

Pitton CE Primary School

DCSF Number: 865 / 5216

SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN



Previous Plans: April 2006, December 2010 Updated Plan March 2023

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1. FOREWORD

1.1 Background to School Travel Plans

School travel plans were introduced in the Government's 1999 White Paper "A New Deal for Transport – Better for Everyone" as a means of tackling vehicular congestion as well as encouraging safer active travel. Funding for on-site measures was introduced in 2004 through the "Travelling to School Initiative" but was withdrawn in 2010.

School Travel Plans show how a school community intends to play its part in reducing unnecessary car travel for the school journey and promote more sustainable and healthy travel.

The School Travel Plan can set out measures:

- to reduce the number of car trips made to and from school, minimising congestion associated with "the school run".
- to promote the use of healthier and more environmentally friendly forms of transport following concerns over student health and lack of exercise.
- to improve safety during the journey to school and give children an opportunity to gain important road sense and independence.

1.2 Why we want a School Travel Plan

The previous School Travel Plan dates from December 2010, over 13 years ago. It needs to be updated because:

- 100% of the school population from 2006 will now have moved on to secondary school; as a result, there is a need to conduct fresh surveys
- it is clear that many of the concerns raised in the 2010 surveys are proving difficult to address
- the action plan from 2010 needs to be reviewed and its impact measured
- a new headteacher took up post in September 2020

The school wishes to support independent and safe travel and to provide a healthier and safer environment for pupils, to help resolve any transport related problems the school has.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 School Background

Pitton is a small village school surrounded by a small amount of houses. There are a number of Primary Schools located close to Pitton but are not within walking distance. The school catchment area covers Pitton, Farley, East Grimstead and Stockbottom.

In September 2001, the school moved from its original cramped Victorian building into purpose-built premises, sited on two acres of land surrounded by fields belonging to the Clarendon Estate. The old school house, now a private residence, is situated adjacent to the main route through the village; the new building is set back from the road, with a narrow access road and small car park with only enough space to accommodate vehicles of staff and school visitors. There is no car park for parents.

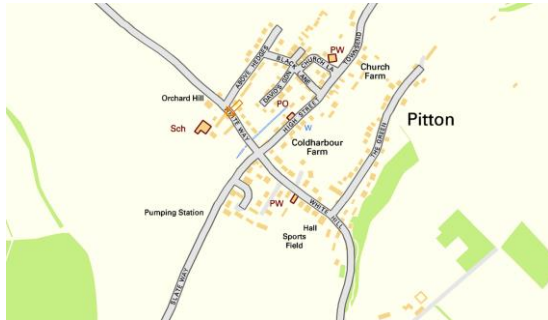
2.2 Our School

Pitton Church of England Primary School lies five miles east of Salisbury in south Wiltshire. It is a happy, successful small village school with 62 pupils, in one Infant Class and two Junior Classes. The school enjoys a strong place in the local village community and strong links with the church of St. Peter's. Parents value the close-knit family feel and Christian ethos, the high standard of teaching and learning and the beautiful rural setting in which their children can develop. The school itself is open from 8.45am-3.15pm with 'wrap around care' from 8am-5.30pm.



The vast majority of those in the residential core of the village walk to school, those in outlying farms travel by car. The school's designated catchment area covers the villages and farms of Pitton, Farley, East Grimstead and Stockbottom. The remainder travel varying distances by car from villages north, south, east and west of Pitton and from the city of Salisbury.

