

KING'S PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL
2015-2017 SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN



Introduction

The pupils, parents and staff at King's Park Primary, along with Midlothian Council, are fully committed to making the journey to school, for all members of the school community, a healthy and safe one.

Our school Travel Plan is designed to:

- improve safety on the journey to school
- reduce congestion at the school gate
- encourage a healthier lifestyle, through walking and cycling to school
- look at practical solutions to improve traffic conditions in our local community
- keep the surrounding area to King's Park safe

To enable us to do this we discussed the above with children, staff and parents of King's Park Primary. We also consulted with our School Travel Plan co-ordinator, Gillian Bathgate and our Community Police Officers.

School Description

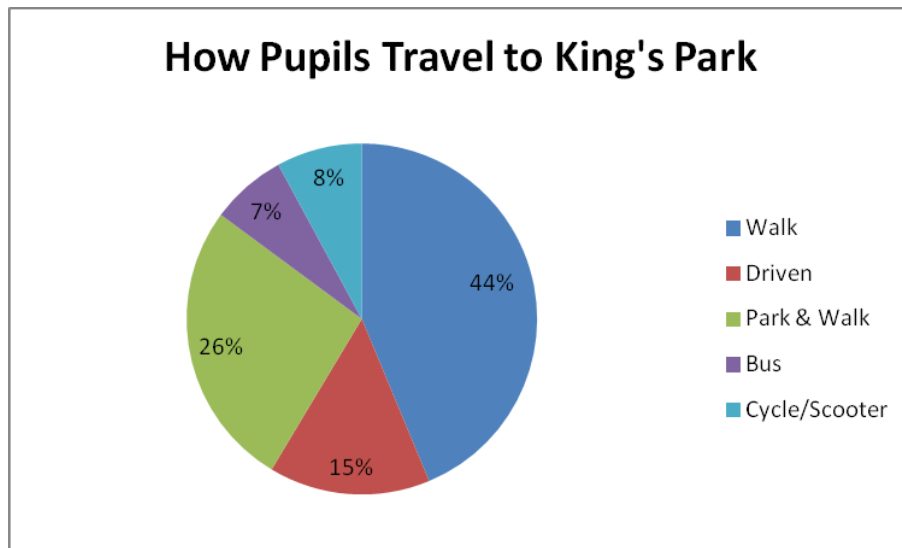
King's Park Primary School is the largest primary school in Midlothian. At the time of writing the current plan, the school roll was 436, with 110 part time Nursery places for three and four year olds. The school's pupil district comprises central Dalkeith, Eskbank, Newbattle Abbey Crescent, Shadepark, Waterfall Walk and two streets in the Woodburn estate.

The school is situated at the end of two narrow streets, Croft Street and Parkside Place which are both 'no through' roads. Croft Street has a turning bay at the end nearest to King's Park Primary school. These streets are used predominantly for residential accommodation and have parking available on one side only. Although there is a car park situated at the end of Croft Street, it is very busy and parking spaces are extremely limited at school drop-off/pick-up times; we actively discourage usage. The school playground can be accessed through King's Park and some parents use Park Road and Eskbank Road as a Park & Stride location, dropping children off and use the park as a safe walking route to school. We are keen to promote this option to parents who need to drive to school.

There are crossing guides to assist children in crossing South Street, Eskbank Roundabout, Eskbank Road, Newmills Road and Buccleuch Street.

