



School Travel Planning



School Travel Plans

Information Guide for Schools in Aberdeenshire

Summer 2013

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School Travel Planning

Why do we need a School Travel Plan?

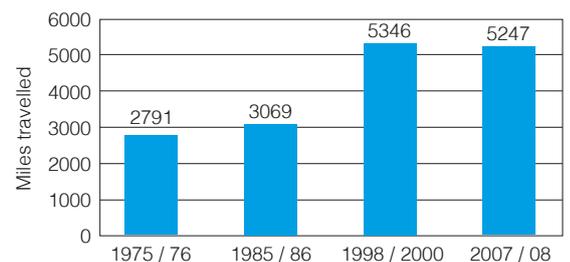
- Are you concerned about the **environment** around the school or more generally?
- Do you feel that you have inadequate **facilities** for parking or drop-off zones?
- Do you feel that your school has **congestion** or **road safety** problems?
- Do you feel that the school can help pupils to live more **healthily**?
- Do you feel that routes to school are **unsafe**?

If your answer to **any** of these is **YES**, a School Travel Plan can help!

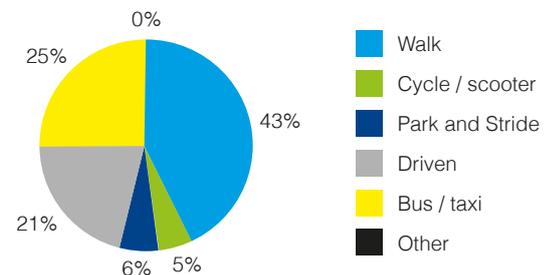
Facts and figures

- UK Road traffic volumes have **nearly doubled** over the last 30 years.
- Over the next 20 years, this could **increase again** by over one third¹.
- At 8:50 am, **1 in 5 cars** on the road is taking a child to school².
- In 2012, nearly **1 in 4** children³ were being **driven** to school.
- Parents often mention safety as the reason for driving to school (Scottish Executive). Yet statistics suggest that cars are one of the **least** safe modes of transport: a child travelling by car is almost **twice** as likely to be a casualty than a child travelling by bus⁴.

Annual Car Mileage
Scottish Government



Travel to School
Aberdeenshire Hands Up Survey 2012



¹ Department for Transport

² National Travel Survey, 2007/2009

³ Sustrans Hands Up Survey Scotland, Aberdeenshire Results, 2012

⁴ The Scottish Executive Road Accident Statistics (2009)

School Travel Planning



Effects

- **Concerns for safety of children travelling unaccompanied**

- School journey becomes part of journey to work

- **Concerns about road traffic danger**

- Increasing car ownership and use

- More households with second cars

- Increasing parental choice, school closures, wider catchment areas

Increased car use

MORE

- **Concerns for safety of children travelling unaccompanied**

- Atmospheric pollution around schools

- Create travel habits early in life that are hard to change

LESS

- **Opportunity for children to develop road and personal safety skills**

- Exercise: health impact

- Independence and social interaction for children

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Outcomes

Concerned about these figures and their implications, the Scottish Executive established the Scottish School Travel Advisory Group (SSTAG) in July 2000 to examine issues and practical means of better managing school travel, encouraging as many children as possible to walk, cycle or take public transport.

Since the development of School Travel Planning posts in 2003, Schools have been encouraged to tackle these issues by developing their own School Travel Plans and work on School Travel Plan initiatives. 2006 saw the roll out of this approach open to all schools in Aberdeenshire.

A School Travel Plan is an opportunity to **identify** and **promote practical alternatives** that meet the varied needs of the school community by encouraging parents, pupils and staff to consider different ways of travelling to school.

The work that Aberdeenshire schools have done so far on their travel plans have already lead to an average decrease in children coming to school by car by 4.5%.

The Scottish Government requires Schools throughout Scotland to develop School Travel Plans. In Aberdeenshire, the council's Education, Learning and Leisure and Infrastructure Services support School Travel Plans, but the Initiative also has representatives from the Council's Health and Safety Unit and Grampian Police's Road Safety Unit.