Location of Pitton CE School

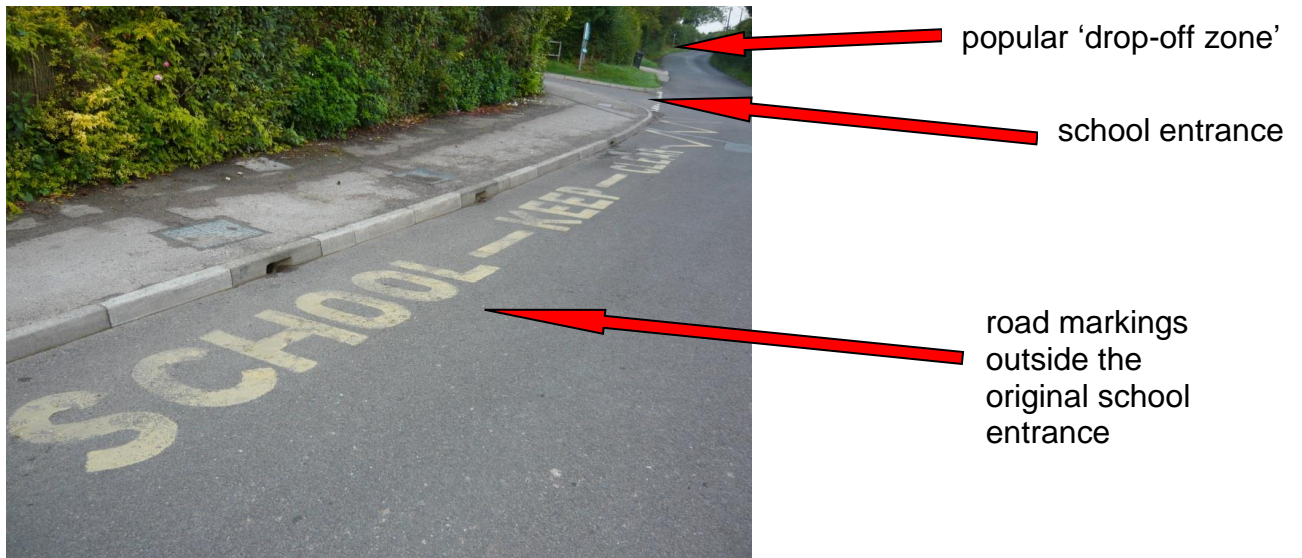


OS map of Pitton village



2.3 What we are doing already

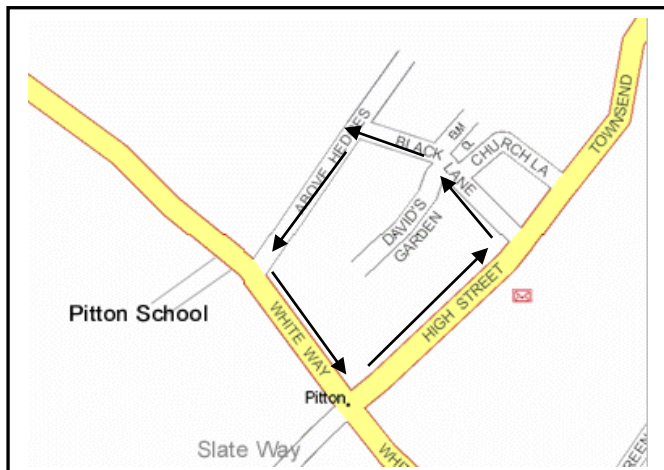
There are yellow zigzag markings on the road outside the original school building to prevent cars parking too close to the gated entrance. However, these markings do not extend to the other side of the entrance (see photograph). This side is a popular drop-off point but there is now considerable deterioration of the edge of the road surface. Also, there is no signage directly opposite the school to point out the entrance itself, so it is common for first-time visitors to miss the school completely (see below).



'invisible', unsigned school entrance



The school strongly encourages an informal / voluntary **one-way system** at drop-off and collection time, to keep congestion in the residential roads around the school to a minimum. The idea is that cars use Above Hedges, opposite the school entrance, as the exit route only.



