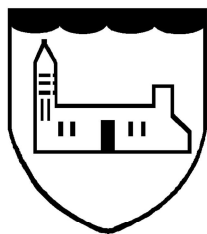


# Markinch Primary School



## Travel Plan

October 2020



**Headteacher**  
**Miss K Easson**

**S.T.P Co-ordinator**  
**Miss K Easson**

## **CONTENTS**

- 1** Background
- 2** Site Access
- 3** Policy and Objectives
- 4** Current Travel Patterns
- 5** Route Audit
- 6** Action Plan

## 1 BACKGROUND

Welcome to the School Travel Plan for Markinch Primary. This plan sets out how the school aims to encourage staff, pupils and parents to travel more sustainably to and from school, in safety. The plan will give some background information on the school, consider the policies and objectives relevant to the School Travel Plan (STP), look at initiatives – both current and proposed – and use these to underpin a comprehensive action plan to deliver the objectives of the STP. The success of the STP will be monitored and evaluated fully to demonstrate progress and, if required, allow future changes to the action plan and its targets.

Markinch Primary school is situated in the village of Markinch. The catchment area includes a mixture of rented accommodation, council and private housing giving a good social mix. Situated within a well-established residential area the school has no playing fields or grass area available within the school grounds. John Dixon Park is currently used by the school for outdoor PE.

**Map of area surrounding Markinch Primary School**



## 2 SITE ACCESS

### Pedestrians

There is a pavement at the front of the school on Betson Street and pedestrians should make sure that they use this safely and avoid spilling onto the road. Pupils walking in groups should take this into account and allow other users to pass safely.

Pedestrians should only access the school grounds from the designated entry points.

Due to current Covid-19 restrictions, all adults should socially distance as required when in the school grounds. School staff should monitor the playground at drop off and pick up times to ensure that parents adhere to social distancing requirements.

### Designated Entry Points

- Pedestrians should follow the local footpaths to Betson Street where there are two pedestrian entry points located at the front of the school (either side of the school building).
- Entry into the school building for any parents or visitors is through the main entrance adjacent to the car park. Staff should use this main entrance also
- The main entrance adjacent to the car park should also be used by Nursery parents for drop off and pick up
- Pupils have designated areas to enter/exit the building. These are either the pupil entrance at the opposite side of the school on Betson Street or through the double gates in the playground. The playground gates will be open at the end of the school day to allow pupils to cross over Bowling Green Road to the park. These gates will be monitored by a member of staff wherever possible but parents will be aware that there is not a designated crossing patrol office at the entrance/exit.

### Pupils

It is very important that pupils set a good example to others. There are a number of site related areas pupils should be aware of:

- Pupils found to be climbing over railings or walls, not following staff instructions in relation to play areas, or not adhering to the contents of this plan will be in breach of the school rules.
- When using the footpaths – walk! This will avoid accidents and will make you more aware of what is happening around you.
- Pupils accessing the school from John Dixon Park should either walk round the pavement to the main school gates and enter from there or use the double gates on Bowling Green road. It is not recommended that they enter through the car park.

**Drivers** should proceed slowly within the car park at all times. Please bear in mind that some young people and some pupils with additional support needs may have little or no awareness of road safety and you should take account of this. There are 5mph speed markers that should be adhered to.

### **Staff**

Staff are expected to act responsibly when parking in the public car park. If you are aware of unauthorised use of parking bays, this should be reported to a member of management who will inform/remind the offending driver of the correct use of the site. Parking bays are now enforceable by the council.

Parents or staff parking on Betson Street should make themselves aware of and follow the parking restrictions. No cars should be parked opposite the bus stop.

### **Visitors**

Access into the school is only permitted from the main entrance adjacent to the car park. A security buzzer is in operation. All visitors must report to reception and sign in before going anywhere in the school or nursery. On departure, visitors should sign out at reception and leave the building by the main entrance door.

If visitors need any advice on access or parking before their visit, please call the school reception on 01592 583446.

The school roll has risen steadily over the last 3 years. At present the school role is 286 as well as a nursery roll of 64 for our 3 and 4 year old learners.

