



Central Infant and Junior School Travel Plan

March 2003



Central Infant School
Theodore Road
Port Talbot
SA13 1SP

Head Teacher: Mrs N Davey



Central Junior School
Broad Street
Port Talbot
SA13 1SF

Head Teacher: Mr P J John



1.0 Introduction

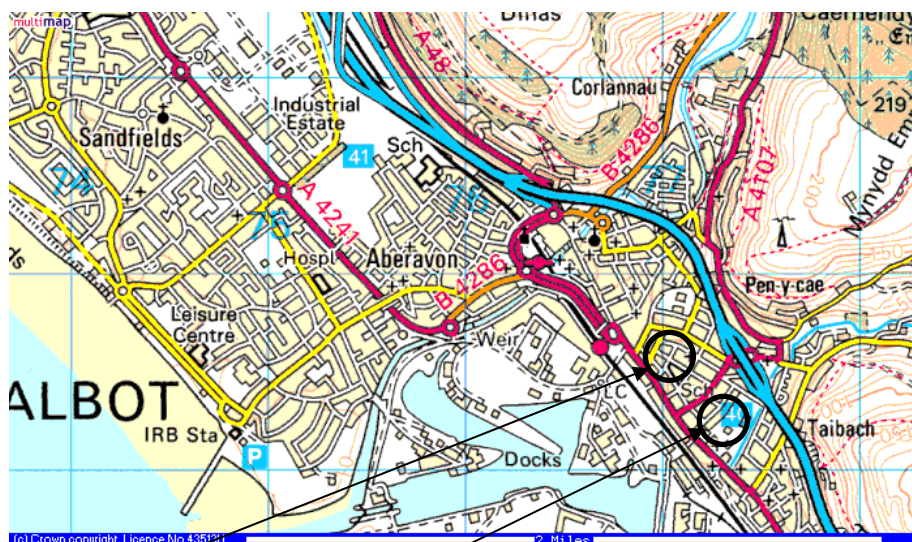
Central Infant and Junior School Travel Plan sets out to:

- improve safety on the school journey;
- increase travel awareness;
- reduce the number of car trips made by parents, staff and pupils; and
- encourage walking, cycling and public transport on the school journey.

This Plan has been produced jointly by Central School Travel Working Group and Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Road Safety Unit. It has been produced in response to a high level of car use for the journey to school and a desire to improve conditions for pupils choosing more sustainable travel modes.

1.1 *Central Infant and Junior School*

Central Infant School has 231 pupils and Central Junior School has 281 pupils in full time attendance. The two schools are on separate sites, with Duffryn Comprehensive (Lower) School on Talcennau Road between the Infant and Junior school sites. Therefore, any measures to improve conditions in the area would also benefit the Comprehensive School.



Central Junior School and Central Infant School (Source: www.multimap.co.uk)

Central Infant School is participating in the Kerbcraft pedestrian training initiative for pupils aged 5-7 years old. Parents are recruited as road-side training volunteers, and children involved in the initiative are trained in the following areas:

- Identifying safe and dangerous places to cross

- Crossing safely at parked cars
- Crossing safely at junctions

1.2 *Local Area*

Central Infant and Junior School are located in Port Talbot, south of junction 40 of the M4. The schools are approximately 400 metres apart. The A4107 Abbey Road runs from M4 junction 40 and joins the A48 Talbot Road. As a consequence, Abbey Road is heavily trafficked by vehicles travelling to Port Talbot, Aberavon, and Sandfields from the M4. Minor roads in the area are often used by vehicles as a 'rat run' to avoid traffic queues.



Aerial photograph of Port Talbot (Source: www.multimap.co.uk)

A Peripheral Distributor Road is currently being designed with finance granted by the Welsh Assembly Government. This scheme will have beneficial traffic impacts for the area in the future.

