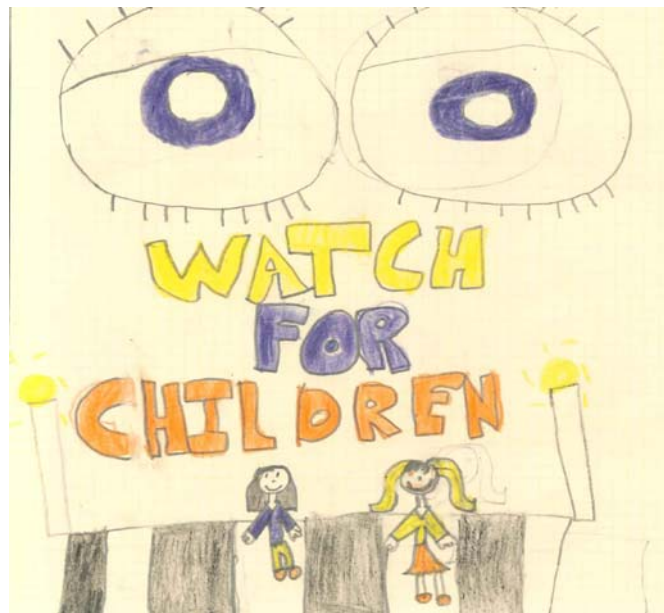




## Harlescott Junior School Travel Plan



*Natasha Beaman, age 8*

## School Travel Plan

### School details

Name: Harlescott Junior School  
Address: Featherbed Lane, Shrewsbury, SY1 4QN  
Lead contact name: Martyn Lightwood  
DCSF Ref No: 893/2090  
Date : October 2007

### Introduction

Harlescott Junior School is developing this plan for a number of reasons:

- To ensure that all members of the school community are fully informed of the implications of their choice of travel for the school journey
- To review and enhance road safety in and around the school site
- To promote the benefits of walking to school for health, environmental and safety reasons
- To explore ways of supporting the pupils' wishes for more opportunities to cycle to school

The plan has developed from consultation with pupils parents and staff. The school council has met with the co-ordinating group and is responsible for many of the suggestions and photographs contained in the plan. The art work derived from a competition for all pupils in March 2008. The time is right for a School Travel Plan as the school is a Gold status Healthy school and is embarking on the Eco-schools programme.

The overall travel plan co-ordinator in school is Mr M Lightwood, Headteacher.

### General description of the School

Harlescott Junior School is located on the southern side of Featherbed Lane in north Shrewsbury. The school occupies a large site on the northern fringes of a large residential area. It has 300 pupils aged from 7 to 11 years, and is the natural progression point from Sundorne Infant School.

School hours are from 9 am to 3.15 pm.

There are 45 members of staff in total as shown below:

Teachers 13	Teaching assistants - 14	Administrative staff - 3	Lunch time supervisors - 5
Kitchen staff – 4	Cleaners - 5	Caretaker - 1	

4 staff sometimes cycle to work, and half of the Teaching Assistants walk to work, as do all of the kitchen staff and cleaners.

The catchment of the school is shown on the attached postcode map. Most pupils live within the triangle of roads made by the A 49, Whitchurch Road and Sundorne Road, although some do come from further afield, especially some of the children with special needs.

### Overview of the travel facilities at the school

The main entrances to the school are on Featherbed Lane, with one vehicle entrance leading to a large car park and one pedestrian entrance leading, via a zebra crossing to the school playground. There is a further pedestrian entrance to the north-west of the school, leading into Field Crescent. This gate is locked during the school day.

There are about 40 car parking spaces on the school site, catering for staff, visitors and parents who are allowed to drive onto the site. There are no marked spaces for people with disabilities, but there is space

for them to park adjacent to the main entrance. There is ample space for delivery lorries to draw into the car park. Children are not allowed to walk through the car park unless accompanied by their parents en route to their cars.

