

The Elms School Travel Plan

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The Elms School Travel Plan

2006 – Present

Introduction:

- As part of the Healthy Schools Initiative and to promote safer and healthier travel, we wish to implement a School Travel Plan.
- The aim of our School Travel Plan is to produce a document that will enable our school to identify the current problems and to develop a range of solutions. To achieve this, we will seek help from our local authority Road Safety and Travel Plan Team and Merseyside Travelwise.
- In doing so, there will be many additional benefits: improvement in the immediate area surrounding the school; improved safety of our young people; improved social skills of pupils; responsive alert pupils who arrive in school ready to learn.
- The above aims are in keeping with the overall ethos of the school. We believe that walking to school will enable our pupils to develop greater confidence and independence, whilst at the same time developing life skills for the future. Where possible will maximise the number of pupils in each taxi, which will enhance the local environment together with care for the future of our planet.
- Our Travel Plan Mission Statement: “ The Elms School is committed to improving the safety of our school grounds by encouraging pupils to take an active part in the planning of a safer environment and raise awareness of safety issues and road safety.

Brief Description of our School:

The Elms School

Headteacher: Mrs. Linda Lowe

Dep.Headteacher: Mrs. Maggie Fulton

Address: Whitethorn Drive, Stockbridge Village.
Knowsley L28 1RX

Tel. No: 0151-477 8350

Fax. No: 0151-477 8351

DfES No: 104497/ 7012

Email: theelms.de@knowsley.gov.uk

Staff: 16.2 teaching members
19.5 Level 3
5 Level 2
2.5 Admin.
1 Site Manager
11 Lunchtime supervisors
1 unqualified teacher.

Pupils: **PRIMARY**
Class 1 / 2 / 3 & Transition
SPECIALIST
ALFA 1/ 2/ 3/ STAR
SECONDARY & COLLEGIATE
LS 1/ 2 / 3 / 4 / 5

Total number of pupils on roll **109**

The Elms is a specialist school for children with severe learning difficulties, it is situated on a large housing estate in Stockbridge Village, Knowsley.

The school has a wide and mixed catchment area. It caters for children throughout Knowsley Borough from Kirkby in the North to Halewood in the South. The catchment areas are very contrasting, some of high unemployment and social deprivation; many of the pupils live in local authority owned homes. Whilst others are commuter zones consisting of long established private housing intermixed with newly built private housing estates.

Geographically, The Elms School is situated in the middle of Stockbridge Village on Whitethorn Drive. It is a very busy route with traffic calming measures. The Elms is close to Brookside, St.

Bridgets, Nine Trees and St. Albert's Primary Schools and St. Edmunds of Canterbury Secondary School.

Evidence of Consultation and Whole School Involvement:

- **Action Team Members:** All parents have been sent a questionnaire outlining the Travel Plan the pupils have taken part in surveys. Paul Buntin (Road Safety and Travel Plan Team) has given valuable advice and guidance at meetings. Thereafter, Craig Hunter from Knowsley Road Safety and Travel Plan Team has supported the development of the plan.
- **Meetings Held & Significant Dates:**

Meetings held: 18.11.2005, 28.11.2005, 19.12.2005, 30.1.2006

During the Spring term 2006 it is envisaged that the Travel Plan will be completed and presented to staff, pupils and parents. The plan will be adopted by the school by presenting it to the School Governors to be signed off as a working document.

Summary of The Elms travel and road safety situation and problems:

The Elms School is located on Whitethorn Drive. It is circled by Haswell drive which is a very busy road with cars frequently exceeding the speed limit. This also leads on to the M57 or East Prescott Road.

To combat this heavy traffic, raised calming measures have been introduced. There is also a Pedestrian crossing at the end of the footpath which leads from Haswell drive to the school.

However, there is an historic pattern of heavy reliance on taxis as the pupils are dropped off in transport that is provided by the LEA. Some taxis will drive in the opposite direction at the roundabout within the school grounds, and actually park on it!

Cars often park outside the school gates making it difficult for other cars, delivery vehicles and the school minibuses to enter and exit. Within the school grounds, the situation is potentially dangerous because pedestrians have to walk across the car park, trying to avoid the constant flow of car traffic plus delivery vehicles. Also cars park on the pavement due to volume of traffic