1.3 *Central Working Group*

The Working Group is comprised of:

- Mrs N Davey - Head Teacher of the Infants School
- Mr P J John - Head Teacher of the Junior School
- Mr Mike Thomas - Governor and local authority highway engineer
- Mrs S McPhee - Infant School teacher and governor
- David - Pupil representative of the Junior School Council

2.0 Description of the School Sites

The layout of the roads in the area around the schools forms a grid pattern, as seen on the map or aerial photograph (see Section 1). This results in a number of junctions that need to be crossed on each road in the area. The properties in the area are mainly terraced which results in cars parking along the roadside. There are also a number of lanes leading to the rear of the properties to provide access to garages, which pose a hazard for pedestrians.



Abbey Road looking towards the M4 motorway

Two School Crossing Patrols (SCPs) operate on Abbey Road at the junction with Cambrian Place and Connaught Street. There is an additional SCP on Theodore Road to serve pedestrians travelling to and from the Infants School.



SCP on Abbey Road

There are two school buses for pupils at the Infant and Junior schools living in Goitre and Velindre. The buses park at the front of the schools.

2.1 *Central Junior School*

The Junior School is located on Broad Street, which is a wide street leading to the busy A48 Talbot Road. Cars are densely packed in the streets surrounding the school. This makes the identification of safe crossing points difficult. Parental parking exacerbates this problem at the start and the end of the school day.



Parking on Beverley Street

There are two pedestrian access points for the Junior School on Broad Street. A pedestrian safety barrier is located at the corner entrance which is used by the majority of pupils.

A lane runs alongside the school between Broad Street and Beverley Street. This provides emergency access to the side entrance gate of the school. This gate is opened at the end of the school day to allow children to exit the school. Consequently, parents pull in to the lane and park on both sides in order to wait for their children. There are pedestrian warning signs at either end of the lane to warn vehicles of children crossing.



The lane next to the Junior School

2.2 *Central Infant School*

The Infant School is located to the south of Abbey Road, on Theodore Road. There is an ambulance station to the north of the school, and Life Long Learning in the Community Centre to the south of the school on Theodore Road. The west side of the road is entirely residential. There is parking provision reserved for Resident Permit Holders at certain locations.

Theodore Road is a no-through road, and cars are prevented from accessing the A48 by bollards located at the southern end of this road. This prevents through traffic using the road adjacent to the school, although conditions at the school gate are congested at the peak times.



Theodore Road - during school hours

Parents park on Theodore Road and the side roads that lead to the school. There are four pedestrian accesses from Theodore Road to the school buildings (one is the main double gate and one leads to the nursery). There are zig-zag markings at the gated entrance but there is no pedestrian guard-rail. All children in the Infant School are accompanied onto the school site by parents/guardians.



Infants School from George Street

3.0 Travel Survey Results

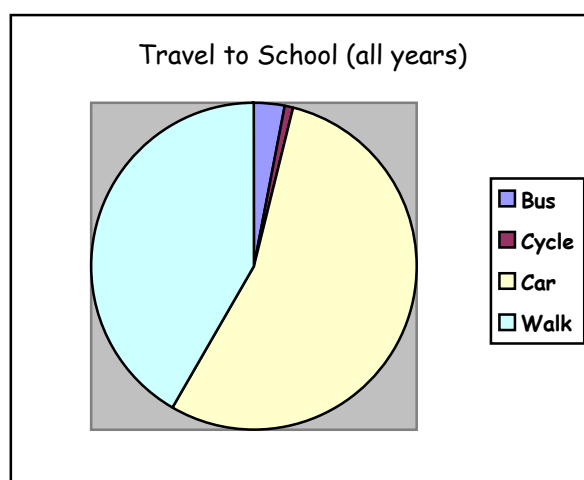
An essential element of producing a School Travel Plan is to gather up-to-date data on the travel behaviour of pupils at the school. A school travel survey was undertaken at Central Infant and Junior School on Thursday 6th February 2003. 398 responses were collected - 115 from the Infant School (Year 1 and 2 only) and 283 from the Junior School. The Reception class was excluded from the survey.

The approximate response rate for the survey is 97%. The survey form is contained in Appendix A and the full results tables are contained in Appendix B.

