



Blue Coat Church of England Academy

School Travel Plan

Date:		February 2023
Prepared by:		D.J. Smith
Ratified by the Governing Body on:		
	Signature	
Principal		D. J. Smith
Chair of Governors		Mrs L. Parker
Review date:		February 2025

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Psalm 121:7-8 "The Lord keeps you from all harm and watches over your life. The Lord keeps watch over you as you come and go, both now and forever."

Blue Coat Church of England Academy is an inclusive Christian learning environment; our school values underpin all of our policies: Wisdom, Endurance, Service, Kindness and Hope.

Introduction

Location of the school

Name of school:	Blue Coat Church of England Academy
Address:	Birmingham Street
Postcode:	WS1 2ND
DfE Number:	335/4004
Type of school:	Academy
Age range of children:	11-18
Student Capacity:	900
Number of children on roll:	914
Number of staff (full and part time):	124
Catchment areas:	Walsall
Start time:	8.40 a.m.
Finish time:	3.00 p.m.
Before school clubs:	Available from 7.30a.m.
After school clubs:	Extra curricular clubs including numerous sporting fixtures
Out of Hours Use:	The academy is at the heart of the community, with a range of mainly evening lettings at the school, this may increase if current funding bids for sporting facilities are successful.

Mission statement

The pupils, staff and directors of Blue Coat Church of England Academy are working in partnership with the community to ensure our children can travel to and from school in safety.

We strive to provide road safety education through our personal development programme tailored to the needs of our pupils, with the ultimate aim of promoting independence and skills that can be utilised by the pupils so that they can live and travel safely in their adult lives.

Through our Academy Travel Plan we aim to develop strategies and initiatives, in association with Walsall's A*STARS programme, suitable for our school and appropriate to the ability and age of each child in an environment that recognises achievements, encourages success and nurtures potential.

Involvement in the project

Name	Position
Debbie Deeming	School Business Manager
Rebecca Devlin	Senior Assistant Headteacher
Richard Everitt	Site and Buildings Manager
Vicky Owen	Headteacher
David Smith	Principal

Road Safety Concerns

Summary of school's transport and road safety concerns

CARS AND PARKING	
How many car parking spaces are there in total on your site?	72
Are parents allowed to park on site?	No
Where do parents park?	Very limited on street parking School playground (events)
Do members your staff sometimes park outside the site due to lack of car parking spaces?	Yes
Where do visitors park?	Limited on street parking
Are sixth formers allowed to park on site?	No
Do you have disabled facilities? If not, how do you cater for these people?	Yes
If you have a school bus, where does it park? Does this cause any problems?	No
Do you have a separate entrance for pedestrians and/or cyclists?	There are pedestrian entrances to each site although on the main site is in close proximity to vehicular access.
Do you run any school clubs which affect the parking situation?	A limited number.
Do you have any other problems concerning cars and/or parking?	<p>The school is a split site with a road running through the site (Birmingham Street). The school has requested support in improving road safety measures from the local council but budget limitations and prioritisation of other projects means that there is no timescale for implementation.</p> <p>The school employ staff who supervise pupils crossing the road, as part of their daily duties, throughout the day which is supported by a number of additional staff at busy times.</p>

CYCLING	
Do you encourage cycling? If not, why not?	Yes, but take up is very limited.
Are safe cycling routes available	No
Do you offer cycle training?	Yes (included within the curriculum)
Do you have a place to shower, change and store cycle gear?	Yes – showers available for staff only.
How many formal cycle parking spaces do you have? Are these secure?	1 x 12 student covered cycle racks
How many of your cycle spaces are covered?	12
Is the cycle parking easily visible from the school?	Yes
Is cycle parking close to entrances used by the cyclists?	Yes
Do you have a separate entrance for cyclists?	No
Do you have any policies regarding cycling (e.g. children must wear helmets; children must be accompanied by an adult etc)?	No
Do you have any other problems regarding cycling?	Local roads close to the school are very busy and make it difficult for many pupils to cycle to school.

LOCAL ROADS	
What is the speed limit outside your school? Do cars adhere to this?	20 mph speed limit exists outside the school, but there is limited support on enforcement.
Do people associated with the school park on local roads? Does this present a problem (e.g. do you have regular complaints from residents? Does the parking cause danger to children?)?	Yes. There is limited on street parking but this is limited to two hours. There is very limited parking for any parents wanting to pick up children, which can result in some inappropriate stopping.
Pedestrian infrastructure	Pedestrians are well served in terms of roadside footpath access to the school, although these are not wide enough outside of the school site. Access for local people is difficult at busy times in the school day.
Do you have any road markings outside your school (e.g. zigzags, double yellow lines)? Are these adhered to?	Yes but the majority but regular incidents of a minority of road users ignoring these markings.

