



K. Co.

East Linton Primary School

Travel Plan

2009-2010

Introduction

A School Travel Plan is an active working document. Our school can use the Plan to demonstrate a clear and real commitment to the promotion of health, environmental and community issues. This plan feeds into several other key programmes pursued by the school, namely: the 'Curriculum for Excellence'; 'Health-promoting Schools'; 'Eco-Schools'; and 'Active Schools' and should be read not in isolation, but as part of this larger 'whole'. The 'Travel Plan Committee' has drawn members from pupils (Junior Road Safety Officers); teaching staff and members of the Parent Council. Professional advice has been provided throughout by Iain Reid, Transport Officer for ELC.

Aims

- To encourage pupils to walk/cycle to and from school
- To improve the safety of the pupils' journey to and from school

By encouraging pupils to walk/cycle, we are promoting healthy bodies; the preservation of our planet; and a better quality of parent/child interaction during the school journey.

Description of the School

The school has 199 pupils (including Nursery) and is situated in the centre of the village on School Road. The school is a traditional Victorian stone-built single storey building surrounded by a walled play area and there are large playing areas to the rear and side of the main building. Pupils can enter the school grounds at the front of the school: either approaching via School Road or via pathways through the park and playing fields.

Present Travel Arrangements

School Bus

East Lothian Council provides free transport to all P1-7 pupils living within the catchment area whose home is more than 2 miles from the school. School buses drive to the top of School Road to drop off and collect children at the beginning/end of the school day. School Road is a dead end and the area at the top has been allocated as a turning/drop-off area for use by the buses.

Private Transport

Other pupils who do not live within the village are brought to school by car. There are many parking areas on the High St. However, parking is

very restricted on School Road and this area is often extremely congested at school drop-off/pick-up times. Parents are already requested to avoid parking on the upper section of this road.

Walking, Cycling and Scooting to School

Pupils living in the village generally walk to school, while others cycle or come on their scooters. There is currently provision for 20+ bikes, a new bike rack having been installed in the last year. Cycling proficiency lessons are offered to children in P6 on an annual basis. There is no pelican or zebra crossing and no provision for a school crossing patrol.

The Questionnaires

During the course of the 2008/9 academic session both parents and children were asked to complete questionnaires: children were asked how they currently travelled to and from school, and with whom; parents and carers were asked to comment specifically on improvements which would further encourage them to allow their children to walk or cycle to school. The results of both surveys are listed below. It should be noted when reading these results that, while virtually all children responded (the questionnaire was completed in class time!), the response from parents/carers was less complete, with fewer than 20% responding.

Children's Survey

195 children took part in the survey and the results are as follows:

Walked to school	126 (64.6%)
Cycled to school	8 (4.1%)
Took school bus/taxi	17 (8.7%)
Came in the car	28 (13.8%)
Other	16 (8.8%)
Came on their own	44 (22.5%)
Came with an adult	99 (50.7%)
Came with other children	25 (13%)
Came with an adult and other children	27 (13.8%)

Parents'/Carers' Survey

1. What would make walking to school better?

Wider pavements	7 (20%)
Better lighting	3 (8.5%)

Less traffic	7 (20%)
School lockers to leave belongings in	5 (14%)
More children to walk with	6 (17%)
Vehicles not entering school grounds	10 (28%)
School crossing patrol	8 (22%)
Safer places to cross the road	13(37%)
Training on how/where to cross road	6 (17%)
An entrance away from cars	7 (20%)
Nothing: I live too far from school	5 (14%)
Other	5 (14%)

2. What would make cycling to school better?

More cycle lanes	9 (25%)
Less traffic	8 (22%)
Slower traffic	13 (37%)
School lockers to leave belongings in	13 (37%)
A safe place to leave bike	22 (62%)
More children to cycle with	3 (8%)
Showers at school	0 (0%)
Cycle training	17 (48%)
Vehicles not entering school grounds	10 (28%)
An entrance away from cars	0 (0%)
Other	0 (0%)

Thus the main points identified within these surveys are:

- The vast majority of pupils already walk to school.
- 16 pupils neither walk, nor come by car, nor cycle, nor get the school bus. We wonder how they get to school!
- There is no single overriding issue which impedes walking to school. Rather, there are several, which, if addressed, would encourage more to walk. For instance, one respondent highlighted significant water gathering outside park gates (by bowling club), during wet weather.
- The greatest impediment, by far, to cycling is a lack of parking facilities (now addressed by the new bike rack)

What can we realistically achieve?

Using the questionnaires and the specific points raised by parents/carers as our starting point, the Travel Plan Committee, in discussion with Iain Reid, Transport Officer for ELC have drawn up an action plan which will take us from August 2009 forwards. Those issues/suggested solutions that were not considered achievable have been excluded from the action plan. For example:

- Closing the top of School Road
- Providing lockers for cyclists' gear within school
- Lobbying for 'speed bumps' at entrance to village
- Pursuing the creation of a pedestrian crossing area in the centre of the village

The Action Plan

Objectives	Action	Responsibility	Review Date	Achieved
Explore possibility of wider pavements at key areas (School Road; opposite Co-op; 19-21 Bridge St). In addition lobby for resurfacing of footpath from railway bridge to Medical Practice	Contact East Lothian Council's Road Engineers	<i>Travel Plan Committee/Iain Reid/Dunpender CC</i>	Jan 2010	
Ensure repairs to rail footbridge and completion of pavement from village to Drylawhill	Liaison with ELC and Dunpender Community Council			Spring 2009
Explore better lighting for rail footbridge	Contact ELC	<i>Travel Plan Committee/Iain Reid</i>	Jan 2010	
Encourage use of bikes	Increase number of bike racks available	East Linton PS/Parent Council		Winter 2008

Objectives	Action	Responsibility	Review Date	Achieved
Address issue of dog fouling on paths leading to school	Set up 'dog fouling watch' scheme	PC Hughes/the Community	Autumn 2009	Spring 2009
Deter drivers from parking on double yellows on/around School Road and encourage 'park and stride'	Issue a 'school parking ticket' to offenders	JRSO's	Jan 2010	
Encourage a walking bus to school	Write to parents asking for volunteer helpers and create route	Travel Plan Committee/JRSO's	Jan 2010	
Set up police road safety talks, in order to improve children's confidence	Contact Gwen Harkins	Iain Reid	Jan 2010	
Introduce a 'walk to school day' weekly (in addition to encouraging participation in National Walk to School Week May/October)	Inform parents/children of day. Enlist JRSO support to monitor 'take-up'	Travel Plan Committee/JRSO's	Jan 2010	
Encourage lower vehicle speeds within village	Installation of flashing speed warning sign	Dunpender CC/East Lothian Council		Spring 2009

Objectives	Action	Responsibility	Review Date	Achieved
Investigate rights and responsibilities of improving road surface at park entrance (outside bowling club)	Speak to ELC and clarify ownership of land/responsibility towards upkeep	<i>Travel Plan Committee/Iain Reid</i>	<i>Jan 2010</i>	