3.1 *Current travel patterns*

The survey shows:

- 3% travel to school by bus
- 1% travel to school by bicycle
- 54% travel to school by car either with parents or friends
- 12% walk alone
- 30% walk with others



The table below shows the proportions of pupils travelling to and from school by travel mode. In addition, the proportions have been calculated for the Infants (Years 1 and 2) and the Juniors (Years 3 to 6). In the Infant School, 63% arrive in the car, 35% walk to school and 2% travel on the bus. In the Junior School, 51% arrive in the car, 44% walk, 4% arrive on the bus and 1% cycle.

	Morning			Afternoon		
	Infants	Juniors	Total	Infants	Juniors	Total
No reply	-	-	-	2%	-	1%
Bus	2%	4%	3%	2%	7%	5%
Cycle alone	-	1%	1%	-	1%	1%
Cycle with others	-	-	-	-	-	-
Car with friends	11%	9%	10%	13%	8%	10%
Car with parents	52%	42%	44%	54%	38%	42%
Walk	-	16%	12%	-	15%	11%
Walk unaccompanied	35%	28%	30%	29%	31%	30%

3.2 *Travel preference*

The survey asked how pupils would prefer to travel to school if they had the choice:

- 4% pupils would prefer to use the bus
- 26% pupils would prefer to cycle
- 25% pupils would prefer to travel by car
- 43% pupils would like to walk
- 2% pupils said other or did not reply

Car travel

Of those currently brought to school by car with parents, only 29% would choose to travel by car (either with parents or their friends).

- 6% pupils would prefer to travel by bus
- 25% pupils would prefer to cycle
- 37% pupils would prefer to walk
- 3% pupils gave other replies

Walking

At present 42% pupils walk to school either alone or with others. 43% pupils would choose to walk to school if they were given the choice.

Cycling

Only 3 pupils cycle at present, but 98 would like to (36% respondents).

3.3 *Catchment Area*

The table below shows where pupils live and how they travel to school.

AREA	Bus	Cycle alone	Cycle with others	Car with friends	Car with parents	Walk alone	Walk with others	Grand Total
Insufficient data				2	1		1	4
Aberavon							2	2
Baglan				1	3	3		7
Cimla					1			1
Cwmavon					5			5
Cymmer					1			1
Goytre	3			1	4			8
Margam					9		4	13
Neath Abbey					1			1
Penycae				2	2		1	5
Port Talbot	3	2	1	29	124	41	106	306
Sandfields					2			2
Tai-Bach	1			3	12	1	3	20
Brackla					1			1
Velindre	6			1	13	1	1	22
Grand Total	13	2	1	39	179	46	118	398

The survey shows:

- 77% travel from Port Talbot
- 5% travel from Tai-Bach
- 1% travel from Penycae
- 6% travel from Velindre

The other locations are dispersed. A total of 11% come from Aberavon, Baglan, Cimla, Cwmafan, Cymmer, Goytre, Margam, Neath Abbey, Sandfields and Brackla.

Of those living in Port Talbot, 1% pupils arrive at school on the bus, 1% pupils cycle to school, 50% arrive in the car and 48% walk to school. Those that travel on the bus are either from Port Talbot or travel on the contract bus from Goitre and Velindre.

Of those living in Port Talbot:

- 4% pupils would prefer to use the bus
- 24% pupils would like to cycle
- 9% pupils would like to come by car with friends
- 12% pupils would like to come by car with others
- 47% pupils would like to walk
- 4% pupils said other

3.4 *Conclusions*

The survey shows there is scope to increase the use of more sustainable travel modes for the school journey. A significant number of children live in Port Talbot and locations near the school, and there is potential to increase walking and decrease the number of car journeys to the school. However, in order to change travel patterns, the barriers to sustainable travel must be identified and an Action Plan must be formulated. The following sections set out the identified travel problems and ideas of how to address these issues.

