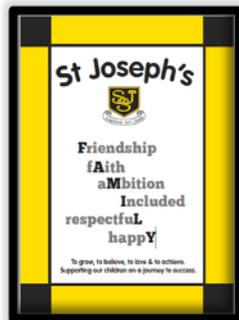




# St Joseph's RC Primary School



## School Travel Plan

**Head Teacher:** *Mrs Jacqueline Crawford*

**Principal Teacher:** *Mrs Vanessa Anderson*

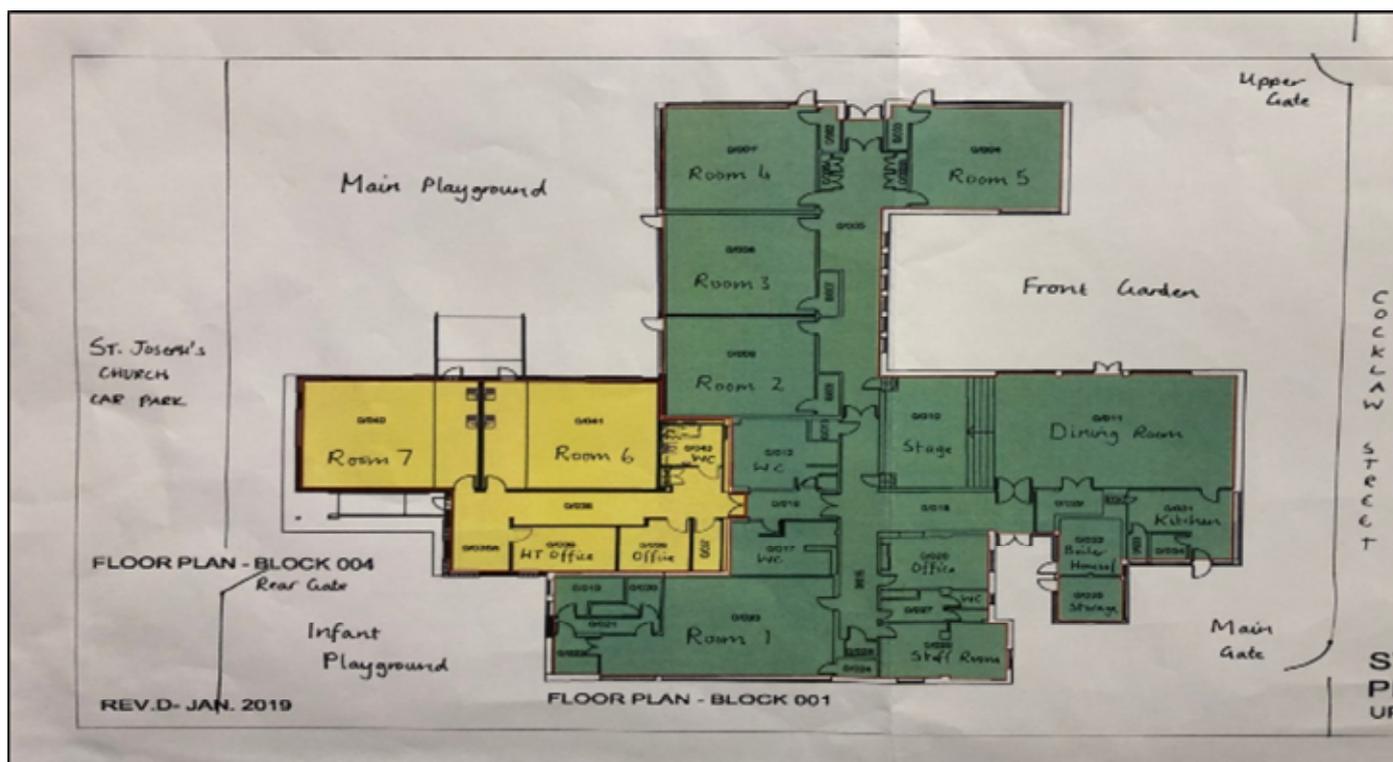
**School Address:** *47 Cocklaw Street  
Kelty  
Fife KY4 0DG*

**Launch Date:** *June 2022*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 School background

Built in 1960, St Joseph's RCPS is a denominational school, one of two schools in the community of Kelty. An extension was built onto the school in 2010/11 adding an extra two classrooms to the previous five, and allowing for enough space to house one class per room at each primary stage. The dining hall serves as a Gym Hall/Assembly Hall, and any surplus classrooms are used as areas for pupil support and staff development.

