



Ringway Primary School Travel Plan April 2024

Ringway Primary School is a small rural school situated seven miles from Morpeth and two miles from Ashington.

The school is situated in an affluent part of Guidepost surrounded, on three sides by privately owned houses.

The school overlooks the River Wansbeck and an extensive country environment.

The age range of the pupils is from 2 to 11 years old. At present there are 216 children on roll.

DfES School number 929/2370

Location map:

<https://www.google.co.uk/maps/place/Ringway+Primary+School/@55.1676309,-1.5967431,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x487e0cf78f836581:0xa2ef41350e77da06!8m2!3d55.1676657!4d-1.5946904>

Issues

The main car park and entrance into school are located at the front of the school building.

The car park space is tight and no room for cars turning or larger vehicles entering.

Parents are not encouraged to use the car park as an entrance or exit to and from school, the car park gate is closed between the hours of 8:30 and 3:30.

Parking facilities for parents outside the school is a huge problem. There is often double parking, parking on the zig - zag lines sometimes leading into verbal confrontation with local residents. School communicates regularly with parents to address safe parking and encourage considerate behaviours to maintain positive relationships with our local residents.

In 2018, the road leading to Ringway Primary School had a one-way system implemented and this has influenced the guidance we provide to families regarding road safety and the adherence of traffic laws.

The school kitchen and offices are at the front of the building, meaning that any deliveries to school must also use this entrance.

What do we want?

Our vision is:

- where pupils and staff can choose the safest and most environmentally sound method of transport to school.
- provide facilities at school to support them in achieving this.
- encourage through different activities, schemes and events walking to and from school.
- Educate parents about safe and considerate travel to and from the school site.

Description of the school's road safety and transport problems

Parent parking is a huge area of concern – the purpose of this plan is to:

- Ensure that children can arrive to and from school safely.
- Provide opportunities for pupils to cycle or scooter to school.
- Provide resources and opportunities for parents to make alternative transport arrangements.
- Support our healthy living programme through exercise and diet.

Key issues for pupils, parents, staff, governors and the wider community

The road outside is very narrow and parents either double-park or park inconsiderably when bringing their children to and from school.

Speed of the cars is also a main issue, despite speed restriction, notices and a one-way system already being in place.

Cars have been known to park on the yellow lines outside the school gates. School places cones to deter adults from parking on yellow lines, regularly issues reminders to adults via newsletters and our social media channels and a parking attendant is regularly on-site during high-traffic periods of the school day.

We as a school would like to encourage children to cycle, scooter or walk to school when possible.

The majority of our 32 school staff use cars to travel to school. It is important for them to be able to park their cars safely and securely, in a place that does not endanger pupils.

At present the caretaker lives on site and opens the school at 7:00 as we host extended school provision. Staff, parents and pupils typically arrive on site from 8:00am. Some staff are able to park safely in the school car park. However, the majority of staff do need to park on the road outside of school due to limited spaces (14) in our school car park.

Parents arrive to pick up children at the end of the school day between 3:00 pm and 3:15 pm.

We host after-school provision until 4:30 each day.

We regularly host off-site school trips to support the implementation of an ambitious, challenging curriculum. Typically, transport is provided via the use of coaches, because of the one-way system in place around our school this means children must embark and disembark from said coaches on the opposite side of the road to school entrance. In this case, a member of staff stands behind the coach to prevent the possibility of any civilian cars moving forwards until all of the children have safely disembarked from the coach.

Current involvement in school travel activities and education

As part of our curriculum, we regularly deliver road safety, bikeability and generic safeguarding outside-of-school topics within our lessons as well as liaising with the Highways Department from NCC to address any issues or concerns that we are made aware of.

Leadership and the school governing body have been informed that the school is undertaking a school travel plan and why this is being done. We have collated and analysed relevant data and trends regarding pupils' travel patterns to school and utilised this information to inform our Travel Plan.

How pupils travel to school

School survey results

After conducting a survey, it was found that the majority of adults are able to walk/bike/scoot with their children to school. However, due to work commitments and relevant time constraints there is a need for some families to use a car in order to drop their children off at school.

Results and suggestions

To expand on existing facilities, including bike racks and sheltered areas etc, to further encourage families to walk/bike/scoot to school. This will continue to be considered throughout the planning and development phase of our new school building.

To open classroom doors to allow children to access the school building earlier during adverse weather conditions. This is now implemented across school. When planning for the new school building, to consider as part of our accessibility plan, to increase the number of disabled parking facilities.

Updating the Travel Plan

In the event that changes are required to be made to our existing Travel Plan, the following bodies will be involved:

- The School Council; to provide representation for pupil voice
- The Resource Committee of the School Governing Body
- School staff
- Parents
- Local residents

Objectives

The purpose of the school travel plan is to ensure that as many pupils as possible are able to access the roads in and around school safely in an environmentally friendly manner. To encourage a higher percentage of our school community to walk/bike/scoot to school to further support the promotion of a healthy, active lifestyle.

To do this the school would like to:

- Train pupils in road safety so that they might influence parents and carers.
- Communicate clearly and effectively with parents on all matters outlined in this Travel Plan.
- To reduce the amount of congestion around the school by decreasing the number of cars.
- Encourage and support pupils and carers to choose the healthiest, and most environmental friendly way, to travel to school.

Implementation

1. Continue to work in partnership with Northumberland County Council to deliver workshops to students and develop effective communications with adults.
2. The caretaker is responsible for overseeing the conditions or road marking and signage, to report this to the SLT in school who will then liaise with the Highways Department from NCC to ensure that all appropriate resources are well maintained and in good condition.
3. Continue to promote children actively travelling to school, and the facilities currently in school to support this, through existing channels of communication.
4. The primary forms of capital expenditure will typically regarding the maintenance of the existing measure in place.

Monitoring and Review

- A formal review of the School Travel Plan will take place annually years with the next scheduled review to take place in September 2023.
- The Governing body will be kept informed of any prospective changes to the Travel Plan as appropriate.