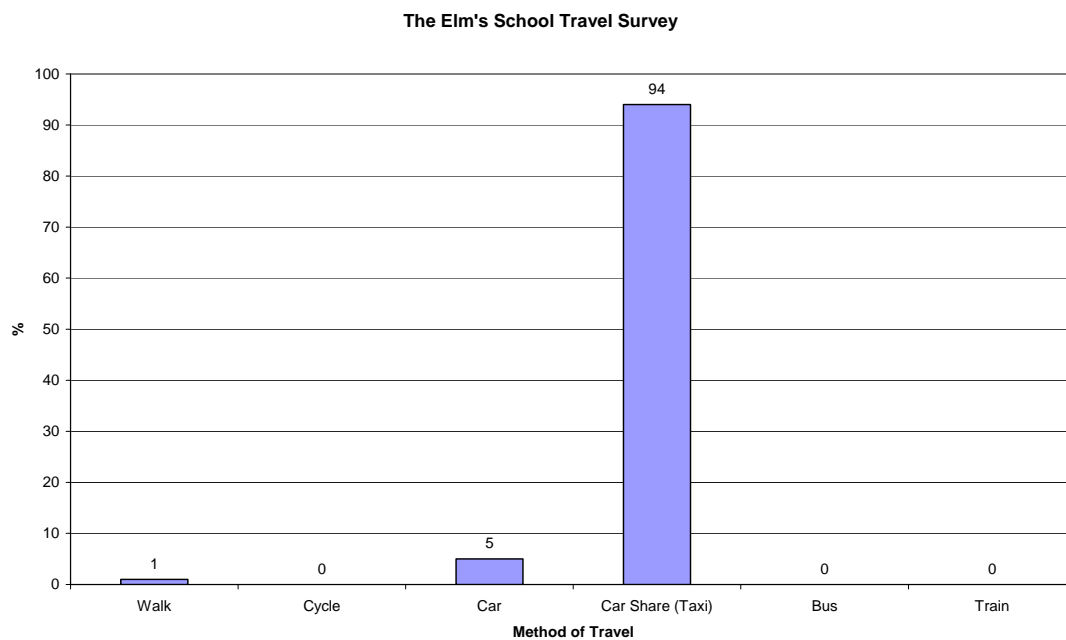
The school gates are electronic and are closed at 9.15am and re-opened at 3.00pm.

DATA COLLECTION SURVEYS:

To quantify and assess the extent of the traffic problem, The Elms School has conducted a variety of surveys:

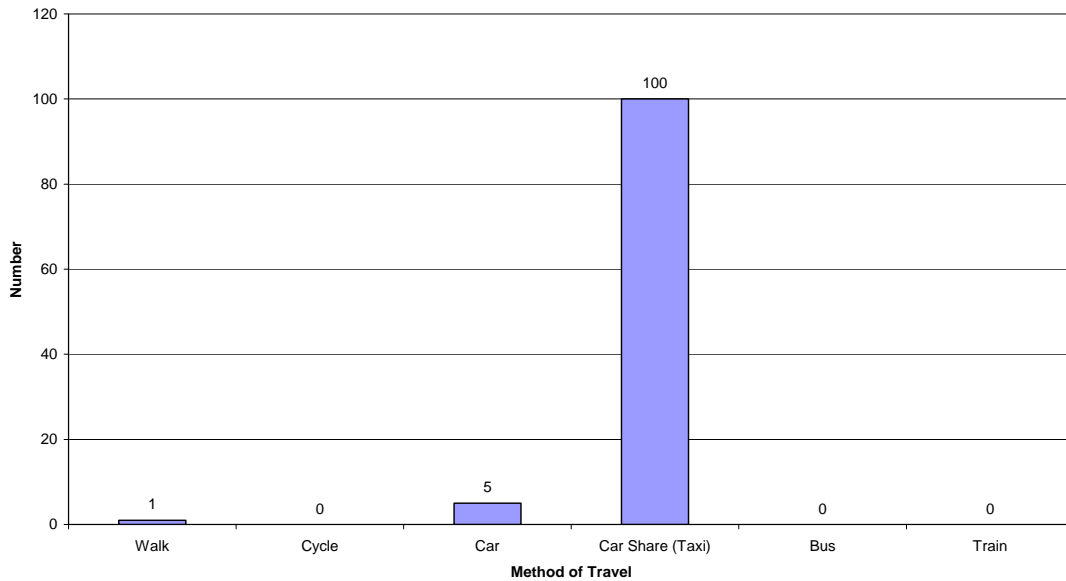
- In January 2006 a daily survey was carried out by the Class staff and pupils to find out how all pupils travelled to and from school. Each morning, pupils were asked to put their hands up to indicate whether they travelled by car, taxi, public transport or walked.
- At the end of the two weeks, this base line data was collated and revealed that 5% of pupils travelled to school by car, with 1% walking to school, with the majority 94% of pupils travelling in a taxi. Any further initiatives will be measured against this base line data.

How do you usually travel to school (%)?



How do you usually travel to school (no.)?