2.4 Future developments

There are a number of issues which the school continues to face:

- the narrow rural roads with high traffic volume and few pavements and footpaths make it inadvisable for children to cycle or walk to and from school without adult supervision

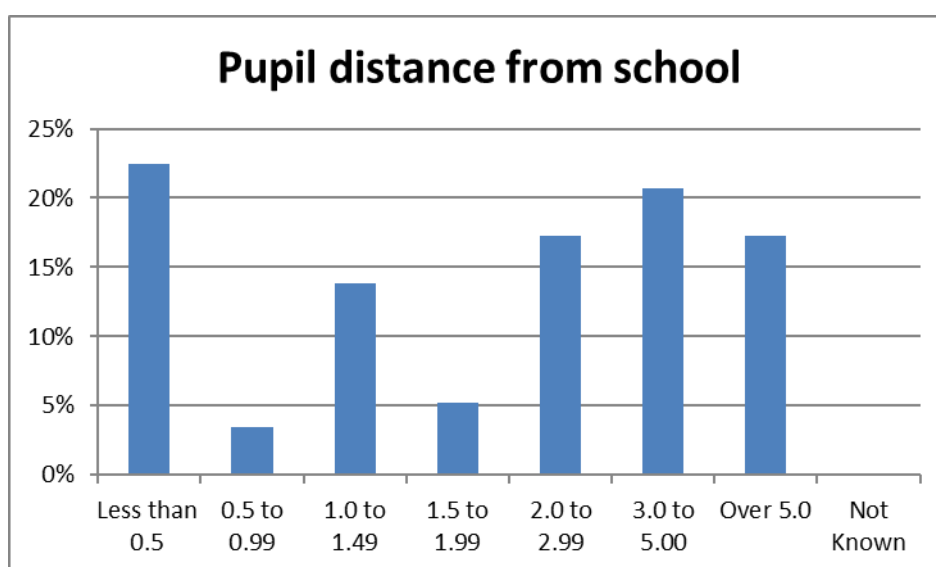
- there is very limited parking for parents close to the school: either the 'drop-off zone' on the road by the school or along Above Hedges and White Way
 - it is difficult to drop off and turn in school car park; only one car at a time could do this, otherwise there would be chaos in the access road
 - the lack of space in school car park
 - the risk of accidents due to congestion at the beginning and end of the school day, exacerbated by inclement weather; the school has on file a number of letters referring to 'near misses'
 - there have been complaints from local residents about cars blocking drives, noise and general congestion
 - cars poorly parked on small access road leading to school cause obstructions and can block drivers trying to leave school.
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3. SURVEY RESULTS

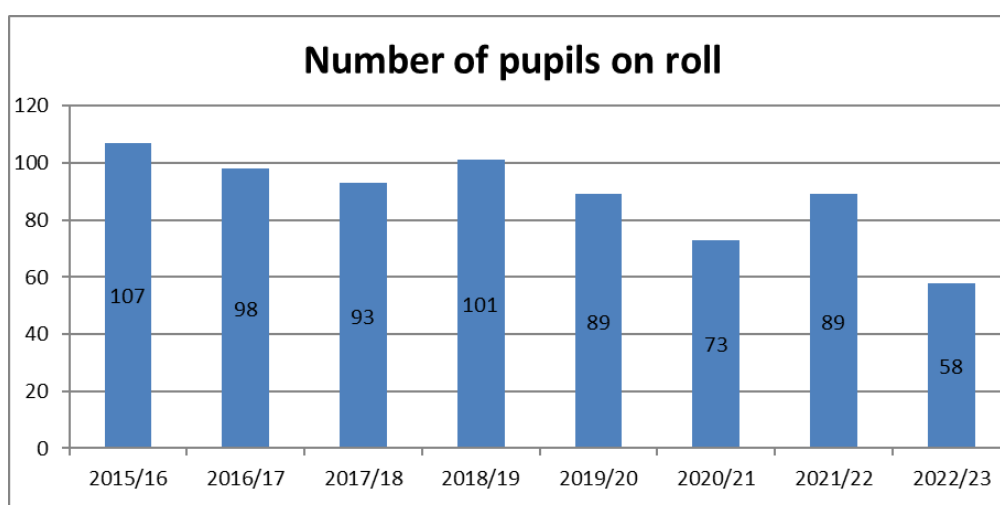
To determine school travel patterns, understand the reasons for current travel choices and identify travel preferences, the pupils, parents and staff have all been consulted through questionnaires and surveys.