There is also a cycle shelter providing storage for about 12 bikes and cyclists can easily exit via the path into Field Crescent. There is a marked on-road cycle route outside the school on Featherbed Lane, and some off-road routes linking to National Cycle Route 81 to the south.

Scheduled bus services go along Featherbed Lane to Ditherington and Sundorne Grove and there is a bus stop just to the east of the school. Further routes to Harlescott Grange and Mount Pleasant run along Moston Road with a bus stop at the end of Field Crescent.

The school gates open at 7.30 am and there is staff supervision from 8.45 am. At the end of the school day two staff are on duty at either end of the playground and one at the top of the alley into Field Crescent to supervise the pupils leaving the school site.

There are currently no children with physical disabilities requiring transport, but there are 14 statemented pupils, and two of these have have a transport element to their statements.

### **Information on traffic generated by other activities on the school site**

A Breakfast Club takes place in the building to the east of the main school building 3 days a week from 8.15 so a number of children arrive early for this. There are also after-school clubs on most days which last until 4 or 4.30pm and the site is used some evenings and at weekends for Junior Football. Many walk to these events, but the car park is also available for use.

There is one other organisation also based on this site. The Tuition, Medical and Behaviour Support Service has children taxed in at various times for activities and tuition here. Their pupils finish at 3pm so their transport is out of the way before school finishes.

### **Issues raised by the site assessment**

#### **a) On the site**

The provision of a car park does create some problems as vehicles are manoeuvring whilst other children and parents are walking to cars.

#### **b) Around the site**

Various traffic calming measures have been implemented on Featherbed Lane, with lots of road markings, a speed reduction to 30 mph and flashing amber warning lights, as well as a signalised crossing. However this is a very busy thoroughfare.

Field Crescent suffers from congestion as many parents choose to park here, sometimes on the yellow zigzags, and on the bend which restricts vision for pedestrians and cyclists trying to cross the road here.

### **Future developments which might increase traffic levels**

There is some social housing planned for the old Tesco site north of Featherbed Lane, which should increase pupil numbers at the school, but they will be very close, so walking would be the main mode of travel.

### **Current initiatives**

- Cycle training has taken place for Year 6 pupils
- The school has obtained the Gold Award for Healthy Schools
- Walk to School Week is regularly promoted
- Eco-schools initiative has just started in school
- Stepping Out training has been carried out for Years 3 and 4



### How pupils travel to school

January 2008 Pupil's travel mode	Travel to school Numbers	Percentage	Preferred travel mode Numbers	Percentages
Walk	191	63.9	108	40.4
Cycle	9	3.0	112	41.9
Car - alone (or with siblings)	89	29.8	43 car	16.1
Car share with children living in another household	9	3.0		
Bus	1	0.3	4	1.5
Taxi	0	0		
Other	0	0		
<b>Total</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>100</b>

## Annual Travel Survey Results in percentages

	Walk	Cycle	Total Walk and cycle	Car	Car share	Total Car	Bus/ Taxi
<b>2002</b>	65.7	6.7	<b>72.4</b>	26.3	na	<b>26.3</b>	1.2
<b>2003</b>	66	8.9	<b>74.9</b>	24.3	na	<b>24.3</b>	0.9
<b>2004</b>	64.9	6.8	<b>71.7</b>	26.4	na	<b>26.4</b>	2.1
<b>2005</b>	58.3	4.5	<b>62.8</b>	28.9	6.2	<b>35.1</b>	2.1
<b>2007</b>	60.5	8.7	<b>69.2</b>	24	5.5	<b>29.5</b>	1.2
<b>2008</b>	63.9	3.0	<b>66.9</b>	29.8	3.0	<b>32.8</b>	0.3