The Elm's School Travel Survey

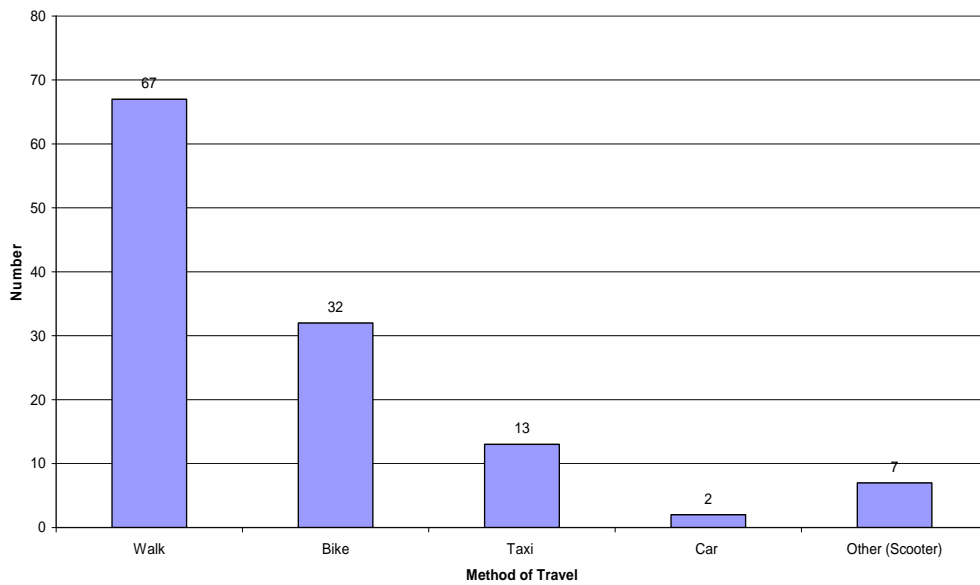


We will carry out the hands up survey on an annual basis. The next survey is scheduled for March 2007. Comparisons will be made with the baseline data and all targets and actions reviewed after this.

The children were also consulted on how they would prefer to travel to school. This information enabled us to make a comparison between the two sets of data. A high number of children (67) expressed a preference to walk, with the second highest number of children (32) expressing a preference to cycle. We realised that although the children have expressed a desire to travel in a particular way, this is not always possible and beyond the control of the children due to parental choice and safety reasons.

How would you prefer to travel to school (no.)?

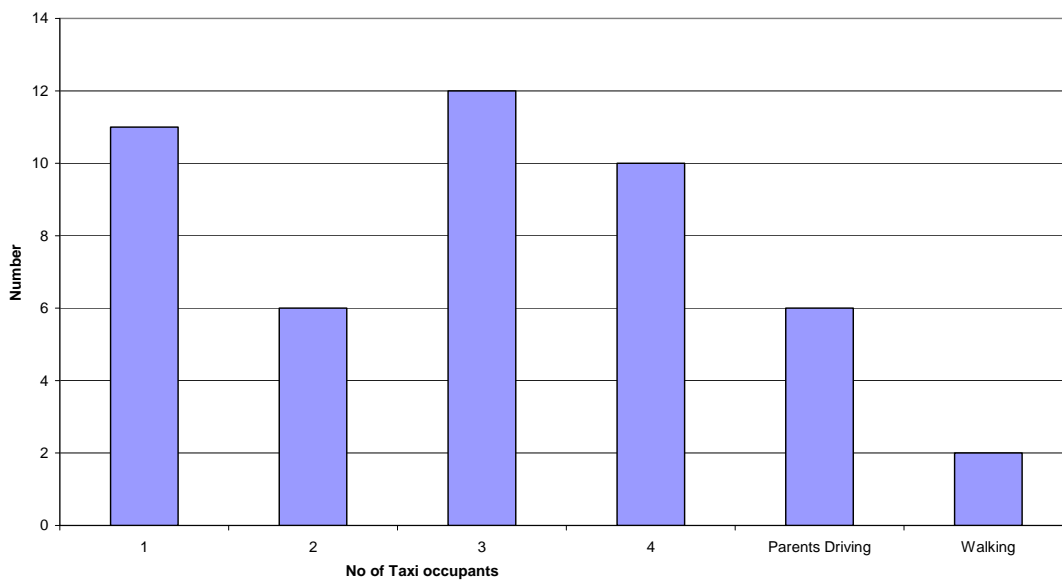
The Elms School - How do you prefer survey



We will focus the immediate actions in our plan around walking initiatives and look to make the environment around the school safer for all children.

- Different classes conducted a survey to determine the occupancy levels in a taxi, the pupils also noted those who travelled by car and those who walked. The results of this survey are shown below.

The Elms School Travel Survey



The results in the above graph show that although there is a high proportion of taxis that carry 4 passengers, the number of taxis that are carrying 3 passengers and 1 passenger are slightly higher. We will use this information, to assess pupil occupancy levels and where possible increase the number of taxis that carry 4 passengers. It was encouraging to see that a number of pupils walk to school too.

- Parents were consulted by means of a questionnaire, which helped us to identify the issues that are specific to our school. The results of the survey are shown below. All parent questionnaires have been passed to the LEA transport department so that they can act on any parent views where applicable. The comments can be found at the back of this travel plan, where we have included copies of the returned questionnaires.

Other consultations include:

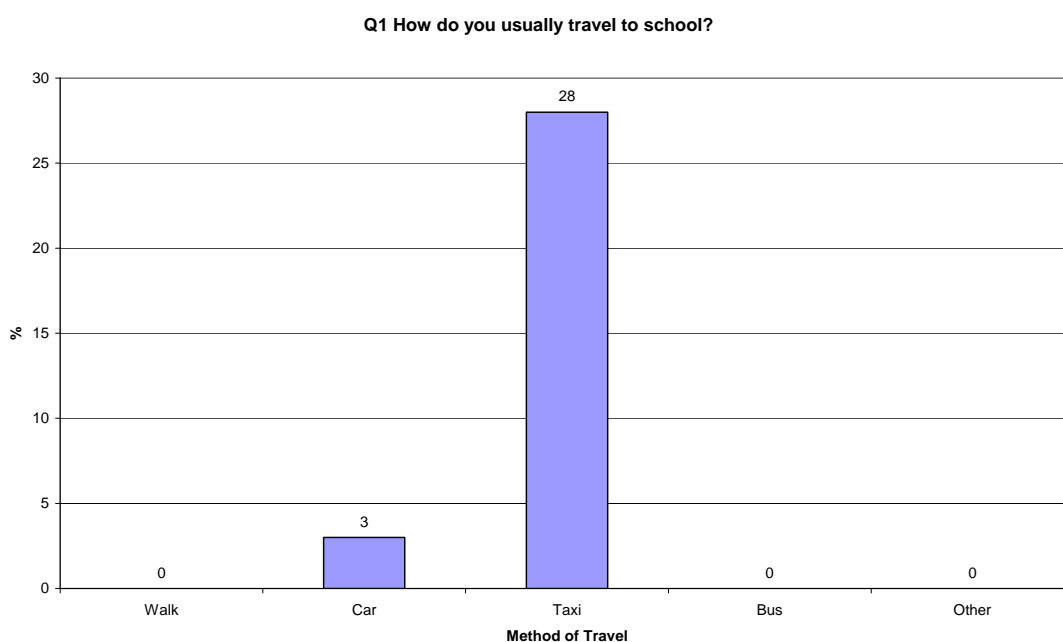
Meetings with staff to ensure the whole school community is kept up to date with travel plan developments.

Involvement with the school council e.g. surveys, curriculum work, car counts

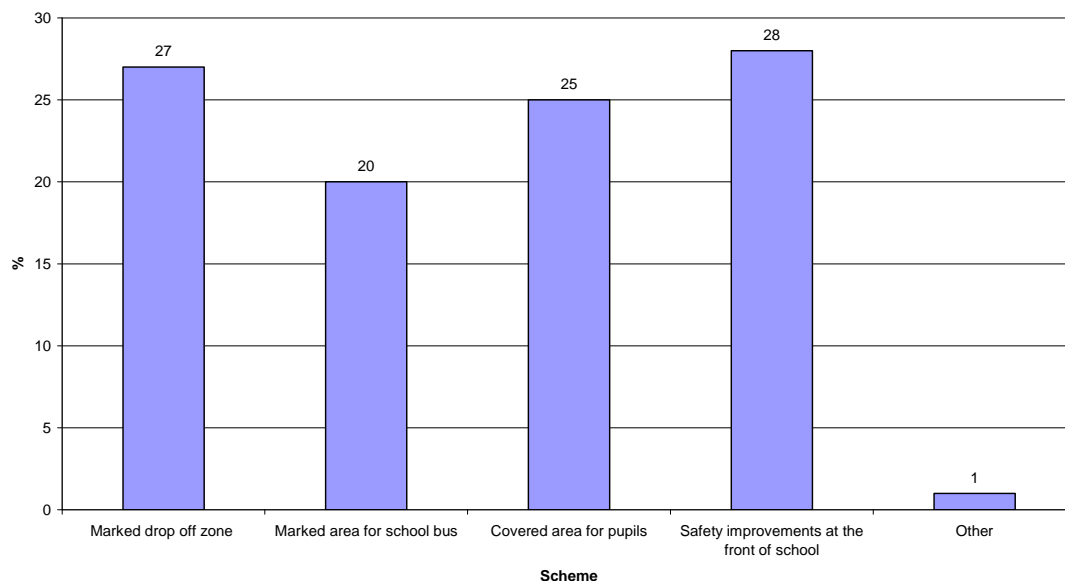
Knowsley Council's Traffic Management Team have been contacted re: safety improvements within the school grounds

Links with the LEA transport provider

Parent Questionnaire:



Q2 Would you support any of the following improvements?

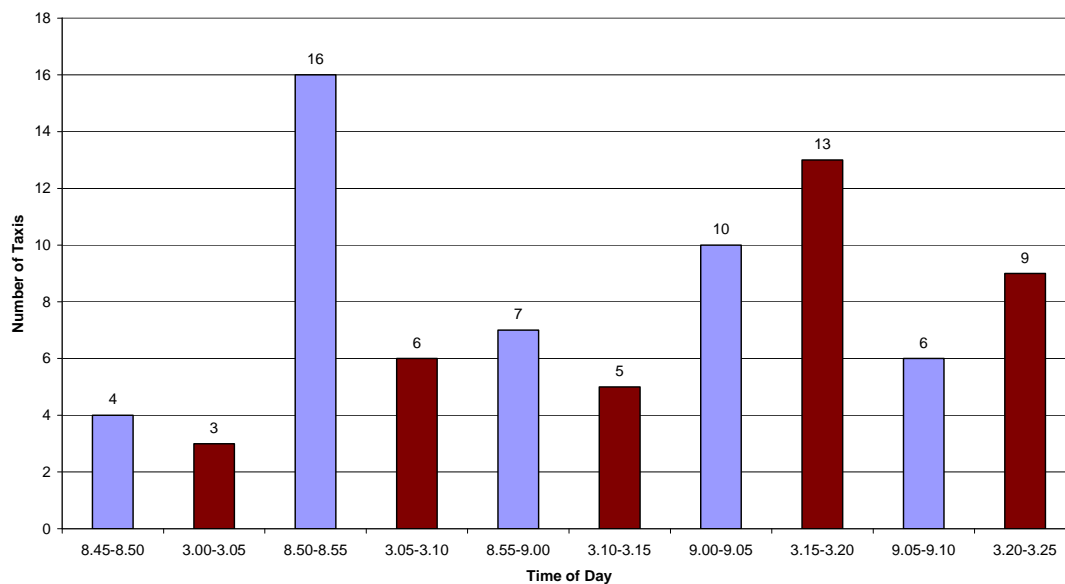


The results of the parent questionnaire have shown us that there is an encouraging level of interest in the schemes that have been discussed; this data will allow us to develop these initiatives in the future.

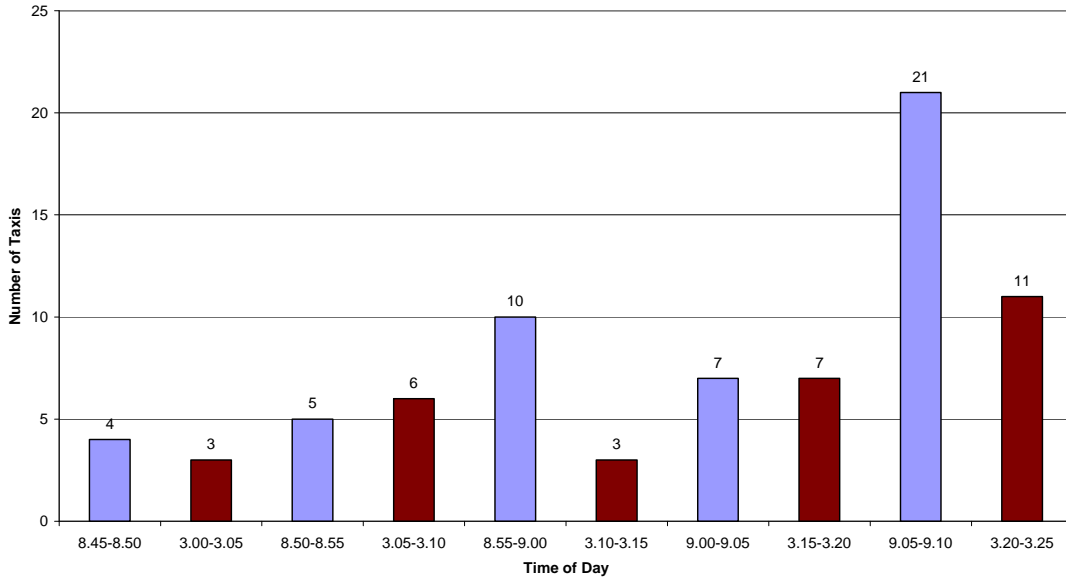
- Between Wednesday 18th January – Wednesday 25th January '06 (8.30-8.50am) and (3.00-3.25 pm), the pupils of various classes conducted a survey at the front of the school to determine the numbers of taxi's that entered school grounds.

Car Counts/ Surveys:

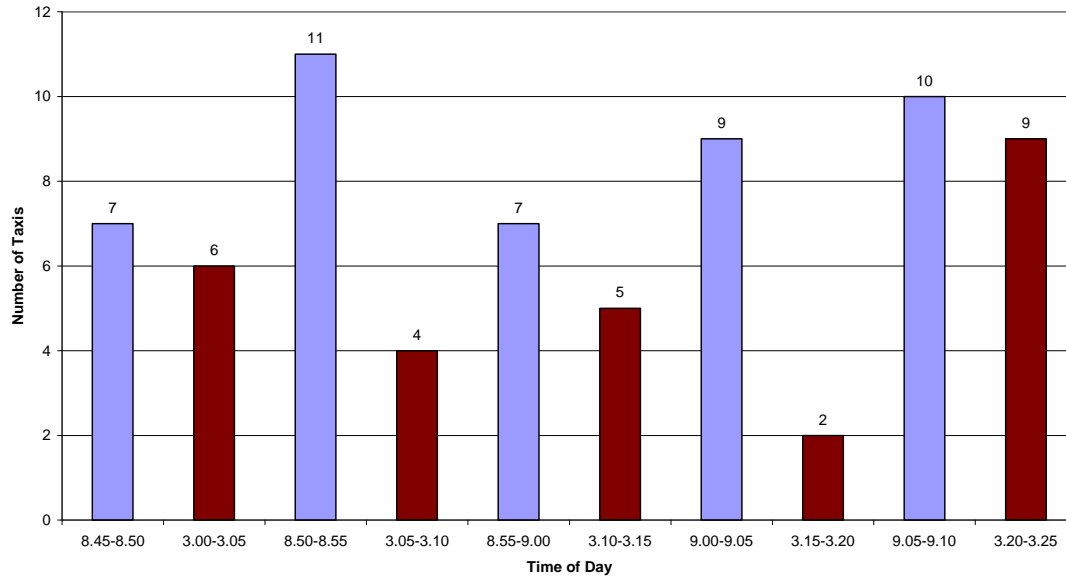
The Elms Traffic Survey 18.01.06



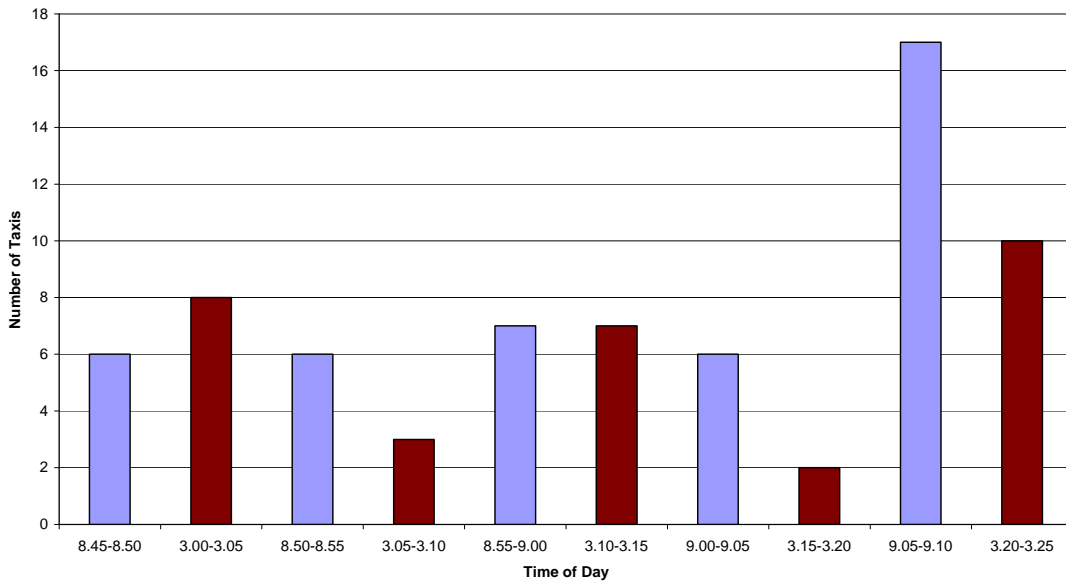
The Elms Traffic Survey 19.01.06



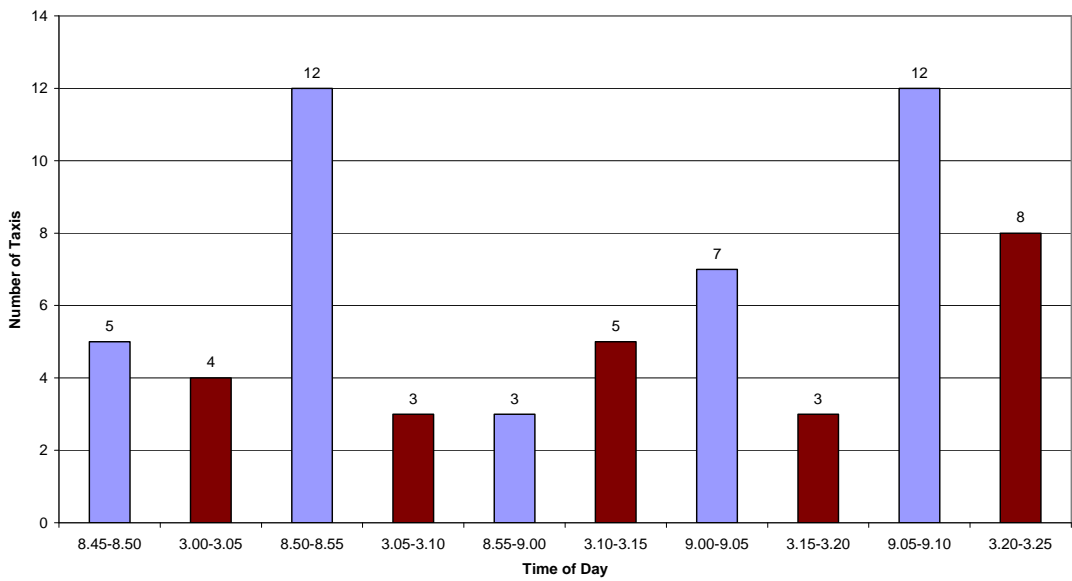
The Elms Traffic Survey 20.01.06



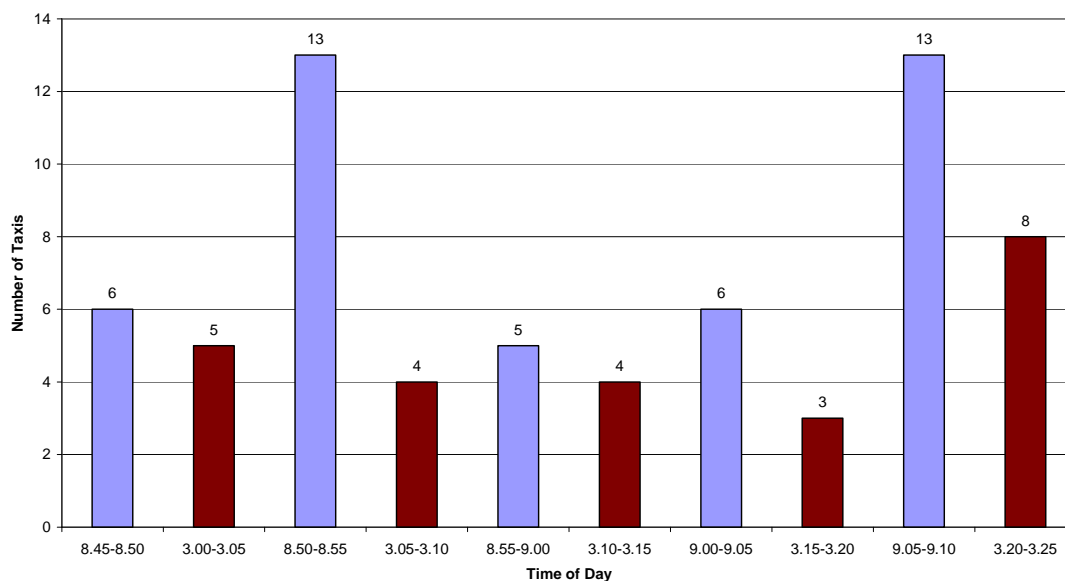
The Elms Traffic Survey 24.01.06



The Elms Traffic Survey 25.01.06



The Elms Traffic Survey 25.01.06



The most noticeable feature of the pupils' survey at the front of the school is that although there is a high number of vehicles entering and leaving the school between the times of 8.45-9.10 am and 3.00- 3.25pm, there appears to be an overall peak of the number of taxi's entering the school at around 8.50-8.55am and 3.20-3.25pm.

Our travel plan will respond to the changing environment. We will be flexible to new intake and promote sustainable travel to school wherever possible. Each September we will review our taxi situation and monitor the impact on the front of the school.

Future monitoring will be carried out on an annual basis. We will measure all results against our baseline data. This will allow us to set targets and develop initiatives to meet the needs of the whole school community.

Record Breaking Walking Bus

On the 14th June 2006 at 10.00am every pupil in The Elms School will be taking part in the Brake Record Braking Walking Bus. The pupils will follow a series of routes from school depending on their ability to Croxteth Park. We shall be doing this in conjunction with 4 mainstream schools namely St Edmund of Canterbury and Ruffwood Secondary schools, and Brookside and St Brigids primary schools. Parents and Governors will be invited to join us and we shall be taking a picnic to the park. School minibus will be available to take pupils back to school when ready.

Objectives, Initiatives and Actions

Objectives	Initiatives	When	Who
To encourage healthier ways of travelling to school.	To take part in Break Record Breaking Initiative.	14 June 2006	Staff, Pupils, Parents, Wardens.

	<p>Road safety Week</p> <p>Road Safety Activities</p> <p>Improved and safer access points for pedestrians.</p> <p>Improved and safer parking for cars and taxis.</p>	<p>Week beginning 3rd April 2006</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Pupils. Parents, KMBC Travel Plan Team School Community Cooks.</p> <p>Parent Volunteers, pupils, staff.</p> <p>KMBC Travel Plan Team, whole school, parents.</p> <p>Road safety Team KMBC Whole school.</p>
To encourage the use of public transport	Mapping Work, Geography.	Ongoing	Class Teachers, Travelwise, KMBC Travel Plan Team
<p>Active promotion of the Travel Plan throughout school</p> <p>Best use of LEA Transport</p>	<p>School Display</p> <p>School Newsletter</p> <p>Meeting with LEA transport section</p> <p>Inclusion on School website</p>	<p>May 2006</p> <p>Ongoing, as frequent as newsletter is produced</p> <p>June 2006</p> <p>Autumn 2006</p>	<p>School</p> <p>L. Lowe</p> <p>Corinne Hawkins, Craig Hunter and LEA transport section</p>

	<p>Inclusion in School Prospectus</p> <p>School Policies</p> <p>Annual Reviews</p>	Yearly	<p>S.M.T</p> <p>S.M.T</p>
Active promotion of the Travel Plan throughout the school	<p>School Display</p> <p>School Newsletter</p> <p>Inclusion on school website</p> <p>Inclusion in school prospectus</p> <p>School Policies</p> <p>Parents Evening</p>	<p>May 2005</p> <p>Ongoing, as frequent as newsletter is produced</p> <p>Autumn 2005</p> <p>Yearly</p>	<p>School</p> <p>S.M.T</p> <p>S.M.T</p>
<p>Road Markings</p> <p>School Main Entrance</p> <p>Bus Stop</p> <p>Taxis</p>	<p>To mark box outside school gates to prevent cars parking and blocking entrance and exit.</p> <p>To look to establish a safer route into school for pedestrians by use of pedestrian gate.</p> <p>To erect canopy at front of school for post 16 students whilst waiting for transport.</p> <p>To establish one way system for taxis to improve safety.</p> <p>To have marked drop off</p>	<p>Summer 2007</p> <p>Summer 2007 use of capital grant and other funding.</p>	<p>KMBC</p> <p>Whole School KMBC Travel Plan Team</p>

<p>School Minibuses</p> <p>Disabled Access</p>	<p>zones for taxis.</p> <p>To have designated marked areas for school minibuses.</p> <p>To create raised table to reduce traffic speed once inside school grounds.</p>		
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Targets

Our targets for the future include: -

- To ensure 10% pupils travelling by taxi car share with three other pupils (where possible due to behaviour issues) by September 2006. This will be reviewed each September to review intake.
- Maximise any other potential for car sharing in taxis to ensure we have the minimum required bringing children to school. We aim to reduce the number of taxis by 12 by September 2006.
- To maintain level of 100% pupils maximising full occupancy of each taxi, by reviewing pupil locations and routes with taxi operators by September 2006 and on an annual basis.
- To reduce the number of cars by 2% by September 2006. It is hoped to move this towards taxi sharing.

Future initiatives to be undertaken reviewed and evaluated:

- ◆ Traffic to be monitored outside the school gates.
- ◆ Modes of transport used by pupils each term.
- ◆ Parent questionnaires repeated in 2008.
- ◆ Regular assessments.
- ◆ Travel Plan mission statement included in the school prospectus
- ◆ Inclusion in Governor meetings.
- ◆ Display board to be developed and updated regularly.
- ◆ Curriculum work to be monitored.
- ◆ Governors to be regularly consulted and informed of progress.
- ◆ Increase road safety activities with Knowsley's Road Safety Team.

The Elms School has always been committed to the health and safety of all members of the school community. Our Travel Plan supports neighbouring schools and Local Authority Initiatives.

We are aiming to achieve 'Healthy Schools' status in the near future and hope that this Travel Plan will contribute to the health and safety aspect of the initiative.

All staff, pupils, parents and governors have been part of the school's commitment to the Travel Plan i.e. questionnaires, newsletters and both formal and informal discussion.

Miss Hawkins will monitor the Action Plan in conjunction with the teachers, site manager and staff/parents. Knowsley MBC Road Safety and Travel Plan Team, and Travelwise will support The Elms School.

Through monitoring and reviewing the schools travel situation on a regular basis, the action team can demonstrate a commitment to assessing any new developments, and taking into account any changes in pupil travel needs.

The Elms Travel Team Action Plan for 2006/7

Action team: Corinne Hawkins, School Staff, School Council, Site Manager, Craig Hunter				
Date	Action/initiative	Who	When	Notes

Nov 05	Travel plan training	Corinne Hawkins	November 2005	
	Set up Travel plan action group.	Identified school staff	November 2005	Craig Hunter from Knowsley Council will be supporting our action group
	Meeting with Craig Hunter and Paul Buntin re: The Elms travel plan	Action group and Craig Hunter and Paul Buntin	28.11.06	Evidence of a hands up survey and comparison with baseline data Promotion for this day
Dec 05	Meeting with Craig Hunter.	Corrine and Craig	19.12.05	What does this show, set targets
	Starting to formulate info for travel plan.	School travel advisor, action group. Whole school.	December	Evidence, detailed info and monitoring. Develop ideas
	Analysing ways pupils travel to school and numbers in taxis	Pupil participation		Create bar charts to show info

Jan 06	Questionnaire to parents	Action group and all children	January	Info to be sent off to MIS/Travelwise.
	Traffic Survey	Various classes throughout secondary	2 Weeks in January	
	Meeting with Craig Hunter.	Corrine and Craig	30.01.06	Update on how far we have got.
Feb	How would you prefer to travel to school survey?	Action group, Whole school.		Pupils participation
	Analyse information from how do you prefer survey	School travel advisor, whole school, action group	Feb 12 th	Comments on results, can the demands of the pupils be met?
Feb	How can we set achievable targets?	Action group, school travel advisor	February 14 th	Develop ideas around SMART targets and comparison of data
March	Taxi count	Pupil participation	March 2nd	Evaluate and review
	Hands up survey			
	Development travel plan and continue to review targets	Action group, school travel advisor	March 3 rd	Evaluate
	Meeting with Craig	Corrine and Craig	March 3rd	
	Present draft plan to Governors for adoption and sign off	Action group		Formal adoption of travel plan by school leadership
April	Hands up survey for two weeks	Action group School travel advisor	April 25 th	Evidence of a hands up survey and comments

May	Analyse results of hands up survey	Action group School travel advisor	May 10 th	Comparison with baseline data
June	Take part in Brake Walking Bus	Whole school	June 14th	Feedback to the whole school about the day, assemblies etc
July	Travel Plan review meeting. Review action plan Set date for September planning meeting and next action plan	Action group Action group	July 15 th July 15 th	Review of the actions set out and how successful they have been Long term plan

Action Group Champion: Corrine Hawkins (signature)

We will review our plan in September 2006 and every following September after. We see this as a long term development and give a commitment to work towards the actions set out in our plan.

We will attend a training day held by the travel plan team in November to assist with the review of our action plan and accredit us for monitoring.

All review for our monitoring will be the responsibility of our lead co-ordinator Corrine Hawkins.

Appendix 1

Parent Questionnaire Forms

Appendix 2

Traffic Survey Record Forms

Appendix 3

Taxi occupancy survey graph drawn by pupil