



Watling
PRIMARY SCHOOL

A Denbigh Alliance School

2023 School Travel Plan

At Watling Primary School, we promote sustainability and educate our children in the role they play in protecting and preserving the environment for generations to come.

Our School Travel Plan is an important part of this commitment and represents a partnership approach to positively influencing the travel behaviour of our staff, pupils, families and visitors to our site, with a clear focus on encouraging more sustainable options.

The plan is specific to our school and considers the unique needs and interests of our community in the context of our developing local environment and transport networks.

The Headteacher, Vikki Pegg, is responsible for co-ordination of the School Travel Plan and any questions pertaining to it should be directed to her in the first instance.

Context

Watling Primary School opened in September 2023 on the Western Expansion Area of Milton Keynes and sits at the heart of the Whitehouse Park residential housing development.

A key feature of the build process was a commitment to sustainability which was included in the original proposals for the school and wider local area, to include:

- provision of a comprehensive and coherent network surrounding the site for staff, pupils, families and visitors to access the site and connect with existing and planned facilities in the local area
- safe, direct and attractive pedestrian and cycle routes within the local development area, including children's play areas
- 3m wide footways on both sides of the roads with grass verges separating pedestrians from vehicles and cycles
- adequate crossing facilities on the local roads to ensure safe access
- drop kerbed crossings to support families with young children and prams, etc.
- a commitment to offering places at the school to children from direct catchment areas within walking distance, reducing the need for extensive travel to and from school

The premises, site and facilities are extensive and include:

- staff car park with 72 spaces and 4 disabled bays
- visitor car park with 89 spaces, 6 disabled bays and 2 motorcycle spaces

The existing infrastructure offers members of our school community incentives to consider and adopt alternative and more sustainable methods of travel, including:

- cycle parking – a total of 11 visitor spaces, 8 staff spaces and 90 pupil spaces, plus additional storage for scooters
- Electric Vehicle Charging (EVC) points – 2 in the staff car park and 2 in the visitor car park with the infrastructure in place to increase this number

All cycle parking is within the secure site line and is covered, lit and located close to the building for ease of access.

Electric Vehicle Charging points in the staff car park are free of charge to members of staff.

In addition to this, a Cycle to Work scheme is already in place for staff.

Modeshift STARS

We use Modeshift STARS to support the implementation, development and monitoring of our School Travel Plan.

Modeshift STARS is the national school's award scheme for the delivery of effective travel plans in education. The scheme recognises schools that have shown excellence in promoting walking, cycling and other forms of sustainable and active travel.

Travel Surveys

Within three months of the school being in operation, we will carry out travel surveys which will be aimed at pupils (Appendix 1) and staff (Appendix 2).

These surveys will be repeated at the start of the second year of operation in September 2024. This will allow a larger cohort of pupils and staff to be surveyed and will give a more accurate representation of the position.

The results of the surveys will:

- provide information about the number and percentage of people travelling by different modes of transport.
- highlight the number of single occupancy car users.
- determine the barriers and motivation relating to the use of sustainable modes of transport.
- help to identify any further measures that need to be investigated and proposed.
- allow year on year comparisons to take place when undertaking annual reviews of the School Travel Plan.
- inform the setting of School Travel Plan objectives.

Some of the content of the School Travel Plan will be limited to pupils of the school and not the nursery. This is due to the access requirements of parents and carers

with very young children which make it less feasible to use alternative methods of transport. This also takes into consideration the use of prams and pushchairs.

Although this group will not be monitored as part of the School Travel Plan, the objectives of it will still be actively promoted to all members of our school community.

We are also mindful of the fact that the young age of some of our current cohort of pupils prevents travel to school on foot or by cycle or scooter.

Monitoring and Review

Due to the level of strategic scale building development taking place around our school and in the local area, access and travel to our site will need to be continually reviewed.

The School Travel Plan will be reviewed and updated as required, and at least annually, to ensure that it reflects the most current options for sustainable travel to and from our school.

Effective measures will be promoted, less effective measures will be improved or stopped and new measures will be considered and implemented as required.

An annual newsletter on the progress of the School Travel Plan will be circulated to all members of our school community.

An Annual Monitoring Report will be written and shared with Milton Keynes City Council. This will include the annual travel survey results as well as an analysis of trends against previous years.

Proposed School Travel Plan Objectives

These objectives are proposed based on initial assessments of the current position of the school. The results of the travel surveys may generate information that indicates that the objectives need to be amended or changed.

Objective 1	
To have 100% awareness of the School Travel Plan for all members of the school community.	
Already in place	
Staff and parents or carers have been made aware of the need to produce a STP.	
Future developments and actions	Timescales
Include reference to the STP in information sessions for prospective parents.	Nov 2023
Promote the STP in assemblies.	Dec 2023
Circulate STP to all members of the school community.	
Publish information about the STP under the 'sustainability' section on the website.	Jan 2024
Include an overview of the STP on the digital noticeboard in the main entrance area of the school.	
Time allocated in staff meeting to share the STP.	
Intended outcomes / success criteria	
All members of the school community will be aware of the objectives of the School Travel Plan and who has responsibility for co-ordinating it.	
Progress to date	

Objective 2

To raise awareness of the social, environmental and economic costs of travel choices.