3.1 Historical data

Using the data from the October 2022 School Census, the following chart provides a breakdown of pupil distances from school. This table will become useful when considering pupil's preferential travel choices and setting SMART targets.



The chart below shows changes in roll in recent years.

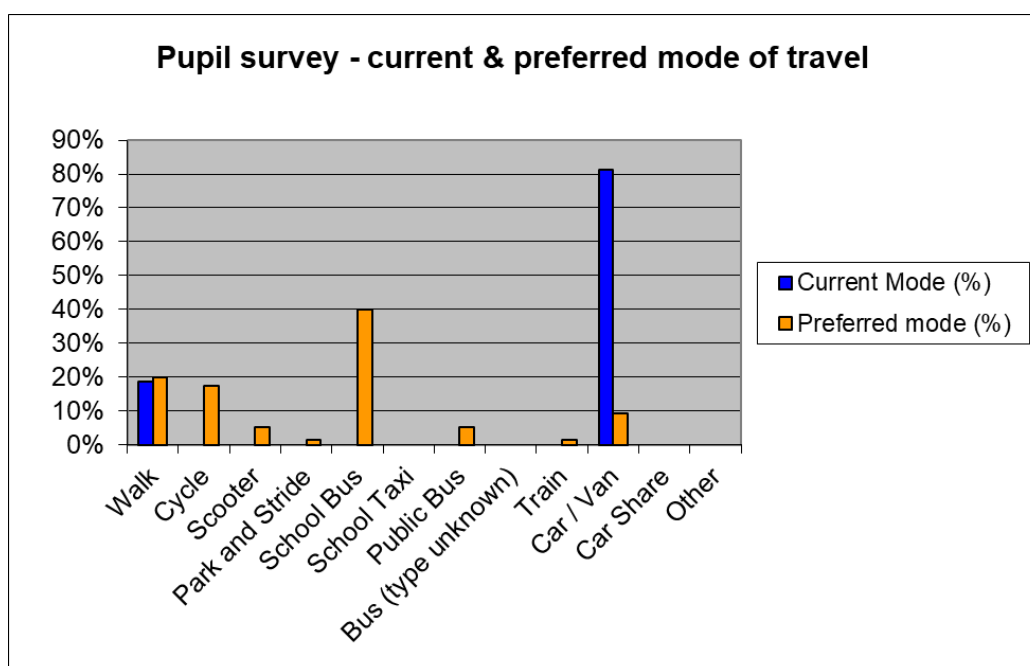


3.3 Pupil survey (February 2023)

To determine school travel patterns, understand the reasons for current travel choices and identify travel preferences, the pupils were consulted in class and the findings recorded.

The following table and chart show the findings from the pupil survey.

Mode of travel	No.	Current Mode (%)	No.	Preferred mode (%)
Walk	11	19%	15	20%
Cycle	0		13	17%
Scooter	0		4	5%
Park and Stride	0		1	1%
School Bus	0		30	40%
School Taxi	0		0	
Public Bus	0		4	5%
Bus (type unknown)	0		0	
Train	0		1	1%
Car / Van	48	81%	7	9%
Car Share	0		0	
Other	0		0	
TOTAL	59	100%	75	100%



As part of the in-class discussions, the pupils discussed the following questions:

What prevents you from walking, cycling and using the bus to get to school?

- Live too far away;
- No pavements;
- Not safe;

- Not allowed by parents;
- No bus.

What changes would help solve these problems to encourage you to walk, cycle or use the bus to come to school?

- Build pavements;
- A school bus;
- More housing nearby;
- A bike shed;
- A footpath between Firsdow and Pitton;
- Pay-as-you-ride bikes/scooters.

Why would you like to walk, cycle or travel by bus to school?

- Friends on the bus;
- It's fun;
- Independence;
- Good exercise;
- Save time for your parents;
- More eco-friendly.

It is clear that pupils would ideally like to walk or cycle to school however, the distance that a majority of pupils live away from school and lack of paths makes this almost impossible for a majority of the school.