School Travel Planning

The School Travel Plan

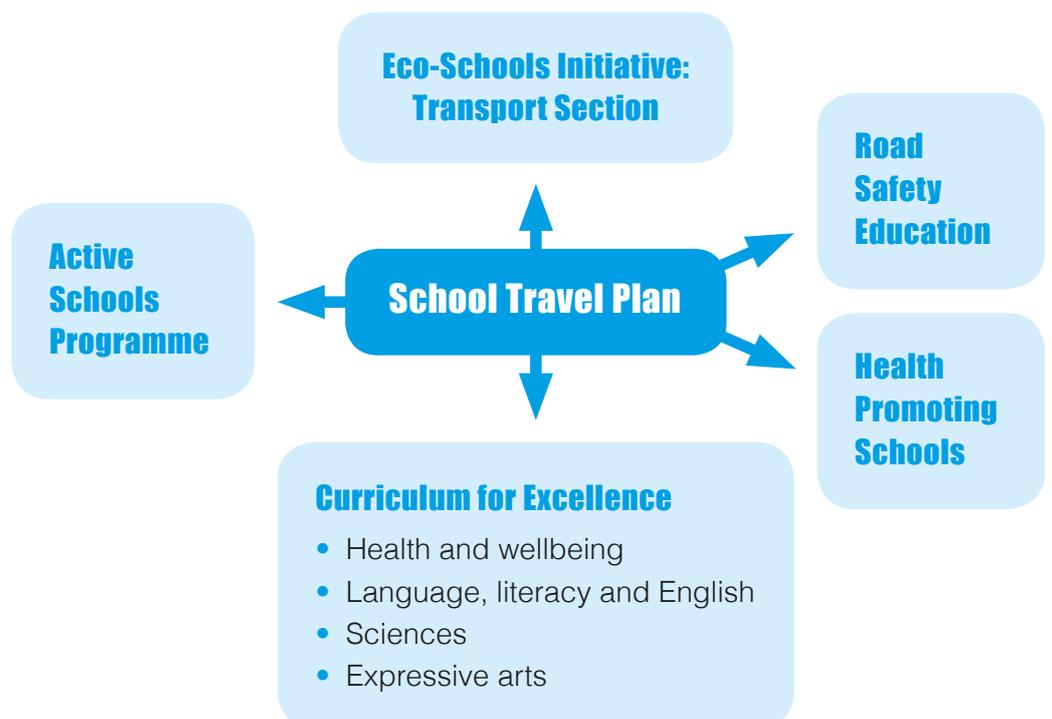
What is it?

A document that:

- Summarises current travel patterns and traffic problems
- Sets targets
- Identifies solutions
- Addresses all aspects of the journey to school and encourages:
 - Walking
 - Cycling
 - Use of public transport
 - Better management of remaining 'school run' vehicles

Links to other activities

All schools in Scotland are encouraged to develop their own School Travel Plans. The best aspect of this, apart from the benefits of having a plan, is that schools will be able to tie in their School Travel Plan to a number of other projects, some of which are:



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How will travel plans benefit our schools?

Everyone – from individuals at school to the whole community – will benefit from opportunities to:

- Reduce traffic congestion around schools, thus increasing personal safety
- Develop road safety skills, increasing independence and self-esteem
- Increase travel awareness and widen choices
- Improve health and fitness
- Improve behaviour in school and on the school journey
- Establish safer walking and cycling routes
- Reduce pollution and increase environmental awareness
- Improve community awareness, promoting good relationships between pupils and the community
- Build links between parents and strengthen home-school links
- Reduce driving stress and improve journey quality



School Travel Planning

Your School Travel Planning Officer

Help is at hand...

Your School Travel Planning Officer (STPO) will be a point of contact for the School Travel Team and can co-ordinate the team's activities as well as provide support and any materials required.

Your STPO can:

- Advise and help to set up a School Travel Team and School Travel Plan
- Assist and support the School Travel Teams
- Attend public meetings (PTA, School Board, etc)
- Assist with educational initiatives and practical activities such as workshops
- Provide information / advice on designing and organising travel behaviour surveys
- Liase with school transport organisers and local road officers
- Promote best practice within schools and advise Aberdeenshire Council on spending Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets funding
- Work closely with other Council services to promote alternative modes of travel to school and to improve the physical infrastructure around the school





School Travel Planning



Developing your School Travel Plan

The 6 Step approach

Developing a School Travel Plan can be quick and simple; the actual content of your School Travel Plan will vary according to the specific needs of your school.

Your School Travel Plan must be a **living** document, which will change – and possibly improve – with time.

The following guide will help you in developing your STP.

1 The Travel Plan Committee



2 Consultation



3 Action Plan



4 Solutions



5 Using Maps



6 Design Plan / Promotion



School Travel Planning



1 The Travel Plan Committee

You will need a committee to take forward your plan. This should involve:

Pupils: It could be part of a project for an eco group/ pupil council or a whole class activity. Having pupils input will make them feel they have ownership over the plan

Staff: There will need to be input from staff to help steer the committee and help launch the plan once produced.

Parents: Useful to have parents involved in creating the plan. The parent council should also be aware of the plan and help to achieve the aims set within it or feed in any safer routes to school concerns that have perhaps already been raised.

Other school users: There might be other users in the school that could help bring the plan together such as community facilities or an after school group.

Your School Travel Planning Officer is always available to help and meet with the committee to help them develop the plan.

