

Handcross Primary School



School Travel Plan

Autumn 2014

Date completed: **November 2014**

Completed by: **Caroline Ikin**

Position: **Governor**

Introduction

Handcross Primary is a growing and highly successful school serving the villages of Handcross and Pease Pottage as well as outlying villages, with a considerable number of families in Crawley who choose the school because it meets the needs of their children. There are currently 210 children on role, which is set to rise to 240 when the school reaches capacity. Building works were completed in September 2014 providing two extra classrooms, an enlarged hall, renewed office accommodation and supplementary teaching spaces and a new entrance.

At the last survey, there were about 18 families living within a 2km radius of the school and a further 27 families living between 2 and 5km away. However, there is a significant number who live beyond that, in parts of Crawley. The demand for school places in the September 2014 intake of Reception pupils was exceptionally high due to an increase in the birth rate and children from catchment were being denied places. As classroom space had been made available with the new building works, it was decided that Handcross Primary would accommodate two classes in Reception, and the intake for 2014 was 53 pupils, rather than the anticipated 30.

The school doors open at 8.45am and lessons begin at 8.50am. Some children arrive early for booster lessons, and the school has this year introduced a Breakfast Club which commences at 7.45am. The school day ends at 3.15pm, although the school runs a variety of after school clubs, so some children are collected later in the afternoon.

The school is situated at the north side of the village next to the Health Centre which has a car park for use by patients. There are houses directly adjacent to the school and also beyond the playing field. Planning permission has been granted for a new housing development nearby which the school has supported, and planning permission is also being sought for a further development to the south of the village which would include a pedestrian and cycle way, separate from the main road which would give safe access to school.

A slip road parallel to the main road provides limited parking and allows parents to drop off and pick up children. This road is separated from the main road by a raised grass verge with curbs on either side which is not suitable for parking but is used by some parents. Parents are being encouraged to park on the main road but there is some reluctance due to the speed of oncoming traffic. The main road has a 30mph speed limit, a flashing speed warning sign for traffic approaching from the north and a flashing school warning sign for traffic approaching from the south. There is a car park at the Recreation Ground, which is a 5 minute walk from the school, but this is also used by parents taking children to Handcross Playgroup, which runs from 9am to 12 noon, and is therefore also busy in the mornings. Further parking is available in laybys on the main road to the north of the school.

The village has no crossing patrols, pelican crossings or zebra crossings to assist children walking to school. The High Street has no double yellow lines, and cars park on both sides of the road, as well as on the pavement. The stretch of road on which the school is located is just within the 30mph zone and vehicles often speed up when passing the school.

There is a dedicated staff car park with 15 spaces, where the staff are encouraged to double park to maximise parking space. The vehicular access to this car park, and for deliveries to the school, is shared with pedestrian access which is a health and safety concern when children arriving and leaving school.

There has been some tension in the past year between parents and local residents over parking in the slip road and the Health Centre car park at peak times. The school is seeking to promote good relations with its neighbours by encouraging parents to park sensibly and safely and providing regular communications to both parents and neighbours.

Travel Plan Working Group

The Travel Plan has been compiled by Caroline Ikin, with the support of the Governing Body. Support and advice has been sought from Beverly Clayden (SRTS).

Surveys of parents and pupils have provided statistics and information contributing to the Travel Plan, and the School Council has assisted with this task. This group of children play a major role in gathering information, through traffic surveys etc, as well as feeding back the information to their peers through class talks, assemblies and campaigns (such as the 'Safe Parking Pledge' with reward certificates issued to parents).

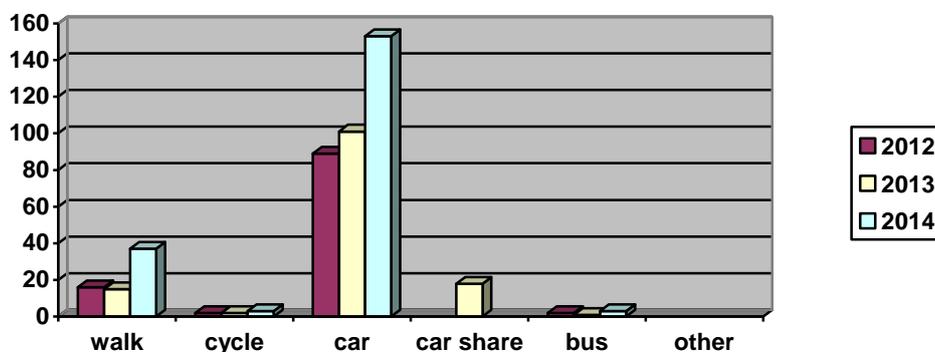
Questionnaires are sent to parents and staff, and information is fed back to the parents through letters from the Chair of Governors and Headteacher. A progress report is also given to the Full Governing Body each term.