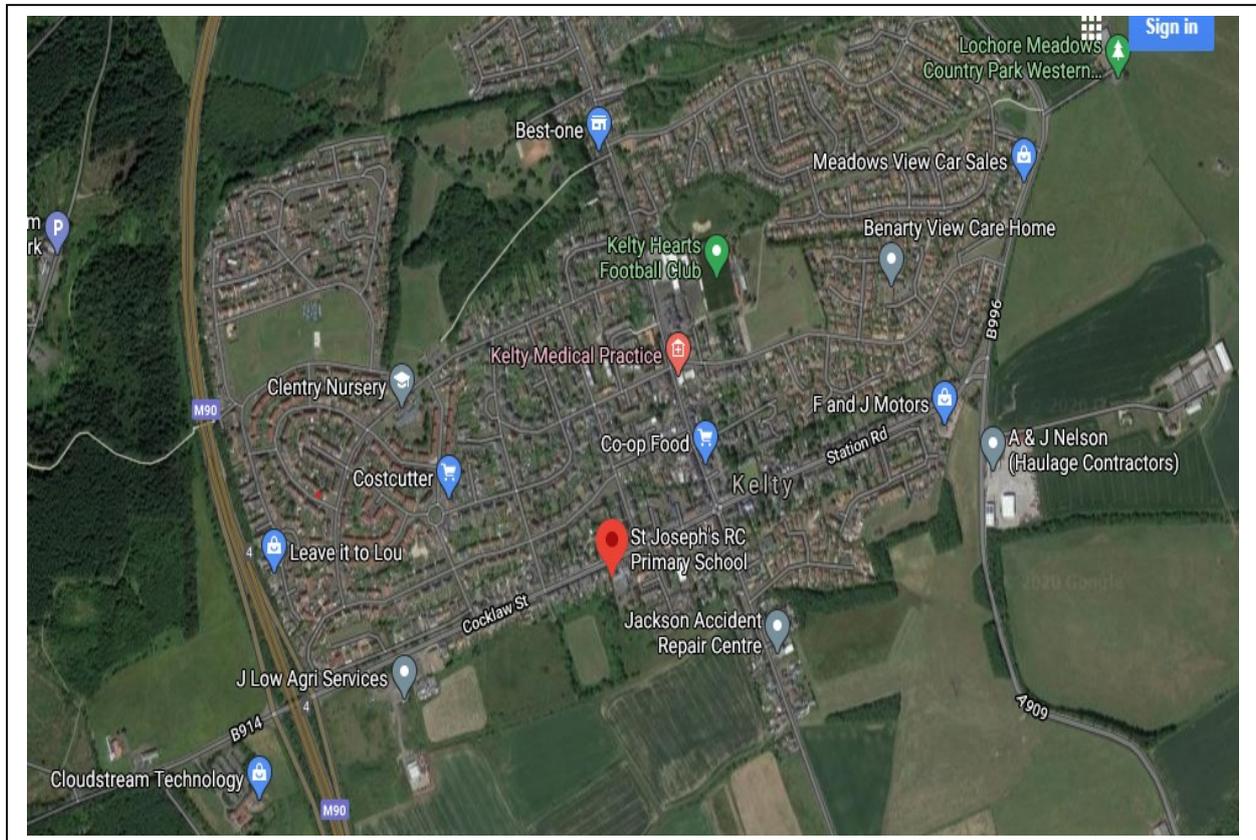


Currently, 129 pupils are enrolled at the school, comprising of pupils ranging from Primary 1 to Primary 7. There are presently six classes in the school, two of which are composite, and make up the infant department.

The staff team is comprised of a Headteacher and Principal teacher, with an additional fifteen staff consisting of teachers, pupil support assistants and clerical staff.

## 1.2 Location

St Joseph's Primary is situated within the mining community of Kelty and is part of the St Columba's Cluster of schools. It lies to the South West of Kelty, close to the M90 and to the West of Loch Ore Meadows. Due to its denomination, the catchment extends throughout the whole village, and also includes a small cohort of pupils living in Cowdenbeath and close to Kinross.