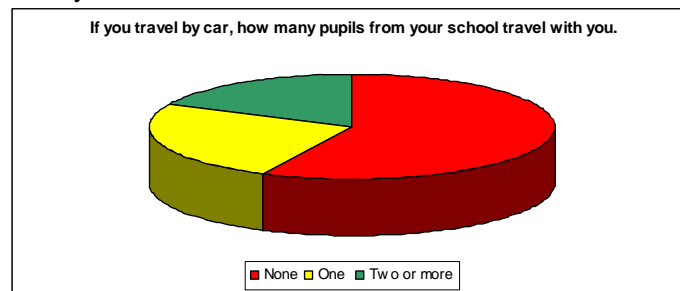
- There has been a big fall in the number of children travelling to school by cycle. This is because a new 'Cycle Pass' system has been introduced. Children and parents have to sign a contract agreeing that their child will wear a cycle helmet to school. This was introduced because of concerns about the unsuitability of some cycles that children were riding to school

## Detailed Travel Survey Findings

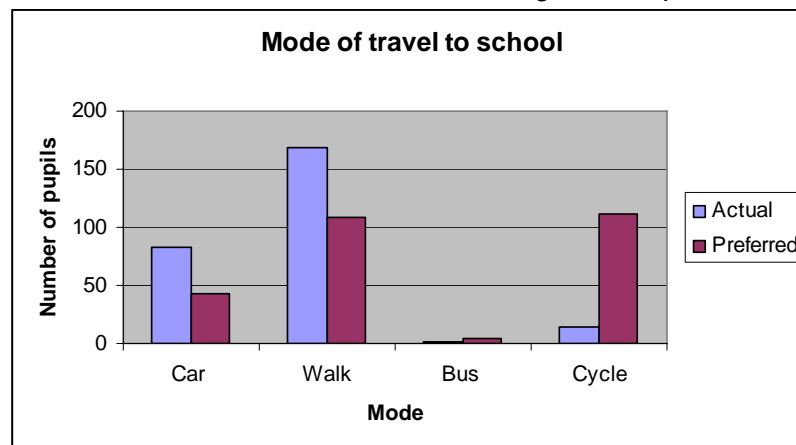
### a) Pupil survey

267 pupils completed detailed questionnaires about their journeys to school in November 2007, and the results are shown on the graph below. A high proportion of pupils currently walk to school with a small number of cyclists, but as the graph shows, many more would like to cycle to school, including about half of those who currently travel by car.

A large number of pupils travel as the only passenger in the car, so there may be some possibility of sharing lifts for those who live further away.



75% of journeys to school are of 10 minutes or less, reflecting the compact catchment area.

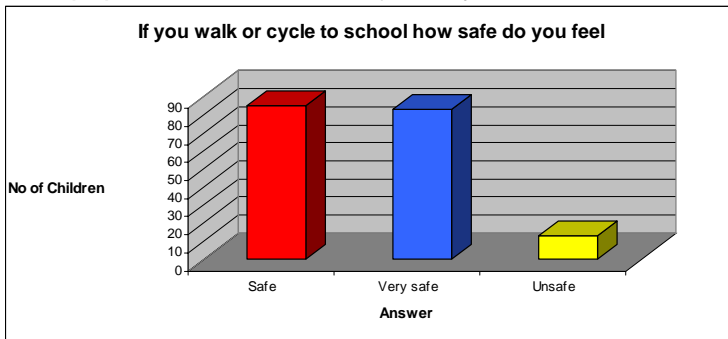


The reasons pupils gave for choosing their preferred mode of travel to school were:

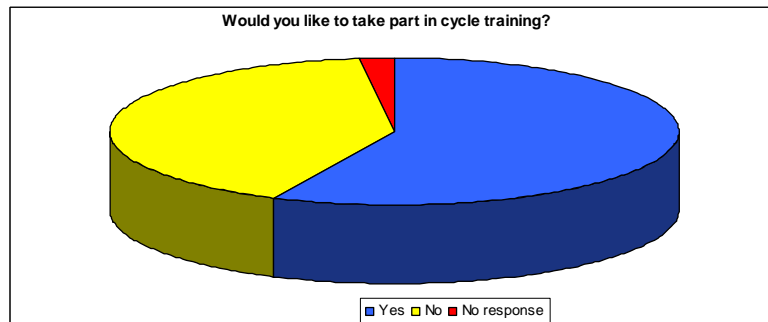
Reasons for choosing walking	No of children
It keeps me healthy	86
I can meet my friends	56
It's fun	37
It wakes me up	36
It cuts down on pollution	30

Reasons for choosing cycling	No of children
It's fun	82
It keeps me healthy	75
Its quicker	38
I can meet my friends	27
It cuts down on pollution	26
I can travel on my own	22

Most pupils feel safe on their journey to school, but 13 said they did not. It would be helpful to know why.