In 2014 the school signed up to the Walk Once a Week (WOW) initiative run by Living Streets, and the scheme was launched at the beginning of the summer term. The children were rewarded with collectable badges for walking to school at least once each week for a month. The scheme has been extended into the autumn term.

At a meeting on 3 November 2014 the Headteacher and Travel Plan Representative met local Councillor Bill Acraman and members of the council and Parish Council to discuss provision of additional car parking spaces on the grass verge outside the school. The Councillor was supportive of the idea of dropping the kerb and tarmacking the area, and funding is to be sought. Additional signage is to be provided on the roads outside school and traffic calming measures on the approach to school were discussed.

Current Travel to School – Survey Results

Pupil Survey Results



Number of pupils on roll = 210	Number of children on role has been increasing year on year as school expands, so percentages give better representation of trends.
Number of pupils surveyed = 210	

	walk	cycle	car	car share	bus	other
2012	16	2	89	not known	2	0
%	12.5%	1.6%	69.5%		1.6%	0
2013	15	2	101	18	1	0
%	11.7%	1.6%	78.9%	14.1%	0.8%	0
2014	37	3	153	not known	3	0
%	17.6%	1.4%	72.9%		1.4%	

Staff Survey Results

	walk	cycle	car	car share	bus	other
2013	3	1	19	0	0	1
%	12.5%	4.2%	79.2%	0	0	4.2%
2014						
%						

Staff Travel

The school has 10 full time and 18 part time staff and occasional students. Most of the staff live over 5km from the school so have to drive to school as public transport does not fit with school times. A dedicated staff car park is available outside the school entrance with space for 15 cars. Car sharing and cycling are encouraged.

Future Plans at the school

Following the completion of building works in September 2014, the school now has eight classrooms, accommodating single form entry (with an exceptional two classes for Reception this year to cater for increased demand from local families). The maximum number of pupils who can be accommodated is now 240, and it is projected that this will be achieved by 2016.

A planning application has recently been granted by WSCC for the provision of 80 new homes on a site adjacent to the school. The school has supported this application as it will benefit from a gift of land to increase the outdoor playground area and will be able to offer school places to local children residing in the new homes who would be able to safely walk to school.

There is a lack of local provision of high quality nursery school places which has resulted in children arriving in Reception with below average abilities. The school would like to enhance the life chances of local children by offering a nursery school on school premises which would prepare children for the transition to Reception year. A site has been proposed and plans and costings are being prepared to enable future fundraising plans.

Travelling to School - identified areas of concern

Location	Identified Concern	Identified By	Action
Roads leading to school	Danger crossing road	parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Educate children in road safety at school assemblies and through curriculum ▪ Planned development on Hyde Estate to include safe footpath from village to school
School entrance	Insufficient parking for parents and staff	parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ WSCC to provide additional parking layby outside school ▪ Parents encouraged to Walk and Stride
School entrance	Inconsiderate parking	parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Letter sent from Chair of Governors to establish safe and considerate parking guidelines ▪ School Council awarded 'Parking Pledge' certificates to considerate drivers ▪ WSCC to improve signage and road markings
School entrance	Shared pedestrian and vehicular entrance	parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deliveries only to be allowed outside school drop-off and pick-up times ▪ Access to staff car park restricted during drop-off and pick-up times
In front of school	Narrow pavement	parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Travel Plan Committee to assess
Grass verge next to school slip road	Area becomes muddy and dangerous in wet weather	parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ WSCC agreed to tarmac area to create a parking area

Main road	Dangers of speeding traffic and crossing slip road	parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Traffic calming measures being discussed with Parish Council ▪ Road markings to be applied to prevent parking near junctions
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Initiatives and Promotions of Sustainable Transport

The school is involved in Healthy Schools, Eco Schools and promotes Walk to School Week. Commencing in summer 2014, Walk Once a Week was promoted, whereby children are encouraged to walk to school at least once a week for a month to receive the award of a special badge. The Year 6 pupils are trained in Cycling Proficiency.

The children visit Nymans garden each term and walk the 1½ miles from school, accompanied by teachers and parent helpers. The Christingle Service is held annually at St Mary's Church in Slaugham, and the children enjoy a winter walk to the church along country lanes.

The Travel Plan is promoted to parents and the wider school community through newsletters, notice boards and on the school website. A Walking Bus was trialled in the past but with limited success. Last year the School Council focussed on a Safe Parking Pledge for parents and ways to encourage car sharing.