## 2.0 SITE AUDIT

### 2.1 Access Arrangements

St Joseph's lies approximately half-way down Cocklaw Street, with main access being from the street entrance to the building. The St Joseph's Church and car park lie to the rear of the school building, on the south side, and can be accessed by a short lane to the East side of the school building. Staff have permission to use the car park at the school, but parents are not to use this area, other than for walking access to the infant department entrances.



Entry to the school grounds at St Joseph's can be gained via three gates. The first gate is situated to the northeast side of the school, on Cocklaw Street, and provides access to the main entrance and school office.

A secure entry system is in place here, and this entrance serves mainly parents, staff and visitors to the school. There is a small outhouse and access to the kitchen area located adjacent to the main entrance.

A second gate is situated to the North West of the school building, also on Cocklaw Street. This gate has a set of stairs leading down to the school, and into the main playground. Two classroom doors, and a fire exit door open out onto this side of the building.

At the rear, southside of the school building, a third gate provides access from the car park into the school playground.



There is a fire door providing an exit to the playground for pupils and staff.



All classroom doors can be accessed from the playground through classroom doors, which remain closed unless a member of staff opens them from the inside



In the front garden, which lies adjacent to Cocklaw Street, there is an emergency exit leading from the dining hall, and pupils sometimes access this for breakfast clubs or to use the garden for eating lunch during the drier, summer months.

### **3.0 POLICY AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **3.1 Formation of a Travel Action Group (TAG)**

Due to the Covid restrictions in place, classes have not been allowed to interact, and had to stay in their class bubbles. Therefore, as we could not involve pupils from different classes to form the group, the Principal Teacher liaised with staff who were interested in taking part, and it was decided that the Primary 5 Class should take on the role as Travel Action Group, with their class teacher as staff participant, and one of the parents agreed to be the parent member. Progress will be led/ overseen by the PT, who will also

begin writing STP. The Junior Road Safety Officers have continued in the role this year and as Covid restrictions have eased the parent member has been able to attend meetings.

### 3.2 Aims of the School Travel Plan (STP)



- Ensure all members of the St Joseph's community have good Road Safety awareness
- Encourage all pupils to make healthy, active choices about travelling to school, such as walking, cycling or scooting
- Reduce traffic congestion around the school vicinity
- Provide and highlight the safest routes for travel to and from school

### 3.3 Benefits of the STP

- STP will provide clear guidelines about what safe travel to St Joseph's looks like
- Staff, pupils and parents will have a clearer understanding of how to support the school in making pupils' journey to school a safe and happy one
- Whole school community will have increased road safety awareness
- Main routes to school are identified and have been safe guarded to increase safe travel to and from school