The majority of children would like to take part in cycle training, which is currently only available for those in year 6.



The main items that would make walking to school better are:

Suggestions	No of Children
Less traffic	106
Safer places to cross the road	100
Cleaner pavements	84
School lockers to put things in	83
Wider pavements	75
More children to walk with	61
An entrance away from cars	52
Slower traffic	46
Somewhere to shelter out of the rain	43

The things that would make cycling to school better are:

Suggestions	No of Children
A safer place to leave my bike	76
More cycle lanes and paths	75
Less traffic	73
An entrance away from cars	73
School lockers to put belonging in	66
Learning to cycle safely	57
More children to cycle with	53

Children were asked what they liked about their journey to school. The **walkers** stressed the social aspect of the walk with 65 mentioning this. Exercise (22) and fresh air (15) were the other main attractions of walking. **Cyclists** stressed the health aspects together with looking at the wildlife. **Car users** enjoyed the speed (18), seeing things around them and not getting wet! **Bus users** felt their journey was safe.

Things the children do not like about their journey to school are:

a) Walkers

How fast the cars go/ Traffic	23
Litter	19
Takes too long	11
Older kids swearing	11

b) Cyclists

How fast the traffic goes	2
Amount of traffic	2

c) Car users

Traffic	20
It causes pollution	7
It's boring	6

Children's messages for drivers are shown below:

<b>Q12. What safety messages would you like to give to your parents/carers when they drive children by car to the school and park there?</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Slow down	51
Watch for children	43
Be aware	25
Careful where you park	21

<b>Q13. What would make your journey to school better for you?</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Children who walk</b>	
More people to walk with	23
Less traffic	20
Cleaner and safer	14
Going on my bike	8
Wider pavement	6
More pelican crossings	4
Cleaning the alley	4

<b>Children who go by bus</b>	
Cleaner paths	1
Not to be picked on by the other children	1

<b>Children who go by car</b>	
Less traffic	11
Would rather walk	9
Having a friend come with me	9

<b>Children who go by bicycle</b>	
A road that bikes can cycle on	1
Reduce speed of traffic	1
Reduce amount of traffic	1
To be picked up by car	1
More friends to ride with	1
Go a different way	1
Cleaner pavements	1

**b) Parent survey**

132 parents' surveys were returned – an excellent response rate. Of these 66% were walkers and 28% car users. There were 4 cyclists and 2 bus users also represented, so all modes were covered. Amongst car users there was potential for more car sharing and a large number already do this.



70% of car users go on to work, so it is likely that the school journey is part of the journey to work.

Suggestions for parents for improvements on the school site for those who walk or cycle are:

Marked cycle/ walkways and barriers from carpark	11
More cycle spaces	9
Clean up the alley way	7
Covering/better security for cycle shed	5
Shelter from rain	4

22 parents said that they often parked away from the school site, especially at the end of the school day. Places mentioned included Field Crescent, the Library, by the shops, Broughton Road and elsewhere on the Sundorne estate. 10 others might consider doing this, although a number had time pressures in the morning when trying to get to work on time.

There was some considerable interest in the possibility of a Walking Bus, with 23 parents saying they might be interested in helping run one, and 88 willing to allow their children to join one. This would be worth exploring further.

88% of parents would like their children to take part in cycle training and an amazing 49 said they could sometimes cycle to school with their children.

