visit road safety issues within their PSHCE curriculum as part of a wider topic, 'Rules'. Year 5 carry out a traffic survey as part of a geography topic about the high street. As mentioned previously Thornberry is working towards Healthy Schools Status, this includes links to the curriculum, for example year 5 study keeping fit in PSHCE as well as PE, Year 6 look at healthy eating and Year 7 discuss choices about alcohol and drugs.

| Date | Target | Action | Lead Person | Review date |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aut 2007 | To encourage more children to walk to school. | Set up a walking bus.<br>Gauge support from parents for scheme<br>Re-confirm permission from local co-op for car parking facilities.<br>Arrange training for volunteers<br>Ask local business' sponsorship for high visibility vests and reward scheme incentives.<br>Promote WOW in 1st half of Spring term, to commence in 2nd half. | JR RG | Aut 07 and 1st half of Spring 08 |
| | To reduce congestion on Freshbrook Road and Grinstead Lane. | Encourage park and walk<br>Set up walking bus<br>Encourage car share scheme | JR RG<br>Local business | Spring 08 |
| | Encourage parents who have to drive, to park and walk for part of the journey | Encourage park and walk<br>Re-confirm permission from local co-op for car parking facilities.<br>Advertising, poster competition. | JR RG | Aut 07<br>Spring 08 |
| | To improve the environment, reduce pollution and benefit the whole community. | Reduced traffic as a result of park and walk and walking bus will improve child safety outside the school sites and improve air quality.<br>Review success of WOW and look at possible expansion. | JR RG | Summer and Aut 08 |
| | To improve safety. | Reduced traffic<br>Provide sheltered waiting area for parents to decrease pedestrian traffic on pavement. Thornberry site)<br>Introduce 'Footstep' scheme for infants to increase road safety awareness.<br>Enter Year 6 in Road Safety Quiz.<br>Incorporate clear road safety awareness through assemblies and PSHCE curriculum. | JR RG | Footsteps, road safety in curriculum – summer 08<br>Rest – Autumn 08 |
| | To improve health and environmental awareness | Improve the fitness of children by them walking to school.<br>Ensure that children are aware of effects of pollution on health and the environment and how they can reduce these. Emphasise environmental impact of walking bus and park and walk. (through assemblies, science curriculum, PSHCE and Geography curriculum's) | JR RG | July 08 |
| | To involve the school and local community | Encourage children's awareness of local community and environment through increased knowledge of road safety, links with local business' and increased community spirit.<br>Initially promote walking bus and park and walk as a WOW (walk on Wednesdays) initiative.<br>Have full backing of Co-op manager who will provide full funding for walking bus high visibility jackets and designated, signposted parking area and shelter.<br>Clothing connections of Lancing, happy to print poster design onto T-shirts. | JR RG<br>Co op manager | Spring 08 |

**Conclusion**

In general, walkers enjoy their journey to school and saw that the main benefits were health and environment.
Many car users expressed an interest in alternative ways to get to school.

Many children use a mixture of ways to get to school, depending on other family activity, weather etc.

Cycling has been discounted by the school as a mode of transport as the route is too dangerous at present.

Due to the distances and other social factors, it is unrealistic to expect all the parents to walk all of the time.

**Monitor and review**

The action plan on the previous page is draft.

The next step is to get the walking bus and WOW initiatives in place and then monitor their success. We plan to monitor the success of these schemes by:

1. Gate counts—if the schemes are successful we should see a lot more pupils arriving at the school on foot, on a Wednesday by July 08.
2. Hands up Surveys
3. Parent feedback survey

**Targets**

Reduce the number of pupils travelling down Fresh brook road and Grinstead Lane by car, on a Wednesday, to 20% by July 2008.
Therefore increasing the Park and walk from 2% to an estimated 15%.
To increase those walking all the way to school from 56.4 to 58.5 by December 08.