3.4 Parental Questionnaire (February 2023)

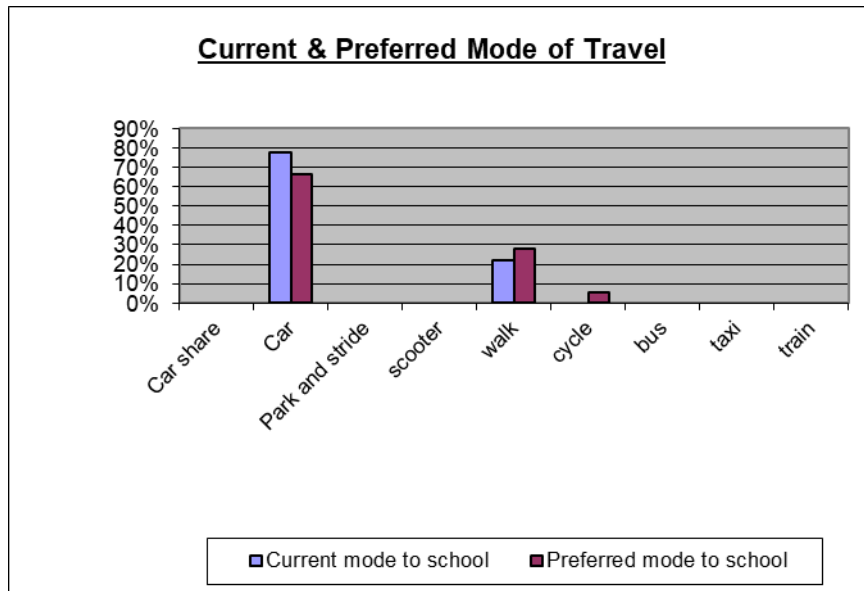
The parent questionnaire was shared with all parents in February 2023. It was paper based and gave them opportunity feedback on their current travel plans. 18 families completed the survey and returned them to the school office.

Parents were asked how their children currently travel to and from school as well as how they would prefer to; the results are as follows:

Current mode of travel	Number of families	%
Car share	0	0%
Car	14	78%
Park and stride	0	0%
scooter	0	0%
walk	4	22%
cycle	0	0%
bus	0	0%
taxi	0	0%
train	0	0%
Total	18	100%

Preferred mode of travel	Number of families	%
Car share	0	0%
Car	12	67%

Park and stride	0	0%
scooter	0	0%
walk	5	28%
cycle	1	6%
bus	0	0%
taxi	0	0%
train	0	0%
Total	18	100%



The findings of this survey echo somewhat those of the pupil survey. A majority of parents travel by car to school due to the distance they live from school. While some would be willing to move to walking or cycling the lack of pavements and distance from school do not make this possible.

Parents were asked to give up to three reasons for their current mode of travel. The most frequently cited reasons were:

- It is most appropriate for the distance (13 families);
- There is no reasonable alternative (10 families);
- It saves time/is the quickest option (7 families).