Particular areas of concern on the route to school:

Feather Bed Lane: Cars passing through red lights, perhaps speed bumps would help?	19
Moston Road shops with intimidating older children	13
Parking on Field Crescent entrance is very dangerous	6
Traffic generally	6
Crossing at Sundorne Road - Dangerous	5
Meadow Farm Drive is very busy and dangerous to cross	4
Whitchurch Road	4
Crossing Harlescott Road	4

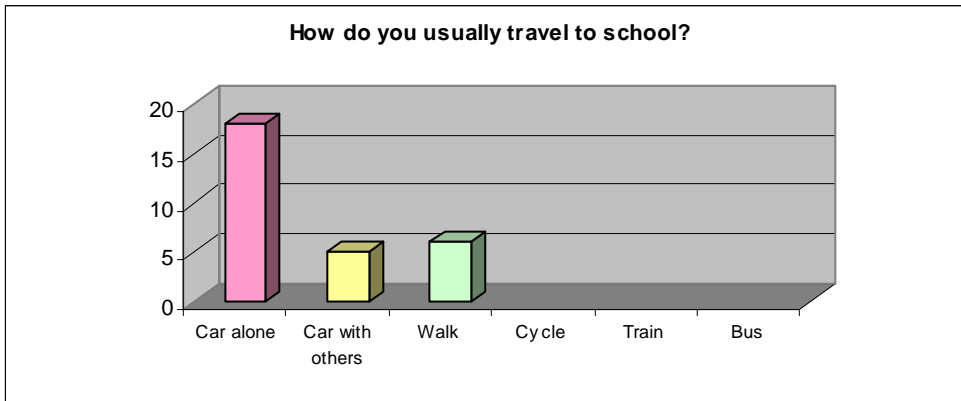
Suggestions for improvements on the journey:

Manned zebra crossing everyday	6
More cycle paths	4
Possible external bus stop for children	3
Encourage walking eg certificates etc	3

22 parents said they would be happy to be part of a travel plan group at school.

**c) Staff survey**

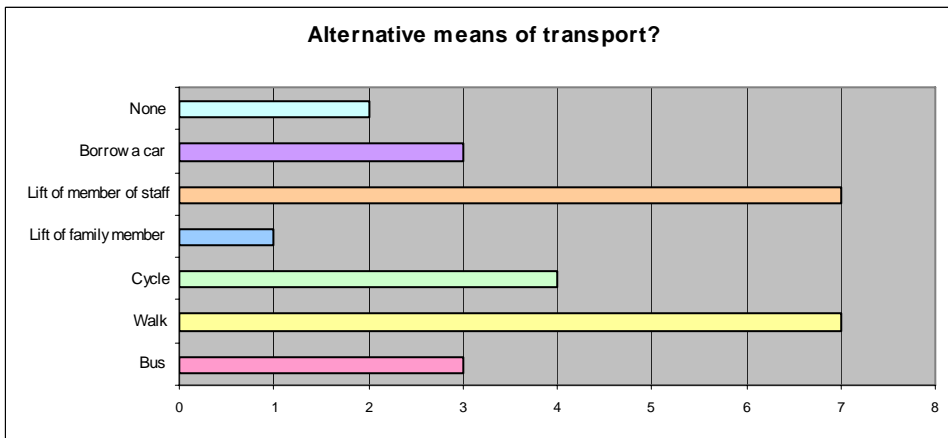
29 staff also participated in surveys about their journeys to school. Their modes of travel are as shown:



These modes are related to the distances staff travel to school.

Distance	No.
Less than 1 mile	7
1-3 miles	12
3-5 miles	4
5-10 miles	5
Over 10 miles	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>

When cars are not available, the following alternatives are used by staff, and 10 staff members indicated that they could use this mode more often than they currently do.



17 would be willing to car share with another member of staff and the postcode map will indicate possible car sharers. Details will be made available to all staff.