4.0 Travel Problems

- The main problem at both schools is parking, and occasional high speeds on Abbey Road and Broad Street.
- A high-sided vehicle used to be parked at the SCP crossing point on Abbey Road, which made visibility difficult. There are double yellow lines at this location but they may need to be extended.
- Both the Infant and Junior School are served by a subsidised local bus service that has been commissioned by the LEA. This service only operates during school time and travels to Goitre and Velindre. The Infant School requests parents to accompany their children using the service to and from school.
- Buses park outside the Infant and Junior School on the yellow zig-zag lines because there is no safe stopping point.
- The lane next to the Junior School gets very busy at the start and end of the school day. Parked traffic in the lane often blocks the entrance for vehicular traffic to the Junior School. There are no parking restrictions in the lane. There is a sign which warns of the lack of footway but this does not deter parents.
- The Junior school has no objection to cycling, but there was a recent incident where a pupil had an accident travelling from Margam. The traffic conditions make the Junior School wary about encouraging cycling.
- Enforcement of parking restrictions is a problem at both schools.
- The Infant School has no school warning signs or pedestrian guardrails at the entrance. The Junior School has guardrails at the corner pedestrian entrance but there are none at the main gate. There are no double yellow lines outside the Infants School.
- Lorries are a problem on Abbey Road.
- There is a hazardous crossing point on the corner of Park View/ Mayfield Street/Abbey Road. The video shop is located at this junction and customers often double park. Cars turn very quickly from Abbey Road.
- There is an awkward crossing point on Talcennau Road next to Gower Street.
- The worst time for congestion is 08:50 - 09:15 and 15.00 - 15.20.

5.0 Solutions

These solutions have been devised following consultation with both school communities. The school pupils are very enthusiastic and keen to be involved in decisions about school travel. Pupils on the Junior School Council devised the following solutions to the travel problems at the school:

- Double yellow lines in the lane next to the Junior School
- SCP on Broad Street
- Signs around the school
- One-way entry to the lane or no parking
- Speed bumps on Broad Street
- Taxi pick-up point
- Designated Bus Stop

PROBLEMS	IDEAS
Walking	
High level of car use for size of catchment area	Follow Kerbcraft with Walking Bus in the Infants School (long-term aim) Infant school is very interested in the Walking Bus. There are reservations over the day-to-day running of the Bus, and the responsibility laid upon parent volunteers. The volunteers participating in Kerbcraft might be keen to continue the initiative once it is finished, and those that have been trained in Road Safety skills could form the first Walking Bus when they enter Year 1 or Year 2.
	Travel initiatives at both schools - Walk on Wednesdays, Walk to School Weeks etc
Parking obscures view for SCPs	Extend parking restrictions at key locations
	Frequent enforcement by Traffic Wardens
	Investigate traffic orders
Crossing Talcennau Street at Gower Street	Investigate the possibility of an additional SCP on Talcennau Street
Crossing Park View at the Video shop	School warning sign at the corner
Crossing Broad Street at the Junior School	Investigate possibility of additional SCP on Broad Street

Car travel	
High levels of parking	Reduce car trips and parking by implementing travel initiatives
	Frequent enforcement by Traffic Wardens
	Name and Shame campaign
High speeds on Abbey Road and Broad Street	Roundels on the road surface advising drivers to slow down
	New fluorescent school warning signs
Enforcing parking restrictions	Make an example of some parents by issuing tickets
Many lorries and HGVs use Abbey Road	Improved signage to encourage vehicles to slow down
Parking in the lane next to the Junior School	Parking restrictions
	Build the pavement out and extend guardrails at the side access of the Junior School to improve visibility for pedestrians
	Investigate feasibility of one-way entry
High speed on Theodore Road on approach to Infant School	New fluorescent yellow school warning signs
	Coloured surfacing and roundels
Public transport	
Nowhere for buses to stop safely	Dedicated bus stop outside the Infant and Junior school with parking restrictions
Cycling	
Heavy traffic and awkward bends makes cycling hazardous	Cycle proficiency training in Year 3,4,5 and 6
	Cycle storage at the Junior School
General	
There are no pedestrian guardrails in the Infant School	Install pedestrian guardrails

6.0 Action Plan

This section takes the ideas which have been developed to address the travel problems in Section 5, and translates them into an Action Plan which addresses the objectives of the School Travel Plan for Central Infant and Junior School. A plan showing the location of proposed measures forms Appendix C.

