



Kingswells Primary School Travel Plan

November 2005

Introduction

Welcome to Kingswells School Travel Plan which has been developed by a team comprising of representatives of Teaching Staff, School Board, PTA, Community Council and interested parents. The team would like to thank everyone who contributed including the pupils who provided the illustrations and Mowlem who have sponsored the printing.

Why does Kingswells need a Travel Plan?

Increased car ownership, increased pressures on time and concerns over child safety have all resulted in more children being driven to school. In addition to these general trends, Kingswells has to address issues associated with the consolidation of the Primary School and Nursery onto a single site in 2006.

What is a School Travel Plan

A school travel plan is a document produced by a school, which looks at the needs of everyone who travels to school. All schools in Aberdeen City Council have been asked to produce a school travel plan by the end of session 2004/2005.

A school travel plan should set out a number of practical steps for reducing the number of car trips made by pupils and staff to and from school and for improving children's safety on the school journey.

It should identify measures that will make it safer and more attractive for students and their parents to walk or cycle to school.

All schools are different and therefore the contents, style and length of school travel plans will vary accordingly.

A successful plan will have clear objectives and targets that are achievable and measurable.

The principal benefits of a School Travel Plan are:

- Personal safety issues are discussed and addressed.
- A reduction in traffic and congestion near the school.
- Healthier and fitter pupils and staff - there is increasing evidence to suggest that pupils that walk and cycle to school regularly are more attentive in class and have improved performance.

Aberdeen already has a low accident rate so we very much want to maintain and improve on this, no room for complacency.



Aims of School Travel Plan

Safer, healthier travel environment surrounding Kingswells Primary School as the school becomes a single site in January 2006.

Publicise alternatives, promote benefits and address concerns.

- To encourage children and adults to walk/cycle to school
- To take steps to improve the safety of journeys to and from school
- To address parental concerns
- To fulfill the transport requirements for the Eco Schools Programme
- Full communication to children, parents, teaching staff and local authority



*Publicise
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Summary of Schools Transport and Problems from Consultation

The information gathered from the various surveys indicates that the majority of children are traveling to school by car. The number of children walking to school increases as the children get older.

There is also a link between the distance from school and the method of getting to school, with

the majority of children who live less than a mile from the school walking - the number is also greater on the return from school.

The main concern of parents were

- Safe crossing
- Speed reduction measures
- Lack of other children on route
- Lack of adults on route
- Road safety education
- Health & environment

Programme for Implementation

At the time of writing this Travel Plan, Kingswells Primary School is in a unique position of awaiting the completion of a building extension which will change the school from being a spilt site to a single site school in January 2006

In January 2006 the youngest age group of children (Nursery, Primary One and Two) will be educated at the main school building and hence, its roll will increase significantly. This age

group of children are most likely to be accompanied by an adult to and from school and correspondingly, the most likely to attract additional cars to the site.

This change may require a reassessment of this Travel Plan. Accordingly, a program of implementation of the current proposed initiatives cannot be effectively commenced until this impact has been assessed and understood.



The School Curriculum

Road Safety issues are discussed with pupils at each year stage of their time at Kingswells Primary School. The school uses National Road Safety Week in November to promote wearing of armbands in winter and encourages parents to help their children learn the practical skills of walking safely to school during Walk to School Week in May. The school has a wide range of useful resources and contacts to support this important work.

In **nursery** road safety is discussed with children in the context of taking the children out for walks. The school hopes to paint road markings in the playground for use with nursery children when they play on small bikes.

In **P1** road safety is related to the 'People Who Help Us' project. Children will meet the Road Safety Officer and the Community Police Officer who can both give professional advice on how to stay safe when crossing the road. P1 children do follow up worksheets using the traffic First resource folder.



In **P2** road safety is integrated into the Transport project and the Day and Night project. Pupils discuss the value of armbands for safety in the dark. Work on the senses encourages good listening and looking as part of road sense. Holding hands with an adult is still encouraged at this stage.



In **P3** road safety is encouraged by making sure children are taught the skills of how to pay attention in the street through discussion and follow up work.

By **P4** many children will want to start walking to school by themselves. This is obviously a difficult decision for parents as not all P4 pupils have the same level of maturity. Within the Kingswells project pupils look at maps of the local area to discuss main roads and best practice in crossing safely. Pupils can be asked to plot their own safe routes to school on maps. In P4 children use some of the resources from the Streetsense Pack and also look at road safety through the road plans in Mapstart resource.

By **P5** pupils are able to use the knowledge in road safety they have acquired by being creative. This session P5 pupils produced posters on road safety, which they displayed throughout the school as part of National Road Safety Week. P5 pupils also use a resource called Safety Matters to consolidate safety issues.

In **P6** pupils undertake a full programme of **cycling proficiency** training leading to tests and awards of badges and certificates. Detailed knowledge of the Highway Code is taught and bike-handling skills are developed. P6 pupils use the Traffic First folder to undertake traffic surveys.

By **P7** basic knowledge of road safety should be well developed and teachers will concentrate discussion on specific relevant issues in the local area as they arise.

Full version
available from the
School or on the
web!

Initiatives

In the process of formulating the School Travel Plan the group undertook the following initiatives.

Initiatives Already Implemented by the Group

- Research into public transport timings
- School Board communication with general public at "Planning For Real" event 14th May 2005
- Implementation of school phone system whereby any parents of any missing child who has not called in sick is contacted by school - there is also an answer service so that parents can phone in advising child is off.

Initiatives underway by the Group

- Contact with Community Police re advice on traffic measures around school.
- Police contact with Road Safety Officials re parking around school
- Ongoing communication with parents via School Board Newsletters re Travel Plan.
- Situation of new bicycle racks within CCTV coverage
- Dialogue with Local Elected Councillor, Community Council and Aberdeen City Council Officials:
 - Concerns were raised that a new zebra crossing on Kingswood Drive (beside Huxterstone / Broaddykes) had been placed in a dangerous position as it was adjacent to a bus stop.
 - The 20 mph school sign on Kingswood Drive just past Kingswells Avenue has been positioned behind a tree which will obscure the sign.
 - The 20mph school sign on Kingswells Avenue has been placed past the opening from the shops etc. It was felt this could have been positioned back up the road.
 - Awareness of long term implications for the village of proposed Western Peripheral Route and subsequent road building for future housing and commercial developments.
- Travel Plan group have formally requested and been granted a review for the need of a School Crossing Patrol once the school is a single site.



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Initiatives still to be investigated by the Group

- A "Pedestrian Proficiency" similar to cycling proficiency to be discussed with Aberdeen City Council.
- Promotion of 'car sharing' with known friends or neighbours
- Ways to discourage car journeys to and fro school - i.e. reward systems children for walking and cycling. (sticker charts)
- Proposal for discounted bus fares for school journeys to be discussed with Aberdeen City Council.

The group also discussed "Walking buses" but this was not felt to be viable due to unrealistic high parental responsibility and accountability.