Across Fife there is a fast-growing increase in the number of car journeys to school. As more and more parents become accustomed to dropping off their children at the school gates, it sadly becomes part of the daily routine and the alternatives are no longer even considered. Parents have legitimate concerns about their child's/children's safety on their journey to and from school – fears about road safety, personal safety, including bullying and abduction, inadequate bus services etc. Parents themselves may also be under increasing pressure of time.

As a result of these factors, traffic and congestion has increased and a vicious circle occurs. Fears over safety because of the increasing traffic, in turn discourages even more pupils from walking or cycling what can be a relatively short distance to school.

Encouraging young people to walk and cycle more plays a crucial role if we are to address the increasing levels of physical inactivity and obesity and will help to improve health and well-being in later years.

The **Markinch Travel Active Group(TAG)** was set up to carry out research to identify safer routes to school for all and organise the formulation of a **School Travel Plan(STP)**.

The members of the group were:

Miss Easson - Headteacher  
Mrs Gilfillan – Depute Headteacher  
PC Forbes – Community Officer  
Angela High – Community Council  
Marta Ramage – School Travel Plan Coordinator  
Pupils from Primary 6

The Primary 5 class in session 2020-21 will act as Junior Road Safety Officers and help support the ongoing work of the travel plan.

### **3 POLICY AND OBJECTIVES**

There is a national problem in the UK of more and more car use, particularly on the school run at the start and end of the day. Fife is faced with a fast-growing increase in the number of cars on the journey to school and more parents are becoming used to dropping their children at school. It sadly becomes part of the daily routine and we find that we often don't even consider the alternatives.

Unfortunately, it is also becoming part of our children's routine and unless we start to change things now, in the longer term it will become a much more serious issue for everyone through its negative effect on health, local air quality and the resultant congestion.

Our School Travel Plan (STP) outlines measures to improve the sustainability and safety of travel to school, both present and future. We have researched current travel patterns, which have been reviewed to create a list of proposals that will lead to clear improvements.

Meeting the School Improvement Plan;

- A Travel Action Group consisting of parents, child representatives, a member of the Senior Management Team and the School Travel Plan Co-ordinator will be established.
- A School Travel Plan will be drawn up and shared with all stakeholders

We believe the work being undertaken is important at a local level for our school and act as drivers for us to contribute to reduce pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, improving road safety and improving fitness and health.

#### **Aims**

The overall aims of our STP are to:

- Increase the number of pupils, parents and staff travelling sustainably to school;
- Improve road safety and health for all
- Decrease and ultimately eliminate traffic and parking problems outside the school and promote better traffic awareness in pupils, parents, staff and local Community.
- Continue to develop improved fitness in pupils
- Reduce the consumption of fossil fuels, saving energy and reducing pollution
- Demonstrate a commitment to the local Community by improving the local environment

#### **Objectives**

The objectives of our STP are to:

- increase year on year the number of pupils, parents and staff walking, cycling, using public transport or car sharing to school, at the expense of single occupancy (or parent and child) car use;
- address road safety and personal safety concerns to encourage greater use of walking, cycling and public transport use;
- continue to raise awareness, through collaborative work with the police, through regular assemblies, through partnership with parents and campaigning within the school
- improve the fitness and health of all through walking to/from school, resulting in increased alertness and improved behaviour of pupils;
- eliminate parking problems at inappropriate areas.

### **Benefits**

In achieving the above objectives we will significantly increase health and safety awareness within the whole school community,

#### *For the school:*

- improved safety and reduced pollution and emissions;
- reduced traffic in inappropriate areas;
- improved relationships with our neighbours;
- increased use of safer walking routes, reducing safety concerns;
- expanding citizenship opportunities e.g. Eco-Schools Programme participation;
- improve the profile of the school in the community.