**Main School Travel and Transport Issues**

Pupils' questionnaires brought up the following issues which were then discussed by the School Council:

- The school has an excellent number of walkers
- Large numbers are keen to cycle to school

- There is an interest in cycle training
- Pupils have an awareness of the health benefits of active travel to school and pollution caused by cars
- A large number of cars only have one pupil in.
- Some pupils feel intimidated by older pupils on the journey to and from school
- Graffiti and the state of the alleyway were brought up.



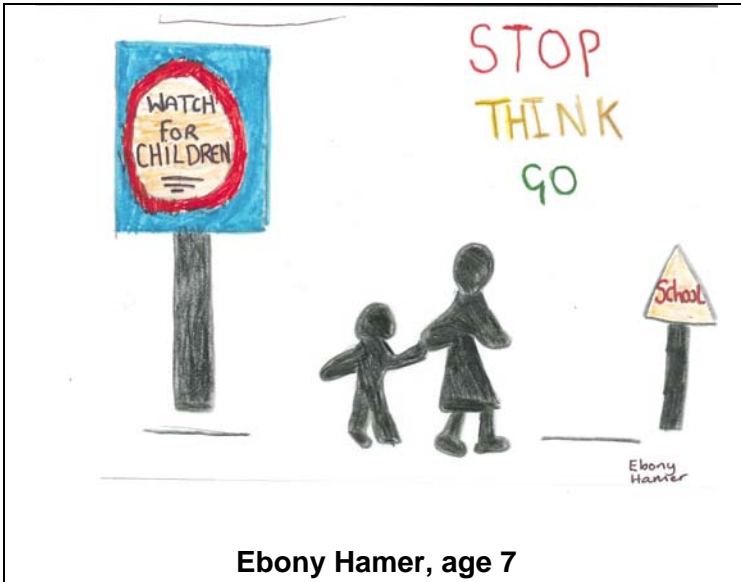
Parents also expressed concern about:

- The number of motorists who go through red traffic lights on the crossing outside school
- Intimidation by older, secondary aged pupils, particularly by the shops.
- Conflicts of pedestrians, cyclists and drivers within the school grounds – children walking through car park whilst cars are manoeuvring.

### **Objectives**

1. To continue to promote walking as the main mode of travel to school
2. To improve safety for pedestrians both on the school site and on the routes to school
3. To encourage safe cycling to school
4. To reduce single occupancy car use to school and improve safety on the car park.

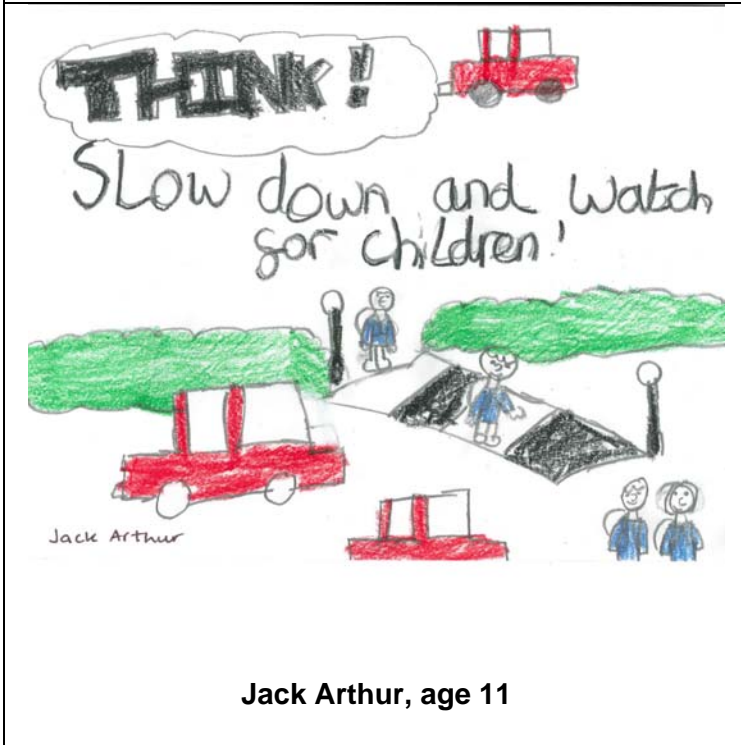
Winners of the competition held in March 2008 to design warning signs for the school site.