Objective 1: Improve road safety		
Target: Improve road safety on all routes to the schools used by pupils		
Action	Responsibility	Timescale
Investigate possibility of SCP at Talcennau St/ Gower St and Broad St	Local Authority	July 2003
Fluorescent signs and road markings to improve awareness to drivers on all access roads to both schools	Local Authority	Sept 2003
Roundels on Broad St and Theodore Rd	Local Authority	Sept 2003
Install pedestrian guardrails at Infant School entrance	Local Authority	Sept 2003
Parking restrictions in lane next to the Junior School with built out pavement for pedestrians	Local Authority	July 2004

Objective 2: Increase travel awareness		
Target: Increase awareness amongst parents and pupils of the consequences of travel and the impact on others		
Action	Responsibility	Timescale
Make STP available to parents, staff and pupils	School	Immediate
Involve pupils in surveys and data collection for annual review	School	April 2004
Include info in school prospectus	School	Sept 2003
Investigate opportunities for children to identify the consequences of travel decisions	School	Ongoing

Objective 3: Reduce car trips and car parking		
Target: Decrease car travel to school from 54% to 45% by June 2005		
Action	Responsibility	Timescale
Encourage informal car sharing	School	Ongoing
Use school prospectus and newsletters to enforce parent parking	School	Ongoing
Investigate traffic orders	Local Authority	Immediate
Extend parking restrictions at key locations	Local Authority	July 2003

Regular parking enforcement campaign by traffic wardens	Local Authority	Ongoing
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Objective 4: Encourage sustainable travel modes		
Target: Increase regular walking to school from 42% to 47% by June 2004		
Action	Responsibility	Timescale
Follow Kerbcraft with Walking Bus	Road Safety Unit/School	September 2003/4
Dedicated bus bay at Infant and Junior School	Local Authority	August 2003
Cycle training year 3-6 and secure storage at Junior School	Road Safety Unit	July 2004
Participate in Walk to School Weeks 2003: May 19 th - 23 rd and October 6 th - 10 th	School	May 2003
Walk on Wednesdays	School	Ongoing

7.0 Monitor and Review

This School Travel Plan is a five-year document and the Action Plan will be implemented in a rolling programme over the life of the plan.

When will the Plan be reviewed?

Central Infant and Junior School Travel Plan will be a 'living' document that will be reviewed and updated annually. Any new initiatives or changes to the travel policy may be added as the Plan develops over time.

How will the plan be monitored?

A 'hands-up' survey of pupil's travel behaviour will be undertaken every 6 months in October and April. A copy of the survey form is contained in Appendix D. The results will be analysed to establish how the initiatives and schemes in the travel plan are changing pupils travel behaviour.

Who is responsible for monitoring?

Neath Port Talbot Road Safety Unit will be responsible for monitoring the delivery of the programme and together with the Working Group will update the policy where necessary.

It is seen as a priority that Central Infant and Junior School and the Road Safety Unit work together to ensure the plan is implemented effectively and that every effort is made to achieve the agreed targets.

How will changes be reported?

The Working Group will provide the school community with regular updates on the progress of the School Travel Plan and travel issues via the school newsletter. The Working Group will meet every term to monitor the progress of the Plan.

Appendices:

- A Travel survey form
- B Results tables
- C Location of proposed measures
- D Monitoring form

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

TRAVEL SURVEY FORM



Central Infant and Junior School Travel Survey

Date: _____ Name: _____

Q1 Which school year are you in?

Reception		Year 1		Year 2		Year 3	
Year 4		Year 5		Year 6			

Q2 What is your address and postcode?

Address _____

Postcode _____

Q3 How do you **normally** travel to school in the morning?

I walk on my own		I come on the bus	
I walk with other people		I come by car with friends	
I cycle on my own		I come by car with the person	
I cycle with other people		who looks after me	

Q4 How do you **normally** travel from school in the afternoon?

I walk on my own		I go on the bus	
I walk with other people		I go by car with friends	
I cycle on my own		I go by car with the person	
I cycle with other people		who looks after me	

Q5 How would you **prefer** to travel to school?