#### *For pupils:*

- improved road and personal safety
- increased understanding of sustainable travel issues (eco-school)
- increased awareness of environmental issues at a local, national and international level (National Walk To School Weeks, Safety Weeks)
- improved fitness through increased walking and cycling (bicycle racks, cycling proficiency, cycle lanes), scooters
- improved behaviour and alertness at school and to/from school

#### *For parents and staff;*

- increased parent and child contact time going to/from school;
- increased interaction between parents on journey to school;
- less demand on parents' time spent driving eg pupils walking in groups; walking buddies.
- reduced costs for parents/staff;
- reduced parking problems within/ out-with school grounds.

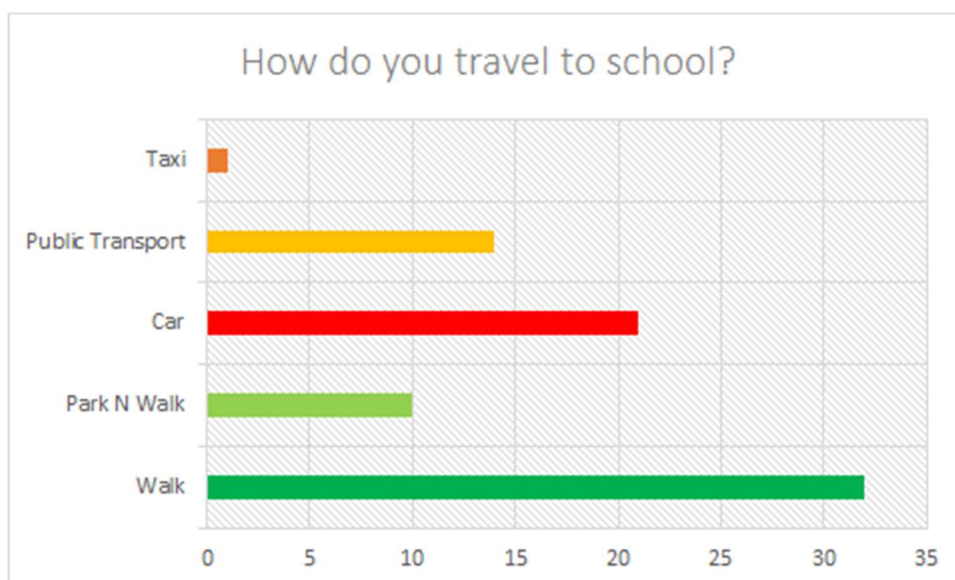
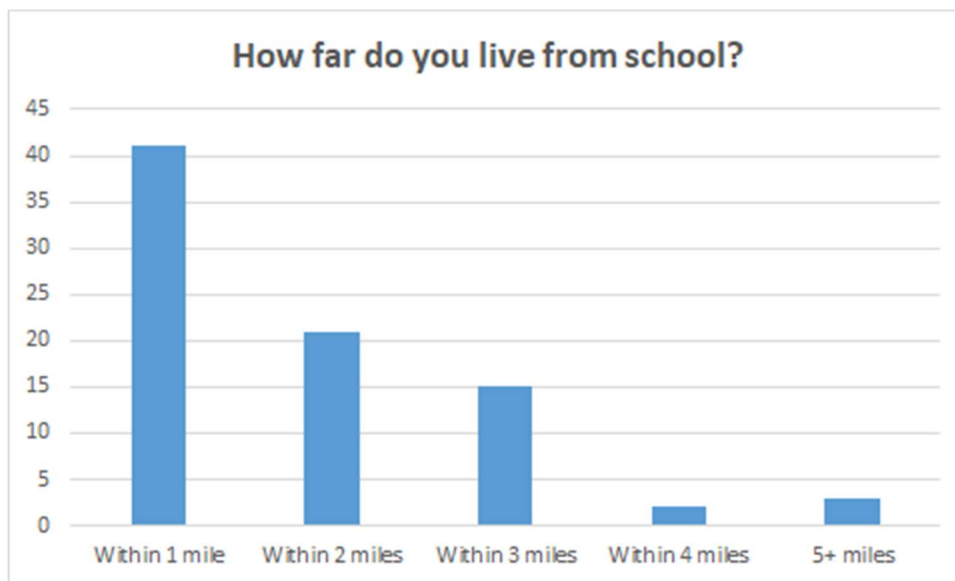
#### *For the community:*

- joint working with the community/council to resolve issues eg discouraging parking outside school
- Consult with Council with regards to raising awareness of the twenty zone, e.g. more visible signs, and road surface indicator for change of speed.

#### 4 CURRENT TRAVEL MODES

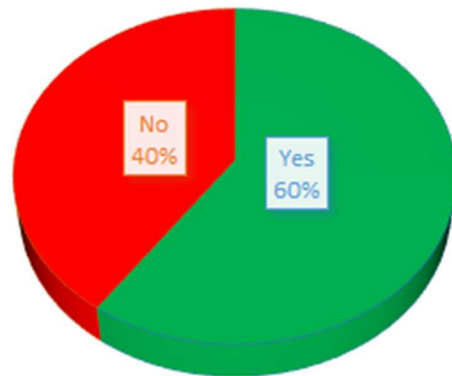
In early 2020 a survey was taken of how staff, and families travelled to school. This survey was completed using the sample surveys provided in the STP pack from Fife Council, these surveys were completed online.

The results of the survey were as follows and based on 82 family responses:





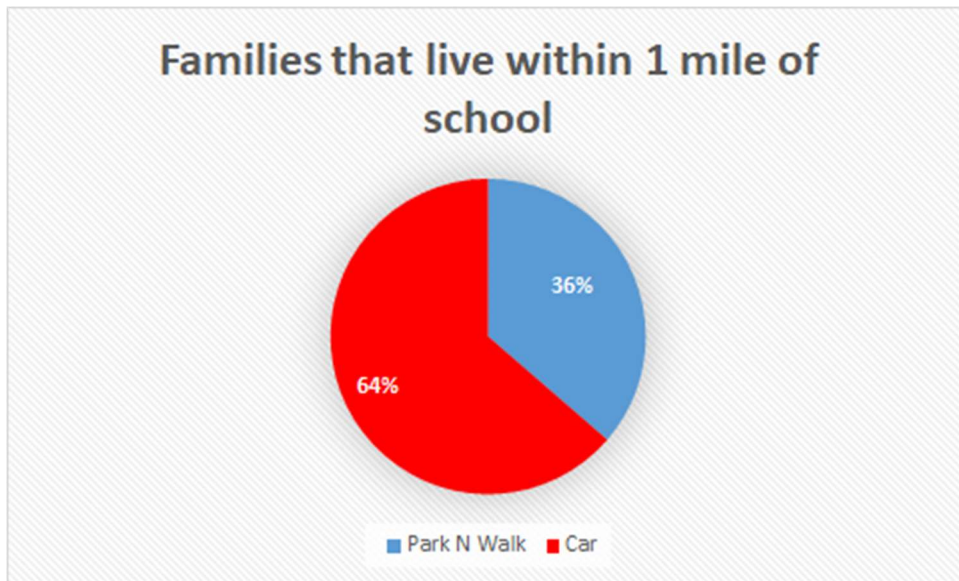
## WOULD YOU PREFER YOUR CHILD TO ACTIVELY TRAVEL TO SCHOOL?



The majority of families responded saying that their children walk to school, but they have expressed concerns about the amount of traffic in Markinch, particularly near the school itself. Sixty percentage went on to state that they would prefer their child to travel actively to and from school, however, they feel that the following concerns are barriers to this.

- Poor road safety for pedestrians due to cars parked around the school and careless drivers.
- Finding somewhere to park when collecting their child.
- Crossing the road in busy traffic.
- High volume of traffic outside of the school.
- Dangerous parking on the zig zag lines.
- Congestion outside the school.
- Trying to cross the road or pick up children when the bus is parked outside the school.
- The school and surrounding streets are too busy.

The survey also highlighted that 64% of those families who responded live within 1 mile of the school yet choose to drive their children to school.



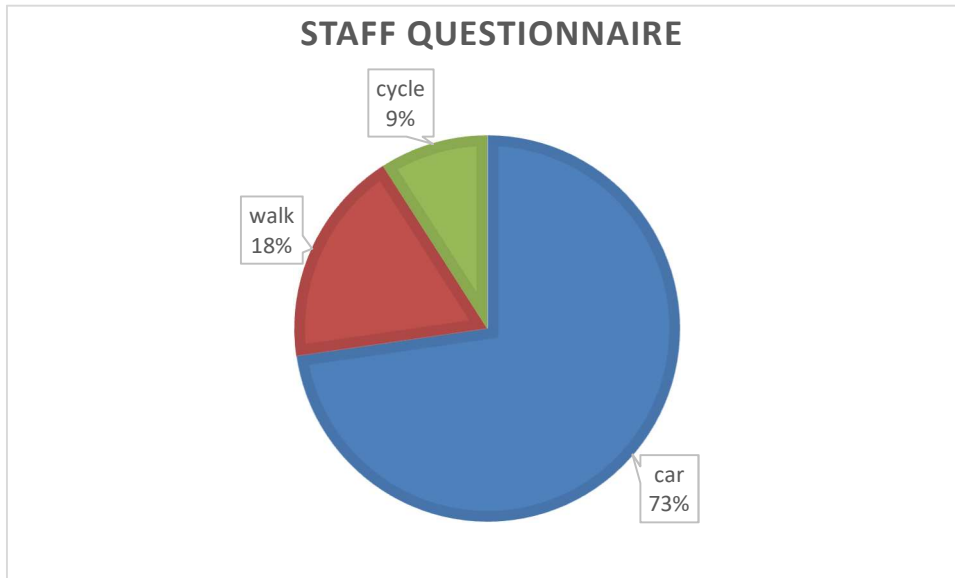
This could be for numerous reasons such as dropping off on route to somewhere else, safety issues or just lack of time.

When families were asked what would aid them in making different choices the following were the most common answers.

- Safer streets
- More traffic calming
- Less traffic
- Zebra crossing
- Nothing

#### **Staff Responses**

The majority of staff drive to work and park in the Pupic car park adjacent to the school. This is not likely to change due to the variety of places that the staff travel from. Car sharing and public transport are not an option at this current time.



## 5. ROUTE AUDIT

A route audit update was carried out on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2020 and a report was submitted to Fife Council Traffic Management team to look at upgrading the School Keep Clears, bus stop markings and to do a study on the requirement of implementing a zebra crossing on Bowling Green Road.

Issues raised over the congestion caused by the school bus was noted and a request sent to School Transport for investigation.

At the time of undertaking the route audit there were no physical engineering requirements noted.

## 6 ACTION PLAN

The following actions have been identified as priorities to help tackle some of the issues, barriers and concerns identified:

### Behavioural Initiatives

Action	Solution	Action Owner	Target Date	Priority
Road Safety Education	Education in school and at home.	School, Pupils and Parents	Ongoing	High
Promote the use of identified safe routes to school.	Posters, Information given in newsletters and assemblies, websites and Social Media	School, TAG and Parents	Termly	High
Continue to participate in incentive schemes that encourage sustainable methods of travel to school.	Active Travel Month,  Walk to school Week,  Bike Week	School, TAG and JRSO Committee,	Termly	Medium
Distribute travel plan to the appropriate bodies and make available to parents.	School App for access by all parents, shared at parent partnership and summarised in the school newsletter	School	October 2020	High
Reduce congestion around school gate	Introduce the following:  Parking Pledge  Park N Stride	School/Parents	Autum/Winter terms Spring/Summer terms	High
Bikeability	Introduce Cycle training for all P6 and 7	School/Bikeability officer	Yearly	Medium

**Physical Measures - to be completed once lockdown is over.**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Action Owner</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Investigate implementing a zebra crossing on Bowling Green Road	Fife Council Traffic Management Team	Ongoing	Medium
Relining of school keep clears	Fife Council Traffic Management Team	Academic year 2020/21	Medium

**Monitoring & Evaluation**

The STP will be reviewed on an annual basis by the TAG. Progress will be monitored through participation in the Hands up Travel Tally each September. The school's ongoing commitment to travel planning will be publicised through the school's newsletters and articles to the local press.

**Distribution of School Travel Plan**

School App