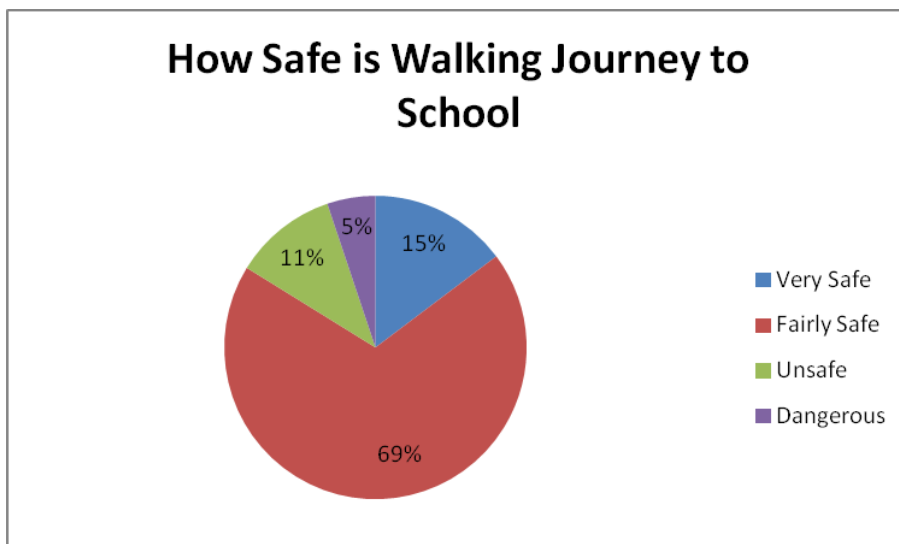
School travel survey - 189 responses. These will be used as representative of parental views.

How Pupils Travel to King's Park



44% of our pupils walk all the way from home to school. A further 26% use a Park & Walk scheme, the majority of whom are parking in Morrison's car park and walking to school from there. 15% of pupils are driven all the way to school, something we actively discourage and would like to reduce. We have 8% of pupils travelling by bike or scooter with a further 7% coming by bus.

70% of parents would prefer their child to walk to school; currently only 44% do. 18% of parents would prefer their child to cycle or scooter to school, which 8% currently do.



84% of parents consider their child's walking route to King's Park to be either fairly safe or very safe. 11% of parents feel there are potentially unsafe elements to their child's walking journey with 5% actually considering their route to be dangerous.

Staff survey

Staff were also asked to complete a travel survey - 22 were returned. The number of staff travelling to school by car has decreased since 2013 from 82% to 77%. We have 5% of our staff walking to school and 9% of staff journey by bus. A further 5% cycle and 4% travel as a car passenger.

The most common reasons for driving to school were for convenience, carrying equipment, required for activities after work and reliability.

When asked if they would consider a car sharing scheme 21% said they were interested with a further 21% unsure but interested in having more details.

Staff should be made aware of the Midlothian Trip Share scheme, available on the intranet.

Recommendations

Parents were asked to highlight any road safety concerns they had and suggest any recommendations that would make cycling/walking safer and more attractive. These were noted when reported by more than 1 respondent:-

- 3 concerns were raised about the amount of dog fouling, particularly in the park.
- 14 suggestions were to ban cars from entering Croft Street during peak travel times.
- 2 recommendations were for further traffic calming measures on Eskbank Road.
- 3 parents requested that the Walking Bus be re-established, with a suggestion of the Justinlees as a meeting point.
- 8 people felt the gate at Parkside Place should be reopened.
- 13 people expressed concern about cars going through the red lights on Abbey Road with requests for a School Crossing Patrol here.
- 3 suggestions were for traffic calming on Lasswade Road.
- 6 suggestions were for pedestrian crossing facilities on Eskbank Roundabout.
- 3 people highlighted difficulties crossing rear of Morrison's by Post Office entrance.
- 2 parents requested an easy entrance from Newbattle Gardens to St David's

- 9 suggestions were for better defined cycle lanes on main routes into school.
- 2 people suggested widening the footpath on London Road/Newmills Road.
- 2 concerns were raised about speeds on Dalhousie Road (which they feel had increased since railway station opened).

Aims

The continued success of our school travel plan depends on changing people's attitudes and raising awareness of the benefits of walking and cycling to school. We aim to support these by

- Participating in the international walk to School weeks every May and October
- Involving pupils and parents in the process of updating and reviewing our School Travel Plan
- Continuing cycle training in Primary 6 with maintenance sessions from Doctor Bike
- Continued participation in Kerbcraft infant road safety training scheme
- Continuing with Park Smart campaigns every 6 months.
- Continuing road safety awareness by the JRSO's through competitions, assemblies and poster campaigns
- Participation in Bike to School Week every June.

Future recommendations

- Review staff travel regularly. Next one due Jan. 2018.
- Make sure all staff are aware of Midlothian Council's Trip Share Scheme - see intranet for details
- Identify a calendar of yearly events with Midlothian Council to help plan and organise initiatives, competitions and events