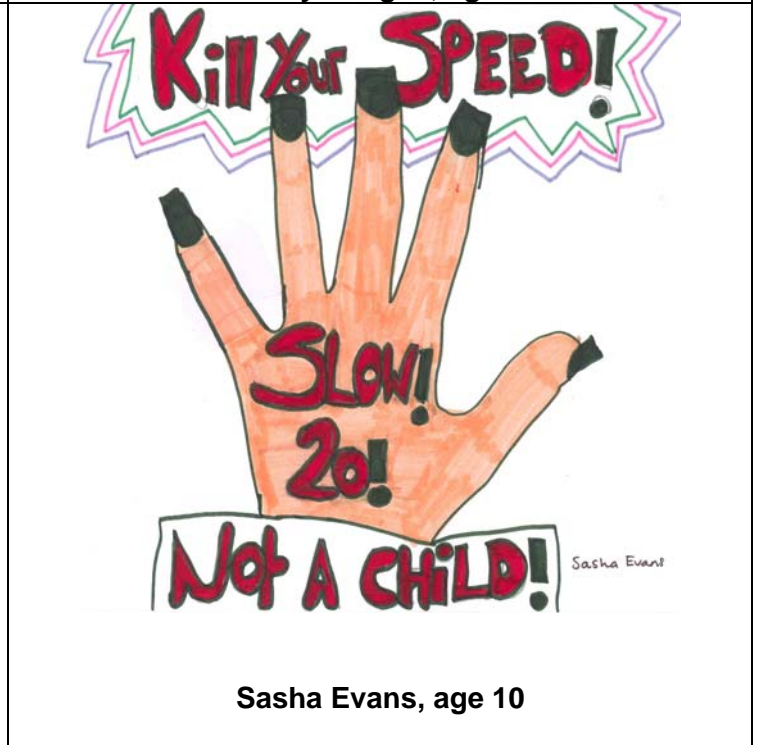
Ebony Hamer, age 7



Emily Morgan, age 9



Jack Arthur, age 11



Sasha Evans, age 10

## The Action Plan

**Objective 1:** To continue to promote walking as the main mode of travel to school

**Target 1:** To maintain the % walking at 64% in 2009

	<b>Initiatives</b>	<b>Lead person/group</b>	<b>Target date</b>	<b>Success criteria/monitoring</b>	<b>Progress</b>
1	To introduce Pedestrian Training for all year 3/4 pupils	ML + Marian Hesketh	March 2008	•Numbers trained	
2	To investigate interest in a possible Walking Bus from the eastern side of Featherbed Lane	Jean Ryan	September 2008	•Review by autumn half term – letters / parent views sought	
3	To inform all new parents of the school's 'Walking Ethos' via induction and the handbook.	ML + Governors	June 2008	•Revised handbook •Revised induction session	

**Objective 2:** To improve safety for pedestrians both on the school site and on the routes to school

	<b>Initiatives</b>	<b>Lead person/role</b>	<b>Target date</b>	<b>Success criteria/monitoring</b>	<b>Progress</b>
1	To consult the Safer Routes to School Officer on a safer layout within school grounds	Julie Potter/Alison Kennedy	Summer Term 2008	•Plan for revised layouts complete by May 2008 •Implemented for September 2008	
2	To investigate ways of improving the alleyway to Field Crescent	ML + JP	Summer Term 2008	•Investigate possible ways with building inspector / highways	
3	To form a joint Safer Routes to School group with members from all 3 schools + the Library to discuss common concerns	JP + AK	Autumn Term 2008		