Is there a pedestrian crossing and/or school crossing patrol for your school? Where are they situated?	No
Have there been any changes to vehicular access or local highway infrastructure as part of the new school build?	No
Are there any particularly dangerous roads near to the school? What makes them dangerous? (e.g. main road, high speed limit, narrow pavements etc)	The school is located close to the centre of Walsall, which means that main roads can be very busy. There is a short stretch of dual carriage way along Springhill Road, alongside one the exits used by pupils.
Do you have any other problems regarding local roads?	Removal of some crossing patrols on local roads has been detrimental.

SCHOOL BUS (including any used to take children on trips)	
Do you provide information for pupils and parents about the school and public bus services they can use?	Information available on school website. Public bus service that drops off and collects from stops close to the school site, which is well served from all local areas due to proximity to Walsall Town Centre.
Public Bus & Train Service details	The majority of the public buses serving the school stop on Springhill Road at the start and the end of the day. Other bus and train services are available within walking distance.
Are pupils encouraged to use the bus services? If not, why not? If so, how?	This is addressed on a needs basis as the majority of pupils live within walking distance.
Do you have a bullying policy that covers travel?	Yes
Do you monitor behaviour of your pupils when using these services?	The number using bus services is very small as the majority of pupils live within walking distance.

School Travel Plan

Reasons for developing

- a. To work with A*STARS and demonstrate a commitment to the on-going delivery of the programme, supporting the achievement of the programmes short and long term targets.
- b. To address the significant Road Safety challenges presented by the road (Birmingham Street) which runs through the school site.
- c. The school is committed to promoting road safety, children's fitness and their ability to cope with traffic.
- d. A School Travel Plan aims to continue to promote both physical and educational activities that will encourage children to walk, cycle or catch a bus to school and encourage parents to allow their children to continue to walk or cycle to school.
- e. Measures introduced by a School Travel Plan have benefits for both the school and the local community. These can include:
 - i. Improvements to children's health and fitness
 - ii. Improved road safety skills
- f. The work involved in producing this School Travel Plan has brought about benefits, which include:
 - i. Involving the children of Blue Coat Church of England Academy in changing their own environment
 - ii. Strengthening the school links with the local community
 - iii. Providing opportunities for the children to take part in decision making and to learn about citizenship
 - iv. Providing opportunities for classroom work within the existing school curriculum.

Adoption of this school travel plan will:

- demonstrate a commitment to the local community to improve the environment
- demonstrate a need to maintain sustainability
- raise awareness of the existing transport problems faced at the school and surrounding environment

What are we trying to achieve?

It is important to know what we are trying to achieve by having a School Travel Plan. Through the surveys done with the children, the risk assessment, and talking to parents we are aware of the challenges faced by pupils travelling to school. The aim of the Travel Plan is to solve as many of these problems as possible. However, there is also a need to ensure that all children travel to school by the most appropriate method, taking into account safety, the environment, health and the effect on the local community.

Objectives

1. Working with A*STARS Programme and Walsall Council to improve road safety measures along Birmingham Street.
2. Maintain the proportion of journeys made to and from school made by the more healthy options of walking, cycling and public transport.
3. Promote and encourage sustainable travel behaviour and increased environmental awareness for all members of the school community and school stakeholders. Promote sustainable travel and road safety in the classroom, within the framework of the national curriculum.

Targets

1. To maintain the number of students who walk to school.
2. Less than 1% of students regularly cycle to school, increase to 5% by providing cycling programmes as part of the P.E. curriculum.
3. Extend existing Personal Development (PD) curriculum to include transport and road safety for all year groups.
4. To reduce the volume of motorised staff traffic.

Survey Results

How Far Children Live from School

Year	0 - 0.5 mile	0.5 - 1 mile	1 - 5 miles	5 - 10 miles	10 miles+
Year 7	43.04%	35.44%	18.99%	1.90%	0.63%
Year 8	36.36%	29.22%	33.77%	0.65%	0.00%
Year 9	34.62%	34.62%	28.21%	1.92%	0.64%
Year 10	31.13%	28.48%	39.07%	1.32%	0.00%
Year 11	34.90%	22.15%	41.61%	1.34%	0.00%
Year 12	31.88%	28.99%	39.13%	0.00%	0.00%
Year 13	26.67%	37.33%	34.67%	1.33%	0.00%
Overall	34.98%	30.59%	32.89%	1.32%	0.22%

65.57% of pupils live within one mile of the school, and 98.46% of pupils live within five miles of the school.

How Students and Staff Travel to and from School

Students		Staff	
Bus	15.8%	Bus	4.3%
Walk	49.7%	Walk	1.4%
Car	27.0%	Car	92.9%
Car Share	0.7%	Car Share	1.4%
Cycle	0.8%	Cycle	1.4%
Park & Stride	3.5%	Other	1.4%
Other	2.6%		

Summary Results

The survey has shown that around fifty percent of all students walk to school, while 27% travel to school by car. Although 34% live out of catchment area and therefore not within walking distance only 15% use public transport, we believe that this is due mainly to cost, the reduction of bus services in some areas of the district and a continuing impact from the pandemic.