Already in place

Watling Way value 'nurture' supports a positive approach to preserving the environment.

School ethos promotes sustainability and educates our children in the role they play in protecting and preserving the environment for generations to come. This is shared as a key message on the school website.

Curriculum driver 'environment' highlights our shared responsibility to contribute to preserving our planet to secure a positive and sustainable future for generations to come.

PSHE curriculum references e.g. ways in which our travel choices can help keep our local environment clean and our streets free from congestion.

Future developments and actions

Timescales

Begin the process of gaining the Eco-Schools Green Flag accreditation.

Jan 2024

Plan additional curriculum events to align with national awareness days.

Spring and Summer Term

Raise awareness of the impact of travel choices through assemblies.

Include awareness of travel choices and the environmental impact in library sessions i.e. theme of the week.

Intended outcomes / success criteria

Eco-Schools Green Flag accreditation achieved by July 2025.
Curriculum overviews demonstrate emphasis on environmental impact.

Progress to date

Objective 3

To reduce the number of single occupancy vehicle trips to and from the school.

Already in place

Some members of the school community already car share (staff and families).

Future developments and actions**Timescales**

Produce marketing literature for members of the school community to raise awareness of alternatives to single occupancy vehicle trip.

March 2024

Promote car sharing websites:

www.liftshare.com/uk

www.gocarshare.com

Promote the benefits of informal arrangements for travel to and from school between parents or carers.

Intended outcomes / success criteria

Reduction of the overall number of single occupancy vehicle car trips by 10% amongst members of our school community within 5 years of the initial baseline survey in September 2024.

Progress to date

Objective 4

To increase the number of members of the school community using sustainable methods of travel to school.

Already in place

Preparation for school opening included extensive work with L&Q to identify and promote safe routes to school. This information has been shared with all members of the school community and updated at regular intervals to reflect the most current position around the local area.

Ample provision of cycle spaces on site.

Electric Vehicle Charging points installed in visitor and staff car parks.

Bikeability training and resources accessed as part of the pilot scheme for balance bikes. Reception children will benefit from Bikeability sessions as part of the PE curriculum in Autumn Term 2 of 2023.

Future developments and actions

Timescales

L&Q initiative to develop safer routes to school and provide all children with hats with reflective strips to increase visibility.

Jan 2024

Promote the benefits of sustainable modes of travel, including the positive impact on physical and mental health through newsletters, information literature and the school website.

Feb 2024

Include information on road safety awareness as part of newsletters and on the school website.

Walking bubble and cycling maps to be shared with members of the school community, including safe routes to school.

Through PSHE curriculum, assemblies and national awareness days, support pupils to develop road safety skills as they become more independent and start to travel to school unaccompanied.

Spring and Summer term

Introduce Walk to School Week (WTSW) – 20-25th May 2024

May 2024

Introduce Walk to School Month (WTSM) in October of each year

Oct 2025

Gather WTSW and WTSM supporting resources, allocate time to staff meeting and assemblies to introduce WTSW and WTSM, promote WTSW through newsletter.

Intended outcomes / success criteria

10% increase in the proportion of members of our school community walking, cycling or scooting to school within 5 years of the initial baseline survey in September 2024.

Progress to date

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Objective 5

To promote the alternative methods of transport to private cars that are available to staff and pupils.

Already in place

Bus stop in operation on Barossa Way and within walking distance of the school.

Drop off and turning areas at the front of the site have been designed to accommodate future access by buses.

Future developments and actions

Timescales

Travel information will be shared on the school website, digital noticeboard, marketed through information sessions and promoted in assemblies.

May 2025

Share updates on bus routes and ticket information with members of the school community to promote the use of public transport. Further bus stops in close proximity to the school are planned to be included as part of the overall development of the area.

Liaise with Milton Keynes City Council in the future to consider and arrange requirement for school bus services as needed. This would be based on post code analysis of our pupils and their families.

Intended outcomes / success criteria

All members of the school community will be aware of the alternative modes of transport that are available.

Progress to date

This survey consists of 2 questions:

1. How do you usually travel to school?
2. If you had a choice, how would you prefer to travel to school?

Individual responses do not need to be recorded.

Please simply record the total number of children who put their hand up to indicate each possible response to the 2 questions.

	Question 1 How do you usually travel to school?	Question 2 How would you prefer to travel to school?
Car with own family		
Car with another family		
Bus		
Walk		
Cycle		
Scooter		
Taxi with own family		
Taxi with another family		

How do you usually travel to work?			
What is your postcode?			
How far do you travel to work (one way)?	Less than 1 mile	Less than 2 miles	
	Less than 5 miles	Over 5 miles	
What mode of transport would you use if your usual method was not available?			
If you do not already do so, what would encourage you to cycle to work?	Owning a cycle	Confidence on roads	Incentives to cycle
	Shower facilities	Other	
If you do not already do so, what would make you consider walking to work?			
If you drive to work, would you consider joining a car share scheme?	yes	possibly	no
Do you have any suggestions for improving the journey to school?			
Would you be interested in getting more involved with the School Travel Plan?	yes	possibly	no