This year the school will be working on the following initiatives:

- Each term a school assembly will focus on issues of Road Safety and Healthy Exercise to promote walking to school, road awareness, car sharing, etc. This will involve WSCC Safer Routes to School Team as well as local PCSO and other visitors to be invited in to give talks and demonstrations.
- School Council and Eco Group to promote sustainable transport.
- Include information on sustainable transport in all New Entrants packs and school prospectus.
- Ask parents to help accompany classes on walking trips.
- Investigate the feasibility of using the Handcross Community Bus to provide a school service to and from Pease Pottage.
- Promote safe cycling through Cycling Proficiency Course for Year 6.
- Staff to be encouraged to use sustainable transport or Walk and Stride.

Working with Others

The school has links with the local police through the Police Community Support Officer to promote safe and sustainable transport to school.

The Parish Council are working with the school to improve parking and maintain good relations with our neighbours. We are supporting their initiative to introduce traffic calming measures on the road outside school and are working together to

implement a trial bus service between school and Pease Pottage using the Community Bus.

The school has supported a recent planning application from the Hyde Estate to build new houses in an area adjacent to the school. If this area is developed, a safe pedestrian route will be provided from the village to the school, and parking problems may be alleviated through pupils living closer and therefore able to walk to school, and more off-street parking becoming available.

The school has joined the Living Streets initiative to promote the Walk Once a Week scheme.

School Trips and Extended School Activities

One or two school trips are organised each term for the Infants and Juniors. When travelling by coach the arrival of the coaches is timed to avoid traffic congestion and coaches pick up and drop off children at the school gate. Walking trips are encouraged and classes walk to Nymans once a term and walk to St Mary's Church in Slaugham for special services. Parent helpers are required on all trips to ensure the safety of the children and it is sometimes difficult to secure the required numbers of parent helpers to accompany class visits which involve walking.

When children attend sporting fixtures and events outside school premises they are transported either by TAs or parents, car sharing wherever possible to use the minimum number of vehicles.

Curriculum Links

The following curriculum units relate to the Travel Plan:

Year R:	'Looking After the Environment' 'Road Safety' (Police Officer input) 'Healthy Living' Geography – mapping our village
Years 1 and 2 :	'Whizzing Along on Wheels' 'Healthy Me' 'All About Us' Geography – mapping our village
Years 3 and 4:	PSHCE 'Healthy Living'
Years 5 and 6:	Maths - measurements using km PSHCE 'Road Safety' Cycling Proficiency Reading Ordnance Survey maps

Action and Review Plan

Identified Concern	Action	Responsibility	Reviewed
Limited parking outside school	Continue to work with WSCC to provide additional tarmacked layby. Promote 'park and stride' options and car sharing. Trial school bus service from Pease Pottage using Community Bus	Travel Plan Working Group Headteacher	
Inconsiderate parking outside school	Neighbours given the option by WSCC to have additional road markings outside their houses. One-way signage and road markings at junctions to be improved.	Parish Council WSCC	
Danger resulting from shared pedestrian and vehicular access to school	No deliveries or staff parking at pick-up and drop-off times. Long-term access solution to be discussed.	Governing Body	
Danger of parking on main road	Traffic calming measures to be introduced.	Parish Council	
Safety of walking to school	Educate pupils on road safety at school assemblies and through curriculum. Support new pedestrian route through village.	Headteacher PCSO	
Environmental impact of car usage for school travel	Promote walking to school through Walk to School week, School Council and in new entrant packs. Promote safe cycling. Provide suitable cycle storage facilities. Regular walking school trips.	Headteacher School Council	
Limited staff parking	Encourage staff to walk and stride and car share.	Headteacher	
Maintaining good relationship with neighbours over parking	Regular communication with neighbours over parking issues. Encourage parents to park considerately.	Headteacher Parish Council	
Many pupils live too far from school to walk or cycle	Governing Body is supporting planning application for housing on land adjacent to school. In the long term this would mean more pupils could use sustainable transport and reduce the need for car travel.	Governing Body Headteacher	

Monitoring

Annual reviews of the Travel Plan will be reported back to the Governing Body, supported by termly updates which are fed back to WSCC via the Safer Routes to School Team at srts.team@westsussex.gov.uk.

Authorised on behalf of the school:

Headteacher	Gillian Pedersen
Chair of Governors	Jan Elliot
Travel Plan Working Group	Caroline Ikin

Appendices

1. Walk Once a Week statistics – summer term 2014