2 Consultation

Consulting with school users will be useful to help identify problems at the school. It will also help make parents and pupils feel included in the development of the plan as their concerns are being taken on board and feed into an action sheet.

Surveys and Questionnaires: These can be used for your initial survey or for annual progress surveys.

- Show-of-Hands survey sheet for classes: Nursery to P3; P4-7; Academies
- Paper questionnaires for individual pupils
- Paper questionnaires for parents and staff

Parent and Academy surveys work best with maps – please contact your STPO for a map tailored to your needs.

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3 Action Plan

Your School Travel Plan should have clear aims of what you want it to achieve. Your aims will have been created from your consultation.

For example: Pupils may have raised concerns regarding road safety outside the school. Your aim may be: **Aim 1: to create a safer environment for pupils travelling to school.**

An action sheet should be created setting your school targets that you have set to help achieve your aims.

For example: **To achieve Aim 1 the following target has been set:**

Target	How can we achieve this	Who is responsible	Timescale
Reduce the number of cars parked outside the school gate	Promote Park and Stride at the village hall	Eco Group	Sep XX
	Develop a Walking Bus	Head Teacher/ Parent Council	XX





School Travel Planning



4 Solutions

Cycling

- Cycle training
- Cycle trains
- Cycle maintenance
- Cycle permits (helmets, ground rules, responsibilities)
- Shelters / racks
- Reward scheme

Walking

- Walking buses or groups
- Traffic trails
- Incentives e.g. reward card
- Pedestrian skills training
- Walking days / weeks
- High visibility vests and / or stickers
- Park and Stride

Buses

- Escorted cycle / walk to bus stop
- Safety
- Concerns put in Travel Plan
- Code of Behaviour

Engineering Works

- Route markers
- Express concerns
- Traffic counts
- Identify alternative routes rather than traffic calming
- Maintenance teams can do small road improvements
- Importance of school suggestions

Raising Awareness

- Post School Travel Plan on school notice board
- Distribute leaflets on School Travel Plan
- School Travel Plan information in induction packs
- Tie in with one-off events
- Pupil diaries with school contact details and info on benefits of walking / cycling
- Official launch involving the media
- Encourage press to cover events
- Target all staff i.e. catering / maintenance / visiting staff etc

Education

- Curriculum for excellence
- Junior Road Safety Officers
- Target transitional pupils for methods of getting to secondary or new school
- Day trips for rural pupils to urban environment
- Reading bus timetables and journey planning
- Personal safety skills
- Map reading
- Analysing survey results
- Work with other groups e.g. after-school clubs

Parents

- Car sharing – organised by parents
- Inform of health benefits of walking / cycling vs. driving and perceived stranger danger etc.
- Agree way for parents to inform the school of absences so that unexplained absences are immediately noticed.
- Car pass schemes
- Traffic survey; send letters out to parents who park cars near school



School Travel Planning



5 Using Maps

Maps are useful to determine where people are travelling from and if there are road safety concerns on routes to school.

Maps can be used to:

- Help pupils plan their routes to school
- Discuss road safety concerns and possible areas that need addressing
- Discuss and highlight safer routes to school and areas to avoid
- Highlight possible Park and Stride locations to promote to drivers
- Walking distance maps looking at how **long** a journey to school takes rather than how far from school you live

If you require maps of your school or school catchment, please contact your School Travel Planning officer.

6 Design Plan / Promotion

A good plan could include the following headings, remember who will be reading the plan, keep it simple:

- **Brief description of the school:** number of pupils, location, catchment area, any other relevant factors
- **The School Travel Plan:** what it is and how it will benefit your school?
- **Include evidence of consultation:** survey findings and who you surveyed
- **Action Plan:** What are the schools main aims and targets
- **Solutions/ advice and rules on travelling to school:** Advice and rules on travelling to school
- **Map of catchment:** showing safer routes/ points of concern/ park and stride location etc.
- **A list of people involved in the preparation of the plan.**

Once you have developed your plan, the biggest part will be to promote it and make sure all school users are aware of the aims.

A launch or event is a great way to highlight the plan.



School Travel Planning



Useful Websites:

www.saferoutestoschools.org.uk

www.sustrans.org.uk

www.cyclingscotland.org

www.get-about.co.uk

www.databases.dft.gov.uk/schools

www.walktoschool.org

www.livingstreets.org.uk/walk-with-us/walk-to-school

www.walkingschoolbus.org

www.eco-schools.org.uk

www.sportscotland.org.uk

www.jrso.com

www.road-safety.org.uk

www.dingding.org.uk

**For further information, please contact
your School Travel Planning Officer:**

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Aberdeenshire
COUNCIL



Produced by Aberdeenshire Council GDT21495 August 2013