The vast majority of staff travel to the school by car, a small number of staff who live locally walk or use public transport. Public transport in the area serves the school well and there are buses suitable for pupils and staff living in the local area. The majority of staff drive to school alone, 1.4% of the staff who travel by car share the vehicle with other staff. Car sharing reduced during the pandemic and has not recovered since.

Initiatives

The school is currently working with Walsall A*STARS Programme to further enhance pupil road safety programmes and to increase the likelihood of a programme, to address road safety issues along Birmingham Street, being implemented.

Personal Development curriculum includes road safety for younger students and driver awareness for 6th form students.

Action Plan

<p>Objective: To regularly review conduct Active Travel Survey, Y7 – Y13. Target: To ensure A*STARS action plan is designed according to how pupils travel to school.</p>		
<p>The annual travel survey takes place during October each year. Every student from Year 7 to Year 13 is asked how they travel to school and how they would prefer to travel to school.</p>	<p>Administered via a hands up survey in class and results are recorded directly onto the A*STARS website.</p>	<p>Assistant Headteacher (AHT)</p>
<p>Objective: To complete Y7 road awareness and safety transition training. Target: To ensure that all Y7 pupils are aware of potential road safety dangers when travelling to and from school.</p>		
<p>Theatre in Education project is designed for year 7 students after they have just made the step up to secondary school. This performance uses multimedia, mask work and live action to engage with year 7 students</p>	<p>Theatre in Education performance during Autumn Term.</p>	<p>AHT/HoYs</p>
<p>Road Safety Awareness</p>	<p>Local project promoting road safety with Y7 during Road Safety Week.</p>	<p>AHT/HoYs</p>

<p>Objective: To ensure pupils cycling to school are safe and confident cyclists. Target: To engage all pupils, who cycle to school, in Bikeability training.</p>		
<p>Cycling training (intended for secondary pupils and older) <i>Funded by the Department for Transport</i> and supplement by teaching within the P.E. Curriculum</p>	<p>Courses are delivered in as part of the K.S. P.E. curriculum.</p>	<p>AHT/HoYs</p>
<p>Provide basic training on cycle maintenance.</p>	<p>Bikeability Fix to run with KS3 pupils to provide basic training on fixing bikes.</p>	<p>Associate AHT/HoYs</p>
<p>Introduce leisure cycle rides to actively promote cycling as a leisure activity.</p>	<p>A leisure cycle ride (LCR) is a one-off activity around the vicinity of the school that is designed to help pupils associate cycling with the journey to school by undertaking a led cycle ride.</p>	<p>Road Safety Tutor and is supported by school staff</p>
<p>Objective: To raise awareness of A*STARS and its key messages to all sectors of the school community including: pupils, parents, staff, governors, residents and partner agencies. Target: To ensure all stakeholders are aware of the Walsall A*STARS programme.</p>		
<p>Parental Engagement & Publicity</p>	<p>Ensure promotional material is shared regularly through school publications and website.</p>	<p>AP</p>

<p>Objective: To implement A*STARS programmes into existing curriculum delivery. Target: To increase students' awareness of how transport systems impact on everyday life and how we can all work together to help make it a more sustainable system for all.</p>		
Investigating Sustainability	Implement KS3 geography and personal development resources which are designed to help increase students' awareness of how transport systems impact on everyday life and how we can all work together to help make it a more sustainable system for all.	AHT/Head of Geography
Investigating an Incident Scene	A classroom based session where students investigate incident scenes.	AHT/STEM subject leads
Speed Awareness	Teaching resource where pupils participate in a practical roadside speed monitoring session. Pupils use speed guns to measure the speeds of passing vehicles and identify the difficulty in judging the speed of approaching/ passing vehicles.	AHT/Maths Department
<p>Objective: Sixth form students to engage in the Drive2Arrive programme Target: A minimum of ten students to participate in the Drive 2 Arrive - Young Driver Event.</p>		
Participation in Drive 2 Arrive - Young Driver Event.	Identify the causes in the majority of road collisions and discuss the consequences Understand the need to be fit to drive Recognised the moral dilemmas involved in drink/drugs and driving and subsequent consequences Understand what to do in the event of an incident on the main road network	AHT/Head of Sixth Form
<p>Objective: To increase number of staff cycling to work Target: Travel survey revealed a small number of staff were regularly cycling to school, initially the target will be to engage and additional two or three staff to cycle to work.</p>		
Further increase staff engagement in cycling to work.	Enrol and promote cycles scheme within school.	Principal/Business Manager

Monitoring and Review

Implementation and Management

- The intention is that this will be a living document that will be reviewed and updated annually.
- The School Travel Plan data is updated annually with information collected from surveys.
- The working group responsible for the Travel Plan consists of Principal, Assistant Headteacher, Business Manager, Site and Building Manager and a member of the student body.
- The school will maintain links with Walsall Council and A*STARS Programme with regards to Safer Routes to School and Road Safety initiatives.
- Surveys will be undertaken on an annual basis to monitor progress.

		Responsibility
Date travel plan completed	January 2023	Principal
Date for next travel survey	Autumn 2023	Principal
Date for next staff travel survey	Autumn 2023	Principal