**Objective 3:** To encourage safe cycling to school

**Target :** To increase the % cycling to school from 3% in 2008 to 5% in 2009

	<b>Initiatives</b>	<b>Lead person/role</b>	<b>Target date</b>	<b>Success criteria/monitoring</b>	<b>Progress</b>
1	To apply for cycle awareness training for year 6 pupils	ML	Annually	• numbers of applications received + numbers trained	
2	To use Sundorne Sports Village cycle facility and promote the Bike Fest annually	ML/JP	7 <sup>th</sup> June 2008	• Provide a cycle club using Sports Village coach	
3	To investigate whether any parents/ staff would like to train as volunteer cycle trainers	ML through newsletter / Governors meetings	April 2008	• Numbers expressing interest	
4	To look at increasing the size of the cycle shed	School council to look at designs	Autumn Term 2008	• Review plans from other schools	
5	To arrange a cycle maintenance session to ensure safety of bikes	JP	Summer Term 2008		

**Objective 4:** To reduce single occupancy car use to school and improve safety on the car park.

**Target:** To reduce the % of pupils travelling by car from 32.8% to 30%

	<b>Initiatives</b>	<b>Lead person/role</b>	<b>Target date</b>	<b>Success criteria/monitoring</b>	<b>Progress</b>
1	To plan re-organisation of the car park incorporating a safe drop off area and in/out scheme	ML/JP/A K	Summer Term 2008	•DFC and STP grant allocated for completion in September 2008	
2	To continue to remind parents via newsletters of safe areas to park and to encourage car sharing for those who travel from a distance	ML	On-going half termly from March 2008		

### Ideas for use of School Travel Plan Grants

The School Council members discussed some possibilities including:

- A shelter for parents
- A bigger bike shed
- Some storage for cycle helmets
- A cycle path

Parents suggested some improvements in the questionnaire results:

- Marked cycle/walkways
- Barriers to separate pedestrians from the car park
- More cycle storage – covering and better security
- Shelter

### Consultation and Stakeholders

Group	How consulted?	When consulted?
Students/school council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 267 pupils completed detailed questionnaires</li> <li>• Whole school assembly on Travel to School</li> <li>• School Council met to discuss results of surveys</li> </ul>	<p>November 2007</p> <p>November 2007</p> <p>January 2008</p>
Parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 132 parents responded to the questionnaire and many gave detailed comments</li> <li>• Meetings for parents to discuss results took place</li> </ul>	<p>November 2007</p> <p>January 2008, March 2008</p>
Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 29 staff completed a travel questionnaire about their journey to school</li> </ul>	<p>January 2008</p>
Governors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Governors have been informed and are represented at the Parents' meetings</li> </ul>	<p>February 2008</p>

**School Travel Working Group:**

Martyn Lightwood – Headteacher

Tracy Evans )

Jean Ryan ) Parents

Laura Fletcher )

Julie Potter – SCC School Travel Plan Adviser

**Monitoring and Review of Our School Travel Plan**

<b>How we will monitor/review our travel plan</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Who</b>
Collect/update individual travel data and add to SIMS ready for Spring School Census each January.	<i>November - Jan each year</i>	<i>Head with support from administrator and class teachers</i>
Report progress annually to Governing Body	<i>Spring term each year</i>	<i>Head</i>
Review and update the STP each year. <b>Our next review will be April 2009</b>	<i>April 2009</i>	<i>Head/STP Coord</i>
Review STP and pupil travel needs arising from new developments in education and transport provision	<i>Annually</i>	<i>Head/STP Coord</i>
STP noted in SEF		Head
STP in SDP		Head

**This agreement is an expression of commitment and goodwill on the part of the stakeholders to achieve a positive outcome for the pupils and the local community.**

Signed.....Date.....  
Headteacher

Signed.....Date.....  
Chair of Governors

Signed.....Date.....  
School Council

Signed.....Date.....  
School Travel Plan Working Group

Signed.....Date.....  
School Travel Plan Adviser, Shropshire County Council

Signed.....Date.....  
Assistant Director, Children and Young Peoples' Services Shropshire County Council

Signed.....Date.....  
Assistant Director, Economy and Environment, Shropshire County Council