I would like to walk on my own		I would like to come on the bus	
I would like to walk with other people		I would like to come by car with friends	
I would like to cycle on my own		I would like to come by car with the person who looks after me	
I would like to cycle with other people		Other	

APPENDIX B

RESULTS TABLES

	Morning			Afternoon		
	Infants	Juniors	Total	Infants	Juniors	Total
No reply	-	-	-	2%	-	1%
Bus	2%	4%	3%	2%	7%	5%
Cycle alone	-	1%	1%	-	1%	1%
Cycle with others	-	-	-	-	-	-
Car with friends	11%	9%	10%	13%	8%	10%
Car with parents	52%	42%	44%	54%	38%	42%
Walk	-	16%	12%	-	15%	11%
Walk unaccompanied	35%	28%	30%	29%	31%	30%

	Preference									Grand Total
	No Reply	Bus	Cycle alone	Cycle with others	Car Friends	Car Parents	Other	Walk alone	Walk with others	
Morning										
Bus		1	3	1		2	1	2	3	13
Cycle alone			1	1						2
Cycle with others				1						1
Car with friends	1	2	3	6	8	5		2	12	39
Car with parents	1	10	14	30	18	34	6	13	53	179
Walk			10	2	1	1		19	13	46
Walk unaccompanied	1	3	8	18	11	12	8	18	39	118
Grand Total	3	16	39	59	38	54	15	54	120	398

Morning								
AREA	Bus	Cycle alone	Cycle with others	Car with friends	Car with parents	Walk alone	Walk with others	Grand Total
?				2	1		1	4
Aberavon							2	2
Baglan				1	3	3		7
Cimla					1			1
Cwmavon					5			5
Cymmer					1			1
Goytre	3			1	4			8
Margam					9		4	13
Neath Abbey					1			1
Penycae				2	2		1	5
Port Talbot	3	2	1	29	124	41	106	306
Sandfields					2			2
Tai-Bach	1			3	12	1	3	20
Brackla					1			1
Velindre	6			1	13	1	1	22
Grand Total	13	2	1	39	179	46	118	398

Preference										
AREA	?	Bus	Cycle alone	Cycle with others	Car with friends	Car with parents	Other	Walk alone	Walk with others	Grand Total
?		1				2			1	4
Aberavon					2					2
Baglan		1			1	2		2	1	7
Cimla									1	1
Cwmavon		1			1		1	1	1	5
Cymmer									1	1
Goytre		1	1	1	2	1	1	1		8
Margam		1	1	4	2	4		1		13
Neath Abbey									1	1
Penycae			2	3	1					5
Port Talbot	3	9	30	42	27	38	12	45	100	306
Sandfields			1	1						2
Tai-Bach			1	4	2	2		3	8	20
Brackla						1				1
Velindre		2	3	5		4	1	1	6	22
Grand Total	3	16	39	59	38	54	15	54	120	398

APPENDIX C

LOCATION OF PROPOSED MEASURES

APPENDIX D

MONITORING FORM



Central Infant and Junior School Travel Plan Monitoring Survey

Teacher led survey to monitor your School Travel Plan. To be completed by the teacher on behalf of the whole class.

Instructions:

First, read out all the choices available for Q3, Q4 and Q5.

Secondly, repeating each choice individually from left to right, ask pupils to select a response by a show of hands.

Finally, please record the number of pupils counted in the boxes provided.

Date: _____

Class: _____

Q1 Which school year are you in?

R		Y1		Y2		Y3	
Y4		Y5		Y6			

Q2 Number of pupils present absent

Q3 How do you **normally** travel to school in the morning?
(Please read left to right)

Walk alone		Walk with parents/others	
Cycle alone		Cycle with parents/others	
School bus		By car with parent	
By car with other pupils		Other	

Q4 How do you **normally** travel from school? (Please read left to right)

Walk alone		Walk with parents/others	
Cycle alone		Cycle with parents/others	
School bus		By car with parent	
By car with other pupils		Other	

Q5 How would you like to travel to/from school (Please read left to right)

Walk alone		Walk with parents/others	
Cycle alone		Cycle with parents/others	
School bus		By car with parent	
By car with other pupils		Other	