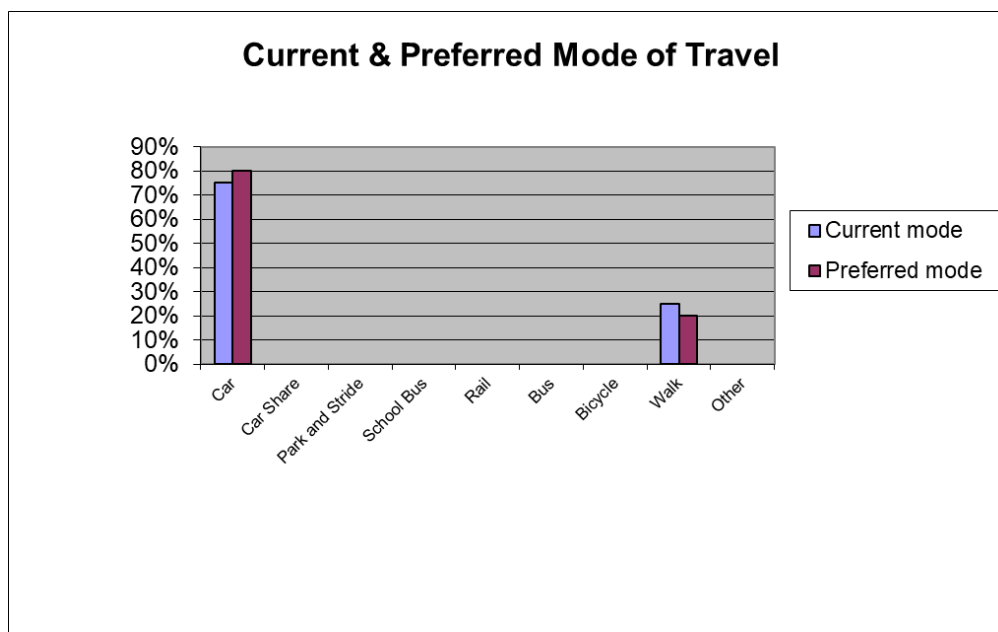
When asked to identify the initiatives which would encourage them to send their child to school by their preferred mode of travel, parents cited a number of measures, such as less or slower traffic on the journey, better road crossing facilities and short-cuts, and road safety training.

Pitton School have worked with the Parish Council and Wiltshire LA to identify key times for traffic, most used routes and days/times where speeds have been recorded as above what is the speed limit. Parents are already encouraged to park in the allocated areas and an informal agreement is in place with the local community to ensure safe parking. Parents are also regularly reminded about where they are parking in the weekly newsletter and using the online portal (ClassDojo).

3.5 Staff Questionnaire

In February 2023, a school travel questionnaire was issued to all members of staff. The questionnaire looked at how staff currently travel to school and how they would prefer to travel. The questionnaire also tried to identify barriers to using sustainable transport and some possible solutions.

Mode of travel	No.	Current mode (%)	No.	Preferred mode (%)
Car	6	75%	4	80%
Car Share	0		0	
Park and Stride	0		0	
School Bus	0		0	
Rail	0		0	
Bus	0		0	
Bicycle	0		0	
Walk	2	25%	1	20%
Other	0		0	
TOTAL	8	100%	5	100%



The most popular reasons for staff not using sustainable modes of travel to get to school were:

- Other commitments (eg picking children up from another school);
- Lack of public transport/inconvenient bus services;
- Too far to walk or cycle.

Staff did not offer any suggestions as to what would encourage them to travel by a more active or sustainable mode.

4. CURRENT PROBLEMS

Through consultation with key stakeholders, we have identified several current transport issues/problems.

Current travel and transport issues/problems	How & when was this identified?	Possible/suggested solutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no pavements or paths on most parts of the journey to the school. 	Observation Feb 2023	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school has no warning signs or pedestrian markings on the village bridge which children use to walk to and from the village Pre-School. 	Observation Feb 2023	Discussion with the Parish Council regarding further signage.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The worst time for congestion is 08:30 - 09:05 am and 14:50 -15:25 pm. Cars park on White Way, making it difficult for school coaches to drop off or collect children for visits. 	Observation Feb 2023	Regular reminders to parents about parking responsibly and collecting and leaving promptly. These should be on the website, in the weekly newsletter, online learning platform (Class Dojo) and in person where appropriate.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no designated dropping off point for children. 	Survey Results Feb 2023	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no safe place to store bicycles at Pitton Primary School. 	Observation Feb 2023	School to purchase a bicycle shelter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cars are sometimes left on the school access driveway, blocking staff cars, disabled drivers and school visitors. 	Observation Sep 22-Feb 2023	Regular reminders to parents about parking responsibly and collecting and leaving promptly. These should be on the website, in the weekly newsletter, online learning platform (Class Dojo) and in person where appropriate.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some children who would prefer to come by bus are not entitled to as there is no bus service. 	Survey Feb 2023	

5. OBJECTIVES, TARGETS & ACTION PLAN

The following objectives, targets and actions have been set using the findings from the surveys and consultation that has been undertaken to date. Any SMART targets have taken into account the preference data established by the surveys.