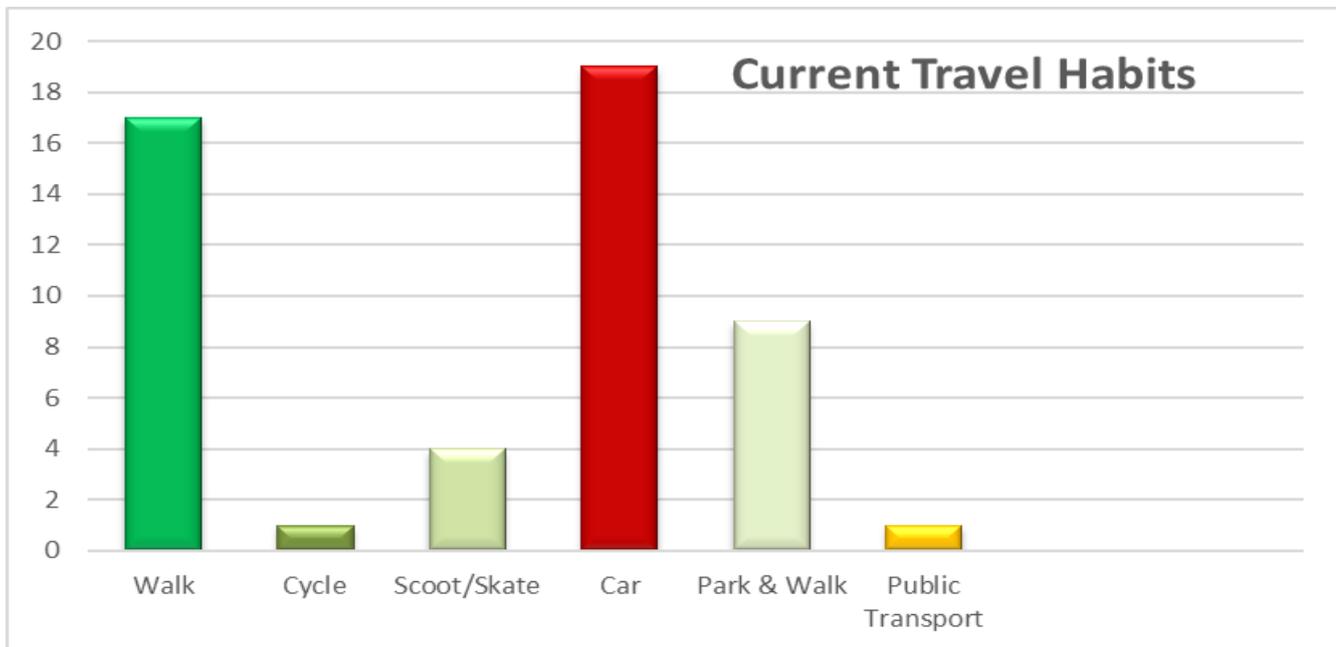
## 4. CURRENT TRAVEL PATTERNS

### 4.1 Questionnaire Surveys

During the consultation period 54 family and 24 staff responses were submitted and the following analysis is based on those findings.

#### 4.1.1 Pupils/Parents

The main mode of travel to St Joseph's Primary that the survey identified was the car with 34% of those who responded stating that this was their preferred mode of travel; of those who travelled by car also cited that they lived within a 1 mile radius of the school.



Walking was the second most popular mode of transport with 33% of the respondents citing that they lived close to the school.

The main reasons given for travel mode choices are:

- Go straight to work after drop off
- Convenience
- We live close to the school
- Safety, especially in Winter
- Childcare
- Live other side of Kelty, too far to walk
- Good exercise and easier than driving
- Live out with area
- Like to travel with friends
- Easier as parking is a nightmare
- Enjoy it

According to the survey 86% of parents would prefer that their child/ren travelled to school in a more active manner with the same number stating that they would like their child to take part in active travel initiatives throughout the year such as Bikeability, Walk to school week and Active travel month.

When asked “what would encourage you to change your mode of transport to make the routes to school safe for all and ease congestion at the school gate” some of the common responses were

1. More double yellow lines and cross hatching. Lollipop person at the cross road was taken away please consider getting them back in place.
2. Parents drop kids at school using their cars as they are more often that not heading off to work after wards. On most occasions the child is too young to walk to school themselves. A dedicated walk to school patrol headed by a parent or staff member could be of benefit.
3. Safe Bike paths for kids to ride to school. Have an area where parents can drop kids off and have a walking bus to school. This way it would not cause any issues around the school area.
4. A route where children on the pavement are segregated from cars on the road by a wall or railings. Cars drive to close the edge of the pavement and are travelling too fast.

5. There is no available parking at this school. It's ridiculous
6. Safe drop off point'
7. A proper carpark. Or a designated pick up/drop off area
8. Use of school car park all kids to go in main gate

Carers and pupils were then asked "Is there anything else you would like to share about your own travel choices or how we can make your child's journey to school safer?" the popular responses were:

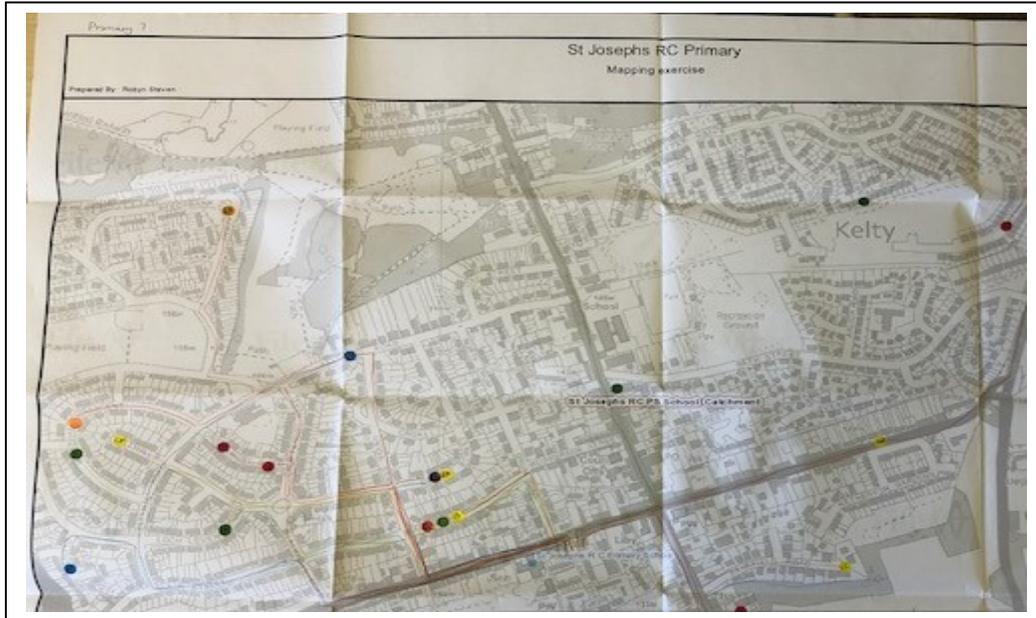
1. Cars parked on pavements - not just at the school, throughout the town which encourages children to scoot or cycle on the roads
2. Educate parents not to park dangerously near schools
3. I would love for my kids to travel to school safely either walking and cycling but I feel I have to take them as I don't feel they are safe enough to travel to school
4. I would let him walk in the morning but I find I have no way of knowing if he has reached the school as I work. I would however let him walk up if there was a way of him letting me know he got there OK.
5. It would be good to have a kid's drop off and pick up area. Then have a person walk them from there to school. This would be a lot safer and less problems around the school.
6. There are always spaces available in adjacent streets, laziness is a BIG part of this problem.... inconsiderate parents and carers abandoning cars on pavements etc. are a nuisance and the issue needs ENFORCEMENT before a child is injured or killed.
7. At present the streets near the school are congested making cycling to school dangerous, and as cars park right up to the corners of streets it is dangerous for crossing as a pedestrian. I would be concerned about my children walking or cycling to school unsupervised, which is a shame as we live nearby.
8. Stop the taxis parking on the pavement when you and your child are walking on the pavement
9. Would be good to provide parent parking or for disabled blue badge holders at school making the cross safer for children is a must. Even as an adult I struggle to cross.

## **5.0 MAPPING WORK**

The principal teacher met with a parent of the Travel Action Group to discuss how would be best to get pupils to use the maps provided to chart their route to school. Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions, the parent member could not come into the school to help with the mapping activity, however she was consulted along the way, and will be included in future sections of Travel Plan implementation.

### **Mapping Activities:**

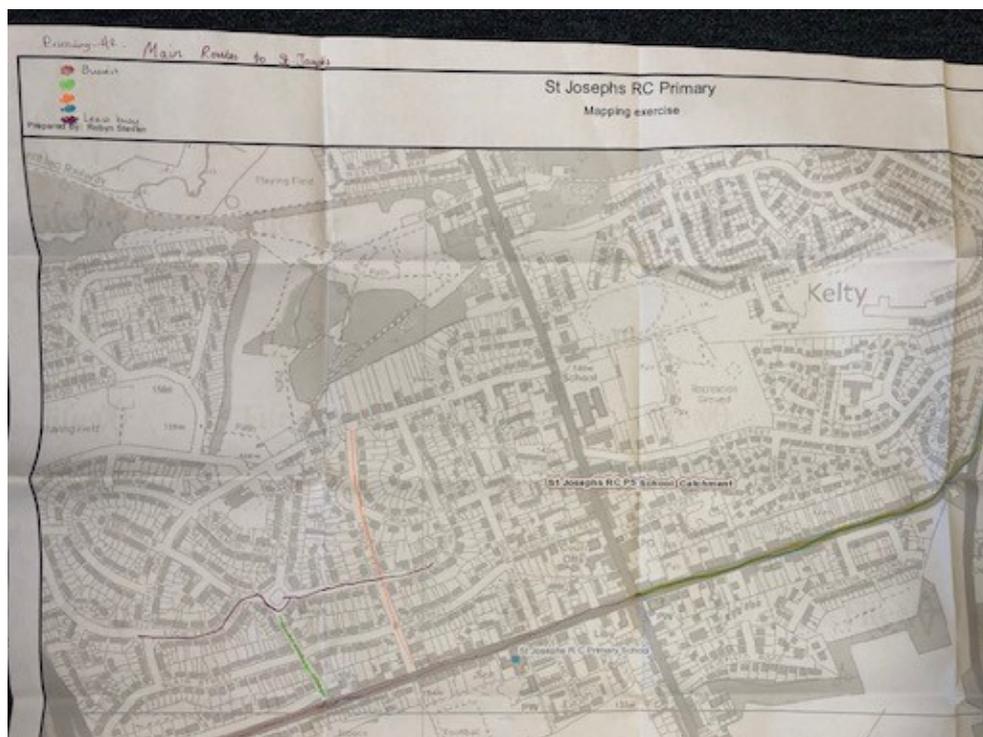
In order to ensure a consistent approach, each class was supplied with the same map, a set of coloured stickers, and coloured pencils to match. Each child was asked to find their house on the map (the infant department require support with this). They then were asked to stick a coloured dot on their address, and write their initials. Once completed, staff discussed routes to school, and children attempted to map the route they took to school, using a coloured pencil that matched the colour of their dot:



- TAG looked at results of mapping activities and surveys to find out the main routes used by pupils in the school:



Final map:



### **Main routes identified from most to least used as:**

1. Cocklaw Street
2. Blackhall Road
3. Union Street
4. Station Road / Great North Road (leading from newer built properties)
5. Lochleven Terrace / Centre Street

### **6.0 ROUTE AUDIT OF KEY ROUTES TO SCHOOL**

A site visit of the above key routes was carried out on the afternoon of Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021. The weather conditions were cold with hailstone showers, but bright.

For full audit report please refer to appendix 1.

The key issues and perception relating to journeys to and from St Joseph's Primary school were identified as – inconsiderate parking around the school gate and surrounding streets, which causes problems including: -

- Congestion
- Blocked vision for walkers and cyclists
- Blocked vision for other drivers
- Low proportion of children actively travelling to school, especially in bad weather
- Concerns about road safety and speed of traffic

## 8. ACTION PLAN

### Behavioural Initiatives

Action	Solution	Action Owner	Target Date (Academic year)
Promote Active Travel	Take part in Active Travel Months	School/TAG	Term 2 & Term 4
	Take part in Bike Week	School/TAG	Term 4
	Staff will be trained in Bikeability and courses offered to pupils.	School/TAG	Term 4
	Take part in the Sustrans Big Pedal	School/TAG	Term 3
	Walk to school week – health week	School/TAG	Term 2
	Continue to use the Living Streets Travel Tracker to encourage and monitor travel to school	School/TAG	Ongoing
Promote Safer routes to school	Upload map to website	School	Term 1
	Put information board up at parents' nights	School/TAG	Term 2 Term 4
	Articles in school newsletters, social media and assemblies	School/TAG	Ongoing
	Share Travel Plan with parents and wider community on website and at school events sports day etc.	School/TAG	Term 4
Road Safety Education	Run poster campaigns	School/TAG	Ongoing
	Take part in Road Safety Week.		Term 4
	Road Safety sessions (Safer Steps) provided during Health Week	School/TAG	Term 4
<b>Reduce congestion around school gate</b>	Develop the following: Parking Pledge Park N Stride Site Walking Bus	School/TAG	Ongoing
Bikeability	Offer cycle training to all P6 and P7 pupils	School	Ongoing

### Physical Measures

Action	Action Owner	Target Date
Refresh yellow lines outside the school gate.	Fife Council	ASAP
Look at installing thermo plastic in and around the following streets:  Lochleven Terrace / Centre Street Blackhall Road	Fife Council	ASAP

Speed Survey on Cocklaw Street	Fife Council	ASAP

## 9. MONITORING & EVALUATION

The TAG will continue to meet periodically to monitor progress and will review the Travel Plan on an annual basis. Specific progress will be monitored by participation in the “Hands Up Travel Tally” each year and a repeat of the full travel survey will take place in August 2023. The school’s ongoing commitment to travel planning will be publicised in the school handbook, the school newsletters, the Parent’s notice board and through assemblies.

## 10. DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN

The following bodies will receive a copy of the School Travel Plan:

- Fife Council Assets, Transport and Environment via the Travel Plan Team
- Fife Council Education Service
- Fife Council School Estates Team
- Parent Partnership
- Active Schools
- Copies will also be made available to the parents from the School Office and via the school information site.