

Glaitness School



Travel Plan



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AIMS

The overall aims of the plan are:

- To improve safety on the school journey
- To encourage a larger number of pupils to walk or cycle to school
- To raise awareness of the new school entrance, in particular for visitors new to the school
- To improve safety around the school car park and entrance

INTRODUCTION

Situation

At present, Glaitness School has 203 pupils and 18 nursery pupils. The school's catchment area includes the north west sector of the town and the adjacent rural area. We also have a number of children with additional support needs who travel from other parishes within Orkney. A number of the children either walk to school or come by car. There are 2 buses for the children from the outlying areas. Pupils with additional support needs come to school in vehicles with an escort.

Roads and Pavements

The school is situated beside Pickaquoy Road which has recently seen the introduction of part time mandatory 20mph speed limit. There are a number of foot and cycle paths in the immediate school environment. The children are encouraged to use these rather than walking near the main roads. The pupils who go to the After School Club walk on a safe route with their supervisors.

Entrances and Parking

The new entrance to the school building has been in use since the beginning of the January. A number of changes are ongoing and at present, the children are walking on alternative paths and pavements. There is a new car park for the staff situated at St.Colms. The car park at the side of the school is used by visitors and parents. This can at times become congested and care and consideration needs to be given by those using it.

Cycle Paths and Racks

Once children have successfully completed the Scottish Cycle Training Scheme with the Community Wardens in Primary 5 they can take their bikes to school. There is a cycle path at the back of the school behind the Co-op and through the housing to join Glaitness Road. Due to the ongoing building work the bike racks have not yet been installed.

School Crossing

At present, the school has three Crossing Patrol Officers. They operate outside the school, at the back path and the bottom of the Clay Loan. These points are patrolled both before and after school.

Buses

There are two bus routes which the children from the outlying areas use. These cover the areas of Scapa and Lesliedale. A small number of the children are transported to and from school by mini bus or taxi. Due to the needs of these pupils the companies which facilitate the service also provide escorts.

Safety Vests

Primary One Pupils are given fluorescent vest at the beginning of the session. They are encouraged to wear these at all times. When leaving the school for visits children are provided with vests as are the accompanying adults.

Education

The children are taught about road safety issues at all stages of their schooling. In nursery, the pupils have the opportunity to

work with the 'Traffic Club' resource. In all other stages the work is based on the requirements of the 5-14 guidelines. Teaching also occurs through termly assemblies and visits from different road safety organisations. The formation of the Junior Road Safety Officers this year has also allowed the opportunity for increased awareness through competitions, assemblies and maintenance of a noticeboard.

EXISTING TRAVEL PLANS

The figures for the modes of transport used at present are:

Cycling or Walking	30%
Bus	41%
Car	29%

The statistics for the above were calculated from the Travel Mode Questionnaire which parents and/or carers completed . A number of concerns were highlighted in the questionnaire and these have been incorporated into the school action plan. The main concern was the safety of a large number of children who use Glaitness Road and the lack of any traffic calming measures at set times of the day. Other issues included safety at the new front entrance and the introduction of a Walking Bus.

Parents and carers were also given the opportunity to join the School Travel Team. An initial meeting has been held with this small group.

REVIEWING AND REPORTING

The School Travel Plan will be reviewed on a yearly basis by the Health Promoting Co-ordinator.

Issues regarding Road Safety will continue to be highlighted through parent bulletins, the school website and publication of 'Let's Talk Gaitness'.