Objective 1: to improve road safety awareness

Target: To build road safety in to the curriculum by January 2024

Objective 2: to increase the provision for those pupils who walk or cycle to school

Target: To ensure there is a bike shelter for those pupils who ride to school by July 2024

Objective 3: to increase the number of families who engage in car-sharing arrangements.

Target: to reduce the amount of cars that travel to/from school daily by 20% by July 2024

Objective 1: to improve road safety awareness

Target: To build road safety in to the curriculum by January 2024

Person responsible for monitoring the objective to make sure actions are carried out:

No.	Action	How will it be achieved?	Person responsible	Parties involved	Timescale / completion date	Funding	Evaluation / Review
1	Bikeability 2 day workshop for Y6 pupils	Contact Bikeability and ensure Y6 pupils are booked on for Summer 2023	JP AR	Staff Parents Pupils	Summer 2023		
2	Y3/4 to have road safety as part as 'in house' provision	Resources purchases and visitors contacted	AG	Staff Pupils	October 2023		
3							
4							
5							

Objective 2: to increase the provision for those pupils who walk or cycle to school

Target: To ensure there is a bike shelter for those pupils who ride to school by July 2024

Person responsible for monitoring the objective to make sure actions are carried out:

No.	Action	How will it be achieved?	Person responsible	Parties involved	Timescale / completion date	Funding	Evaluation / Review
6	A safe storage space for bikes made available (for those who have completed Bikeability)	Purchase a bike rack	EW MS	Staff	Dec 2023		
7							
8							
9							
10							

**Objective 3: to increase the number of families who engage in car-sharing arrangements.
 Target: to reduce the amount of cars that travel to/from school daily by 20% by July 2024
 Person responsible for monitoring the objective to make sure actions are carried out:**

No.	Action	How will it be achieved?	Person responsible	Parties involved	Timescale / completion date	Funding	Evaluation / Review
11	Promote more environmental transport	Use of Pitton News to promote car share. List to be collected in office of those interested	JP	Staff Parents	July 2023		
12							
13							
14							
15							

6. EVIDENCE OF CONSULTATION

Throughout the Travel Plan, a variety of people have been consulted to make sure that the views from all key parties have been elicited.

Pupils: class surveys, House Parliament

Staff: individual questionnaires and follow-up discussion in staff meeting

Parents: travel survey questionnaires

Governing Body: LGC meeting agenda contains Travel Plan including Consultation

Parish Council: A group of concerned parents/residents have raised with the Parish Council the issues of quantity and speed of traffic passing the school. School Staff have also attended meetings in order to keep the issue current. As a result, speed checks were conducted and found that speeding doesn't occur outside of school but on the Firsdow/Pitton road.

7. PROPOSALS FOR MONITORING AND REVIEW

The next survey should be conducted in 5 years (Feb 2028). A monitoring review should be carried out annually. The headteacher will carry out the monitoring review and next survey.

8. OWNERSHIP AND SUSTAINABILITY

A copy of the Travel Plan will be shared with Staff and the wider community. It will also be kept in the school office. The plan will be reviewed annually by the Headteacher and a new survey conducted every 5 years.

9. SIGNATURES OF ENDORSEMENT

This agreement will be signed by, or on behalf of, representatives from the teaching staff, pupils, parents, governors and the Local Authority.

The following signatures confirm that the school management have read the contents of this document and that the school commits itself to make every effort to resolve the problems identified within the Travel Plan and to implement the actions identified. The school further acknowledges that it will strive to achieve all targets highlighted in this document and commits to the regular review and monitoring of the plan.

Headteacher:

Print name: Date:

Chair of Governors:

Print name: Date:

Member of School Council:

Print name: Date:

School Travel Plan Advisor:

Wiltshire Council:

Ruth Durrant

Date:
