

St Nicholas Catholic Primary School Travel Plan - March 2008



**Jockey Road
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Foreword

In recent years the number of children walking to both primary and secondary schools has declined and there has been a steady increase in parental car use. Less walking and cycling are affecting children's health and independence.

St Nicholas School has experienced these changes; many of which are due to circumstances outside our control. However, there are areas where our school community can work together to bring about beneficial developments.

This travel plan looks at how children are currently travelling to and from our school and sets out a package of measures to encourage parents and children to use more sustainable and healthy forms of transport to travel safely. The plan is a strategic document setting out actions and timescales which will be regularly reviewed.

The aim of this travel plan is to reduce the number of car trips to school and improve the safety of other means of travelling.

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1. School Profile

St Nicholas Catholic Primary School is situated to the rear of St Nicholas Catholic Church on an extremely busy residential road in Boldmere, Sutton Coldfield. Sutton Coldfield is a large, suburban district in North Birmingham. The school has 210 pupils, aged between 4 and 11.

The school has a relatively small catchment, pupil survey data shows that 72% of pupils live within a 1 kilometre.

None of the children at the school currently have specific travel needs at the moment. However, there are some parents and carers who have mobility difficulties.

The school day starts at 9.00 a.m. and finishes at 3.30 p.m. There is privately run before and after school care available; 'Madhatters'. This starts at 8.00 in the morning and, after school, runs until 6 at night. Occasionally, parents dropping off or collecting children from 'Madhatters' park inappropriately outside the school entrance.

The school offers a number of after school clubs and other activities. These include choir, dance, drama and various sporting groups. The school has regular matches and athletics events at other schools. Children are transported to these in parents' and carers' cars. Because the school has no playing field, many 'home' matches have to be held off-site at Braemar Playing Fields in Braemar Road. Key Stage 2 Games lessons and training sessions also take place at Braemar. Both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 Sports' Days are held at Braemar Fields. Walking the children to Braemar is a key issue in our School Travel Plan.

Pupils also walk to a number of other local sites including Boldmere Library, Sutton Park, visits to Boldmere and around the area. The school follows a set procedure every time children walk off site during the day: they are assembled before hand and briefed on the importance of being sensible and aware of road safety issues.

There are also a number of educational visits throughout the year, including regular swimming classes. For trips such as these, coach transport is used. Coaches park beyond the school gates on the Jockey Road, outside the zigzag lines.

Returning from a trip, the coach driver has to approach the school from the Sutton direction so that the coach is parked on the school side of the road. Crossing the busy Jockey Road is avoided wherever possible.

There are 26 teaching staff at the school, including teaching assistants and peripatetic teachers. There are also 11 members of support staff including clerical staff, lunchtime supervisors, buildings staff and the school crossing warden.

The vast majority of staff travel to school by car, due to the distances that they travel, with the exception of the deputy head and the site manager.

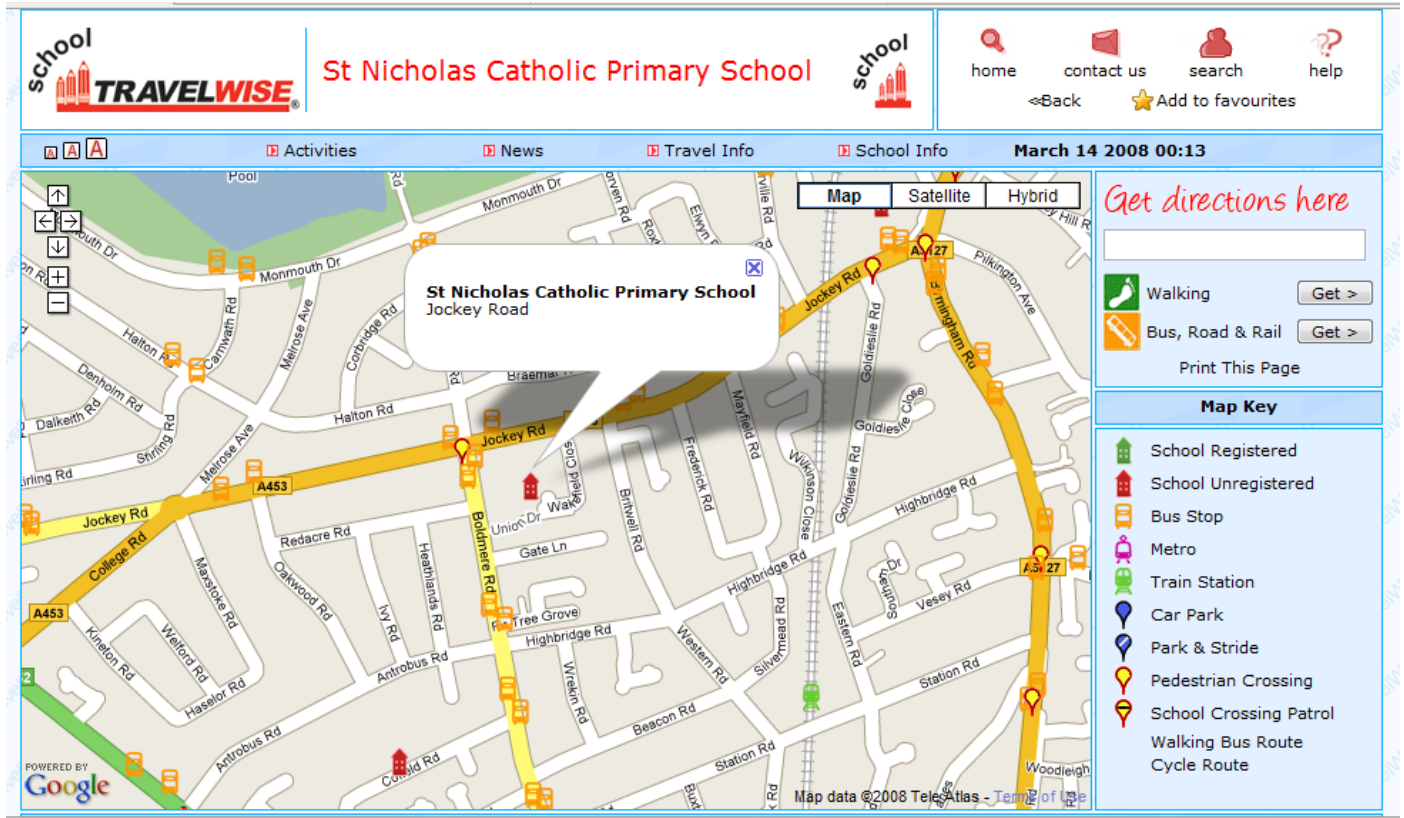
There are 8 staff car parking spaces, which are designated spaces within the church car park. This is insufficient, so staff also park in non-designated spaces within the church car park. The church holds morning masses at 9.15 on a number of weekdays, therefore the pressure on available car parking increases.

Throughout the year, the school is open for a number of events. The PFA (Parent and Friends Association) organise many of these, including discos, quiz nights, and the summer fair. For any events such as these the car park is always at full capacity. Depending the number of attendees, there is often insufficient space, therefore people park on local roads such as Jockey Road, Boldmere Road and Wakefield Close. There is a pub next door to the school and the church and parents have been known to use this car park. There have been concerns expressed by the landlord about this. Equally, some pub customers park in the church car park, as do local residents.

Other events on site include sacramental preparation evenings, parents' evenings, and other evening meetings such as transition to secondary school; these always generate a lot of traffic.

The vast majority of parents drive to such events, there are some who live very close to school and walk. For many events, parents are driving straight from work to the school.

School events on a Friday evening can be particularly problematic as they clash with Friday mass - increasing congestion in the church car park.



Screen print from www.schooltravelwise.org.uk

Transport links:

As the school is set back from Jockey Road, it is not visible for passing traffic, there is also little in the way of signage to alert drivers of its location. Directly in front of the school and the church car park, a school crossing patrol warden operates at peak times. There is a crossroads a minute's walk from the school at the point where Jockey Road meets Boldmere Road. The lights at this junction have a pedestrian phase, although this is considered insufficient, as mentioned in the transport issues section.

There are a number of bus services running along Jockey Road, these are detailed below. At peak times, buses are generally very full with secondary school pupils and sixth form students travelling into/out of Sutton town centre.

Local Bus Services

From Jockey Road:

107 - Birmingham - Sutton Coldfield via Perry Barr	Frequency 15 mins
451 - Sutton Coldfield - West Bromwich via Scott Arms	Frequency 30 mins
68A - Sutton Coldfield circular - Anticlockwise	Frequency 20 mins
68C - Sutton Coldfield Circular - Clockwise	Frequency 20 mins
377 - Walsall - Sutton Coldfield via Streetly	Frequency 20-25 mins

From Boldmere Road:

66A - Sutton Coldfield - Ladywood via Birmingham	Frequency: 20 min
111 - Sutton Coldfield - Erdington via Boldmere	Frequency: 30 min

Local train services

Nearest train station: Wylde Green Station, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile away, 10 minute walk via Britwell Road.

Trains every 20 minutes from Lichfield into Birmingham New Street

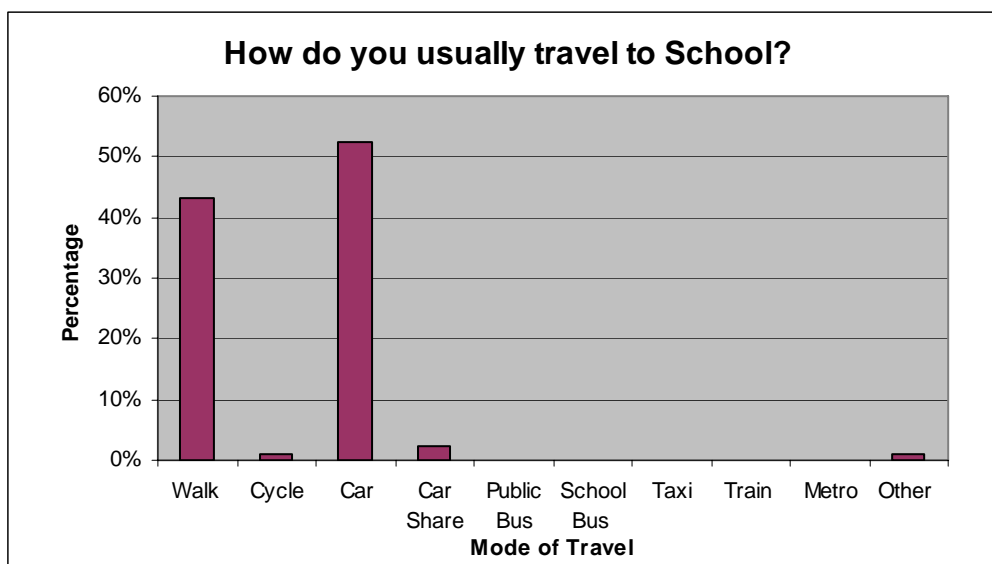
2. Transport Survey Results

Pupil Survey Results

The graphs below have been created using the survey results collected through a bulk pupil survey in February 2008. Results were collected from 210 pupils - 100% of pupils at the school. Due to the rounding of figures in the survey, the graphs which follow may not add up to 100%.

How many students own a bicycle?

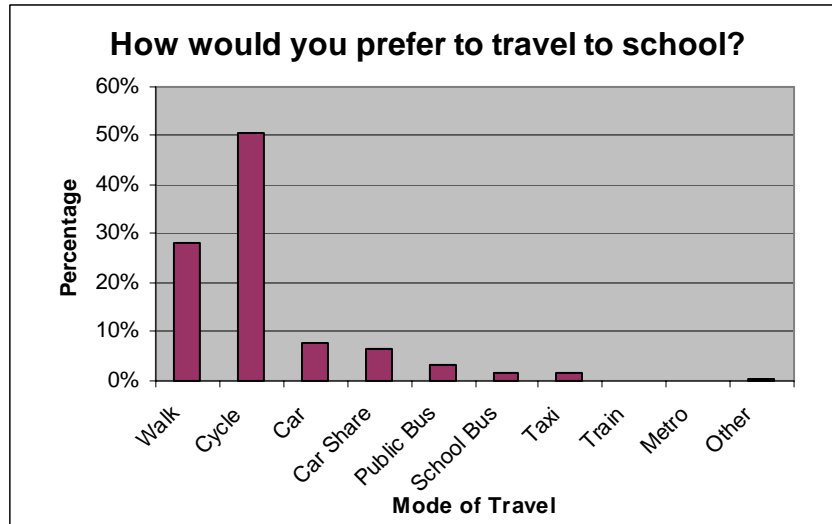
Total	Percentage
190	91%



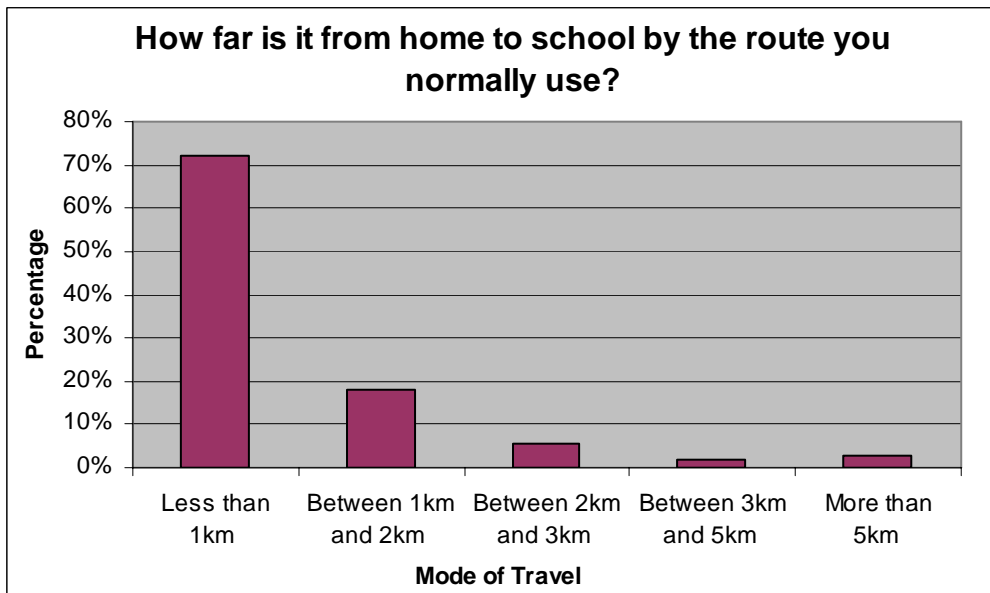
Answer	Count	Percentage
Walk	91	43%
Cycle	2	1%
Car	110	52%
Car Share	5	2%
Public Bus	0	0%
School Bus	0	0%
Taxi	0	0%
Train	0	0%
Metro	0	0%
Other	2	1%

How many students park and walk ('park and stride')?

Total	Percentage
33	16%

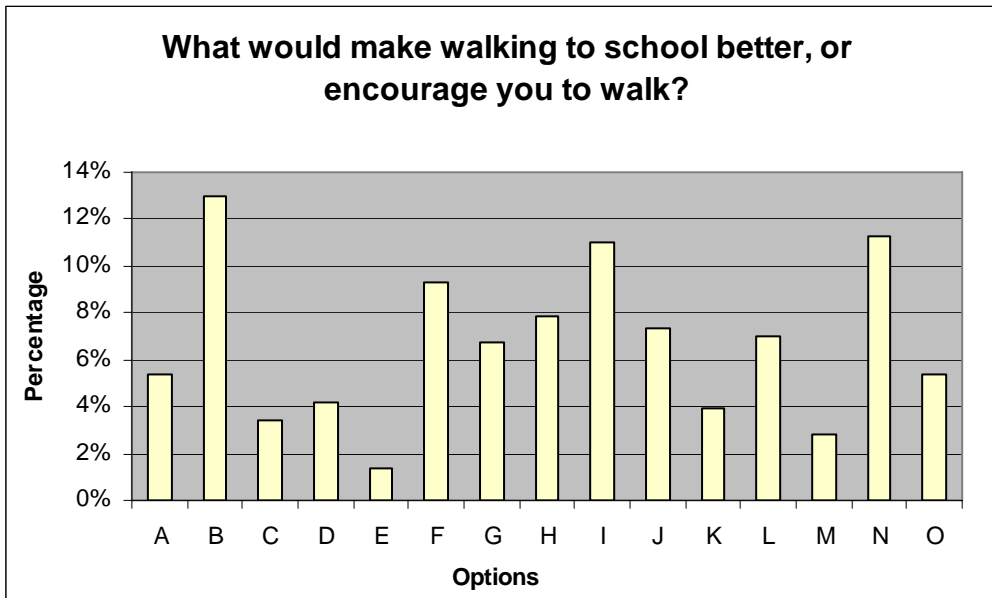


Answer	Count	Percentage
Walk	52	28%
Cycle	93	51%
Car	14	8%
Car Share	12	7%
Public Bus	6	3%
School Bus	3	2%
Taxi	3	2%
Train	0	0%
Metro	0	0%
Other	1	1%

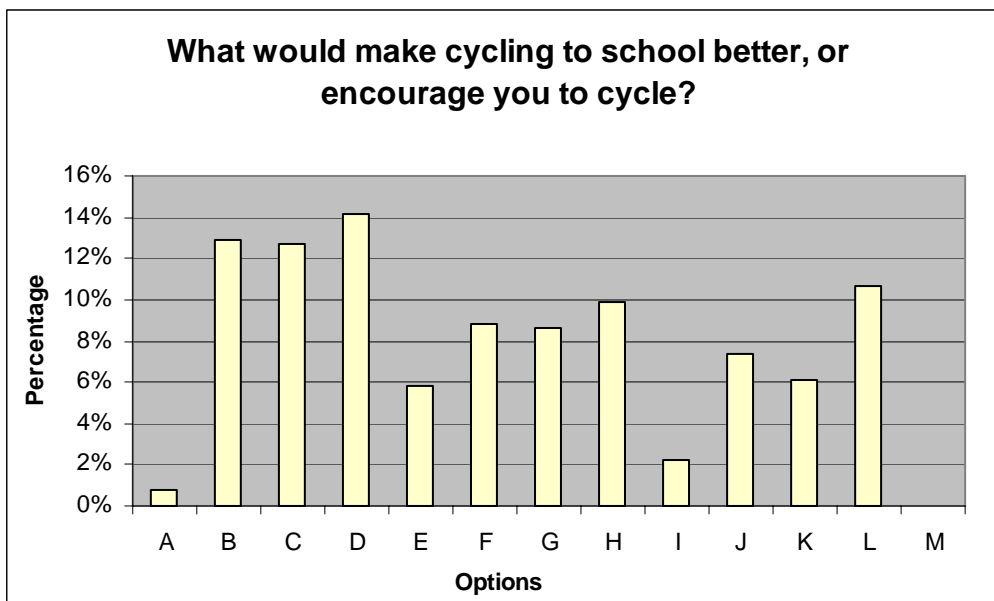


Answer	Count	Percentage
Less than 1km	108	72%
Between 1km and 2km	27	18%
Between 2km and 3km	8	5%
Between 3km and 5km	3	2%

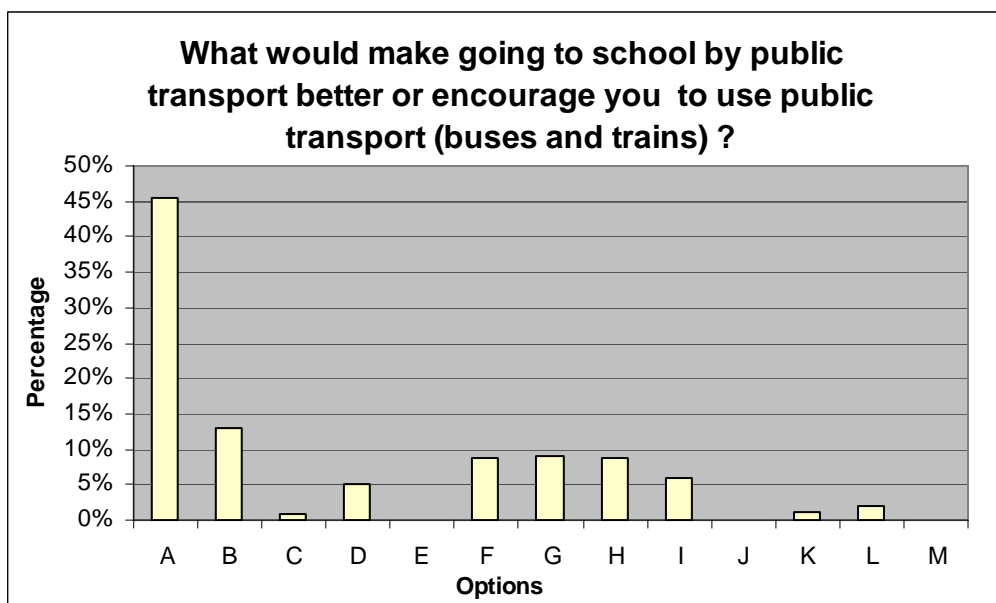
More than 5km	4	3%
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Identifier	Answer	Count	Percentage
A	Nothing - I live too far from school to walk	19	5%
B	Nothing - My parents/carers won't let me walk	46	13%
C	Wider pavements	12	3%
D	Cleaner pavements	15	4%
E	Better lighting	5	1%
F	Less traffic	33	9%
G	Slower traffic	24	7%
H	School Lockers to leave belongings in	28	8%
I	More children to walk with	39	11%
J	Cars not entering the school grounds	26	7%
K	More school crossing patrols	14	4%
L	Safer places to cross the road	25	7%
M	Training on how and where to cross the road	10	3%
N	An entrance away from cars	40	11%
O	Other	19	5%



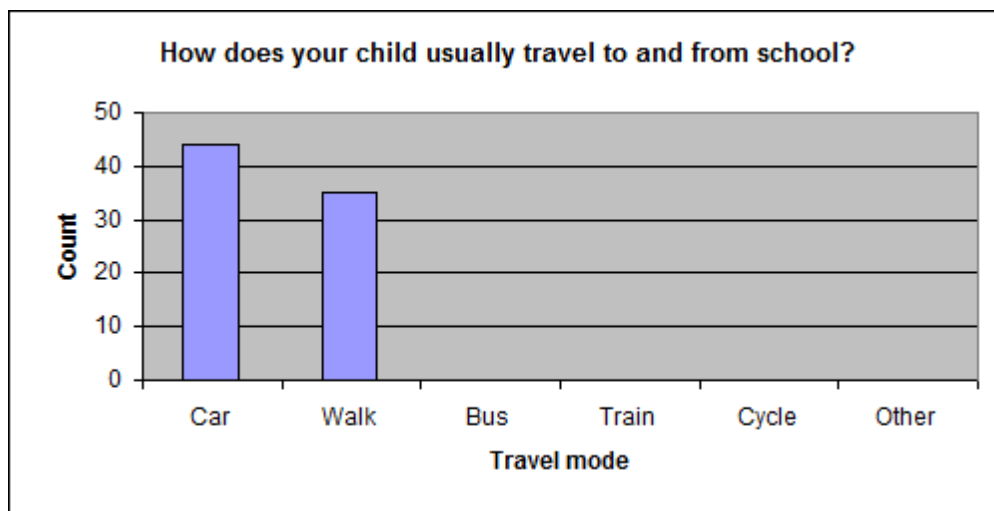
Identifier	Answer	Count	Percentage
A	Nothing - I don't have a bike	3	1%
B	Nothing - my parents/carers won't let me cycle	51	13%
C	More cycle lanes	50	13%
D	Less traffic	56	14%
E	Slower traffic	23	6%
F	School lockers to leave belongings in	35	9%
G	A safe place to leave my bike	34	9%
H	More children to cycle with	39	10%
I	Showers at school	9	2%
J	Cycle training	29	7%
K	Cars not entering the school grounds	24	6%
L	An entrance away from cars	42	11%
M	Other	0	0%



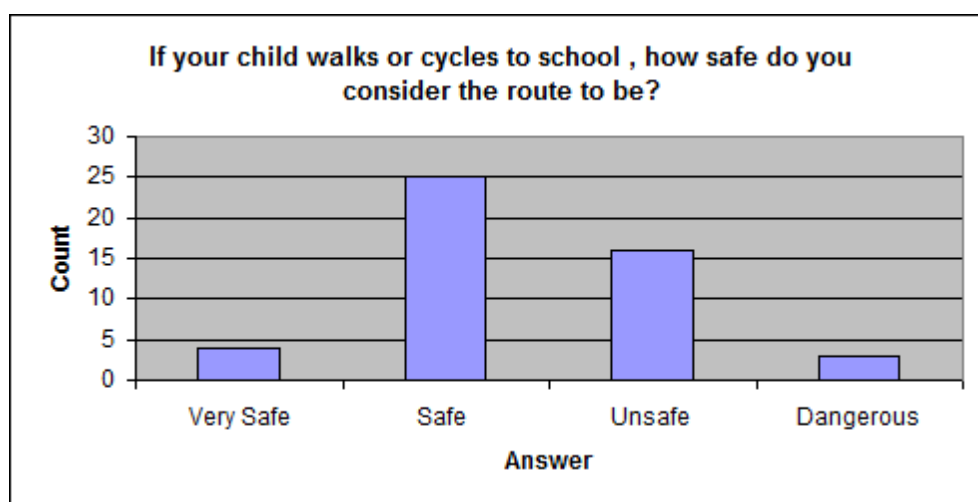
Identifier	Answer	Count	Percentage
A	Nothing - I live too near school to take PT	115	45%
B	Nothing - My parents/carers won't let me	33	13%
C	A bus stop closer to school	2	1%
D	Buses running more often	13	5%
E	Trains running more often	0	0%
F	Cheaper fares	22	9%
G	More children to travel with	23	9%
H	School lockers to leave belongings in	22	9%
I	Training on how to use buses and trains	15	6%
J	A safer route to the station	0	0%
K	A safer route to the bus stop	3	1%
L	Bus shelter	5	2%
M	Other	0	0%

Parent Survey Results

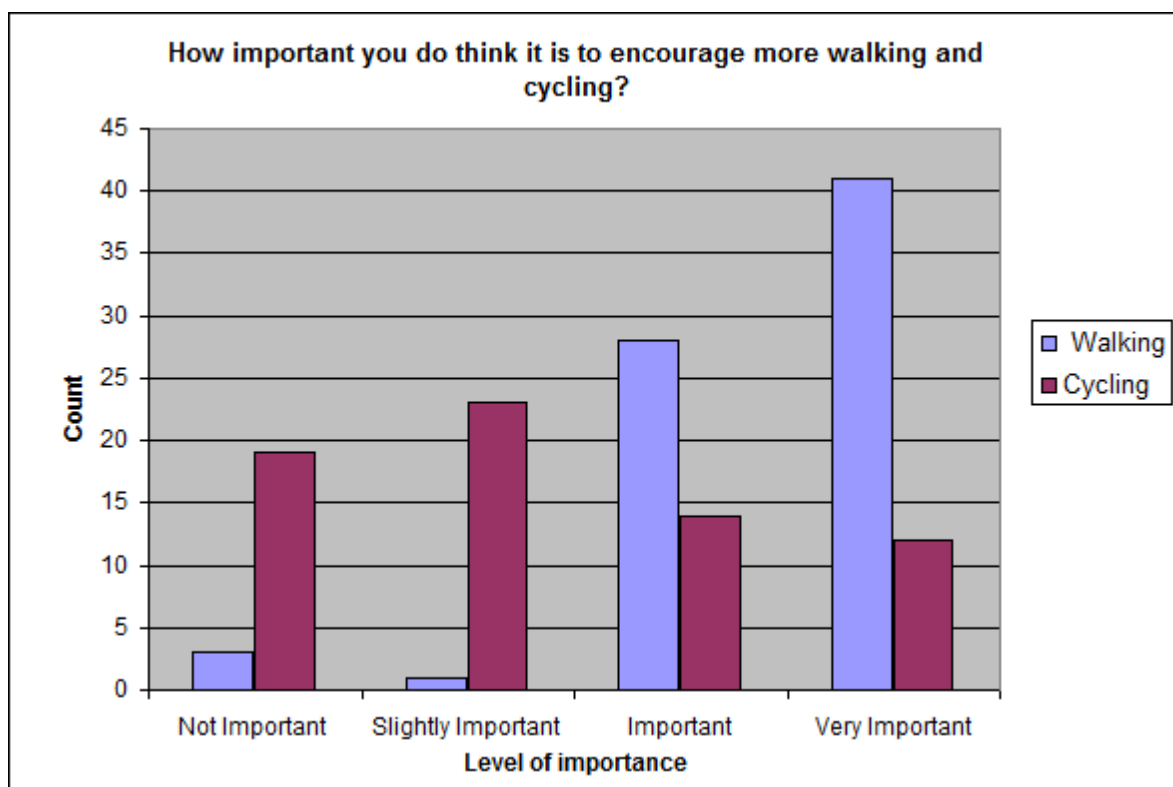
Parents were surveyed in February 2008. 74 replies are included in the graphs; more were received after compilation. Parents clearly spent some time providing their responses, with many detailed comments. These are provided in the appendix.



Answer	Count	Percentage
Car	44	56%
Walk	35	44%
Bus	0	0%
Train	0	0%
Cycle	0	0%
Other	0	0%



Answer	Count	Percentage
Very Safe	4	8%
Safe	25	52%
Unsafe	16	33%
Dangerous	3	6%



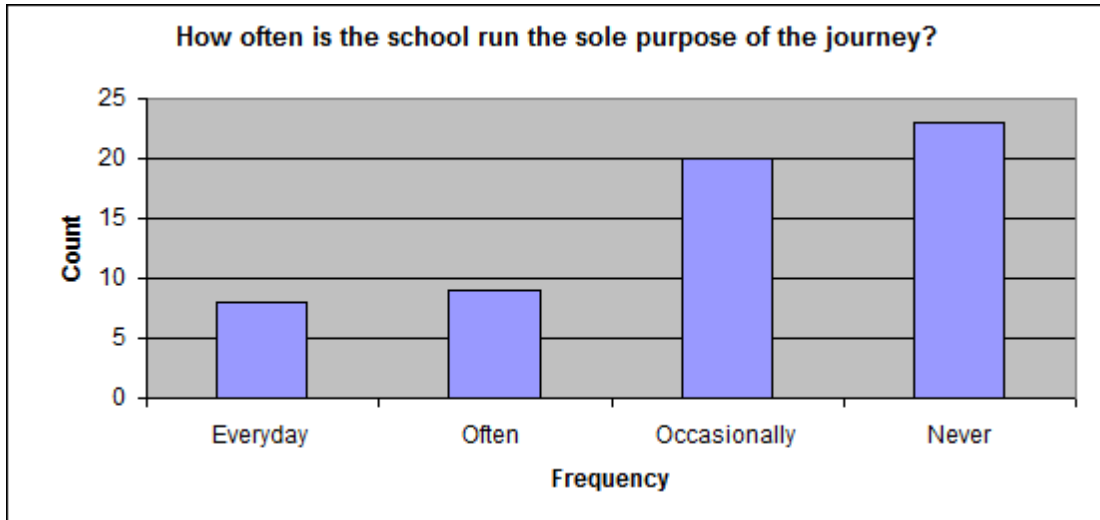
Answer	Walking		Cycling	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Not Important	3	4%	19	28%
Slight Important	1	1%	23	34%
Important	28	38%	14	21%
Very Important	41	56%	12	18%



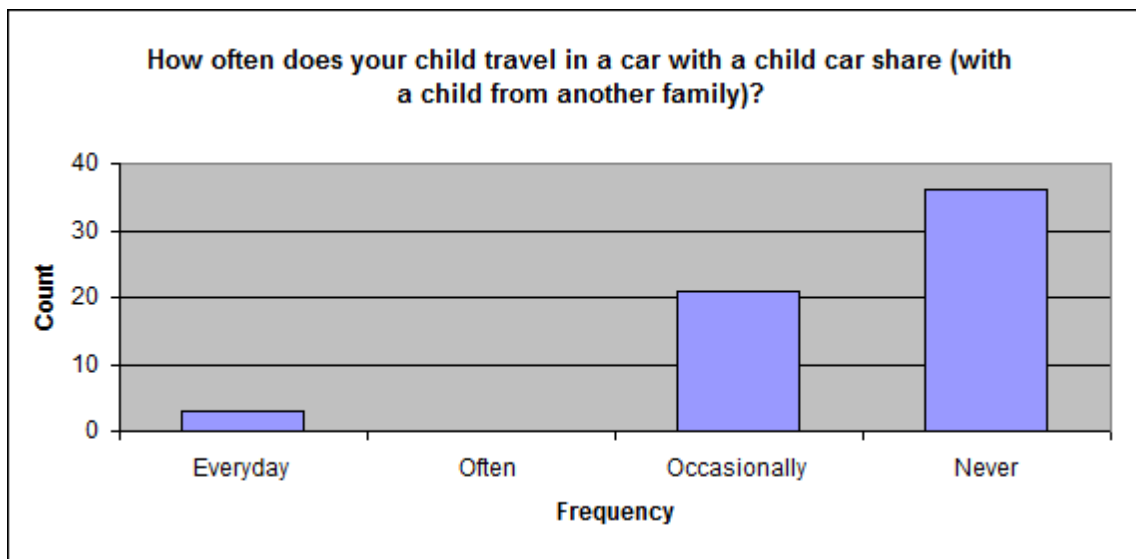
Answer	Count	Percentage
No	21	28%
Yes, I would consider allowing my child to join a 'walking bus'	50	68%
Yes, I would consider volunteering to help run a 'walking bus'	14	19%

Would you consider using a 'park and stride scheme'?

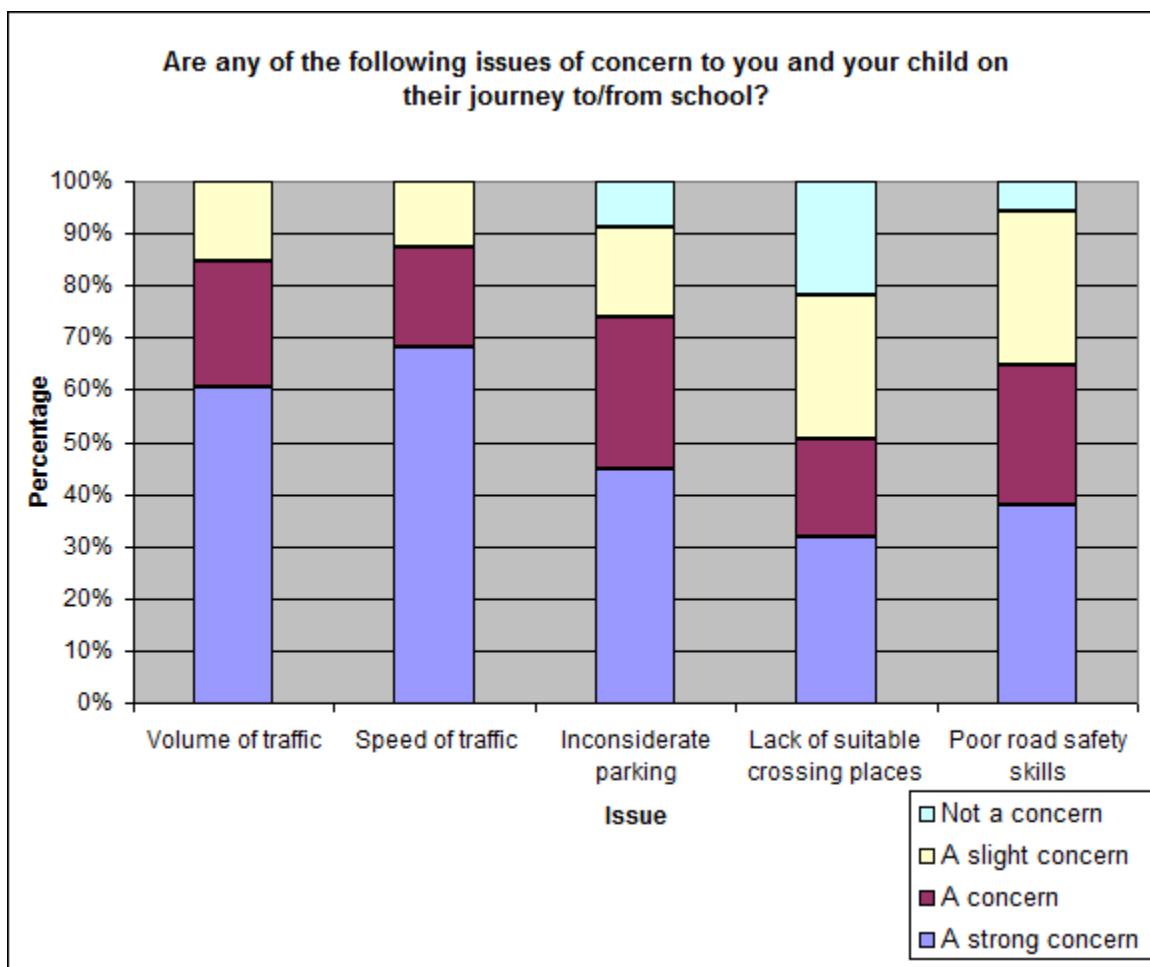
Answer	Count	Percentage
Yes	27	36%
No	47	64%



Answer	Count	Percentage
Everyday	8	13%
Often	9	15%
Occasionally	20	33%
Never	23	38%



Answer	Count	Percentage
Everyday	3	5%
Often	0	0%
Occasionally	21	35%
Never	36	60%



Volume of traffic			Lack of suitable crossing places		
Answer	Count	Percentage	Answer	Count	Percentage
Not a concern	0	0%	Not a concern	15	22%
A slight concern	11	15%	A slight concern	19	28%
A concern	17	24%	A concern	13	19%
A strong concern	43	61%	A strong concern	22	32%
Speed of traffic			Poor road safety skills		
Answer	Count	Percentage	Answer	Count	Percentage
Not a concern	0	0%	Not a concern	4	6%
A slight concern	9	13%	A slight concern	21	30%
A concern	14	19%	A concern	19	27%
A strong concern	49	68%	A strong concern	27	38%
Inconsiderate parking					
Answer	Count	Percentage			
Not a concern	6	9%			
A slight concern	12	17%			
A concern	20	29%			
A strong concern	31	45%			

Staff Survey Results

Staff were surveyed in February 2008.

How far is it from your home to school?

Less than 1 mile	2
1-3 miles	6
3-5 miles	1
5-10 miles	5
Over 10 miles	3

How do you usually travel to school?

Walk	2
Cycle	
Car alone	12
Car share	2
Train	
Bus	1

What do you see as the school's main travel/transport issues?

Car park area can become very busy at beginning and end of school day
Congested car park - car users blocking in others.
Car parking is a problem! Perhaps more pupils could walk to school
Busy road outside Over use of cars by parents
As a bus user, the lack of buses coming out of Sutton Coldfield through Boldmere. There are lots of local secondary schools and Sutton College which full the 107 bus making it very difficult to get on the bus once in Boldmere after the school finish.
Children who live close to school getting a lift instead of walking Dangers of busy car park
Parking
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Congestion in car park all peak times - Busy and dangerous roads - Crossing roads - 'Invisible' school
Parking and congestion - also some very dangerous parking by parents
Lots of children who live close to school always travel by car. Although I do not live that far away no direct bus - I would have to get different buses and this would take a long time.
Cars parked on road at peak times 2 lanes of traffic outside school entrance Accidents happen.

I think many parents are dropping children on the way to work and so walking is not an option
Congestion on car park Cars parked on road opposite school High number of working parents bring children in cars then carry on to work.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Big queues outside the school - Accident blackspot with one lane, going into two and cars overtaking on the outside - Car park issues - Children with no seat-belts on - Signs to warn there is a school here

Do you have any ideas for possible solutions?

Suggest a 'walk to school' week.
If pupil lives within half a mile or less - walk to school if time permits.
Walking trains.
New bus route that goes from Sutton through Boldmere to Perry Barr on loop system as this is a very heavily used route.
A walking bus type thing?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encourage walking - Signage in and around our location.
The dangers of the traffic lights and blind turning
Encourage/inform the parents/ children of the health benefits of walking
Pelican crossing
Public transport
More children to be encouraged to walk to school.
Zigzag lines on opposite side of road in addition to those on the school side.
Local police officers in to do 'talk'
Make parents aware of car park issues.

If you travel by car, would you be willing to car share with another member of staff?

Yes	10
No	2

What measures could the school or others take to help you to travel in a more sustainable way?

A walking bus for the pupils who live locally
Meet together to discuss car sharing as a staff.
Bus route to collect children
Encourage a walking bus
Difficult because it is not a 9-5 job and the person who lives closest to me is a T.A and tends to do shorter hours.
I don't think they could unless fund a new more economical car!!

Shower - I would cycle to work in summer

Are there any areas of the curriculum in which you currently cover school travel and road safety themes?

KS1 - some road safety talk before going on a school trip or for a geography walk.

Talk on road safety before school trips - KS1 and 2

Foundation stage - transport, people who help us

General safety when walk to field and on trips, KS2

KS1 - Geography - 'Around Our School' - we mention it but not in detail - this could be explained.

Yes, Geography KS2

Geography, Science, R.E

Annual visit from police

Citizenship/ Geography/ Maths - surveys

3. Transport Issues

There are a huge number of parents at the school who have to use cars to bring their children to school as they are going on to, or returning from work. This factor was mentioned by a large number of parents in the February 2008 parents' travel survey:

"In theory I would love to support a school travel plan but in reality a high proportion of parents drop and collect our children on our way to or returning from work."

Parent Comment

The number of children being driven to school leads to severe congestion every day in the church car park. This poses a danger to pupils who have to walk from the car park into school. The hazard is considerably increased by inconsiderate and dangerous driving and parking. Parents frequently ignore official parking bays, even parking in the exit and blocking in other vehicles. The school sends out repeated warnings about considerate and safe parking but this problem persists:

"I do strongly believe the issue of the school car park is addressed. Adults are very inconsiderate when parking especially in the afternoon, blocking the entrance and double parking. I have been collecting my children from St Nicholas for more than 10 years and the problem has got worse. There would be no access for emergency vehicles. I'm horrified by people's attitude and believe the school should take some action."

Parent Comment

"The car park is always a cause for concern as you have to dodge inconsiderate drivers and doors opening etc. I am surprised that an accident hasn't happened yet."

Parent Comment

Staff at the school are concerned that parents are unaware, or do not consider the fact that the car park is not school property. It belongs to the church and if problems in the car park become particularly bad, the church may withdraw its offer for the school to use it.

Parishioners can be inconvenienced by parents using the car park. Masses can coincide with school times, with parishioners and parents arriving at similar times. This leads to a lack of spaces, increased congestion, and parishioners can get blocked in:

"I know of one case where a parishioner, after attending mass, had to wait for 20 minutes to get their car out as a parent had parked inappropriately and had gone into school for something, possibly an assembly."

Parishioner Comment

"As an ex-parent, I am concerned about the increased number of cars in the car park. However, it is the dangers of the Jockey Road which seem to be the main issue. Improved signage and a reduced speed limit outside school would help."

Parishioner Comment

Parking problems extend beyond the church car park too, with local residents expressing concern at having their driveways blocked. Residents are blocked into their drives by inappropriate parking.

"Parents parking across driveways and on double yellow lines both annoying for residents on Jockey Road like myself as well as obstructing paths, making it difficult for pushchairs / wheel chairs to pass by. Also means having to cross road between parked cars which obstructs the view of both pedestrians and drivers alike"

Local resident and parent comment

Parents also sit with their engines running in the car park; which is unpleasant for children and other parents having to walk past. This is also an unnecessary waste of fuel and damaging to the environment.

Staff and governors are concerned that some parents ask children to wait for them in the car park at the end of the school day. The school's policy is that if parents are not there, children should return into school until a parent comes into school to collect them.

When asked in the parents' survey, where people park/stop to drop off/pick up children, a number of drivers (19%) said that they park in the pub car park next door to the church. The pub has expressed concern about this to the school. The school and church have also experienced problems with pub customers parking in the school car park. With extended licensing hours, the pub is open the majority of the time and therefore its customers can contribute to congestion at peak times. Mass has been interrupted on one occasion, as a pub customer had parked in the church car park and was then unable to get out. The overspill from both sites at different times of day means that it is not uncommon for cars to get blocked into either car park.

The school is set back from Jockey Road which is an extremely busy main road at all times of day. Traffic forms two lanes leading up to a cross roads not far from the school. Cars frequently accelerate towards the junction in order not to miss the lights changing. All pedestrians have to access the school by walking along at least some part of Jockey Road. This seems to be a very high concern for parents and staff:

"Jockey Road is an extremely busy road and the noise from the traffic is very loud, to the point that you have to shout to have a conversation. If the speed limit was reduced during peak hours, this would reduce the level of noise and make it safe for children to walk to school."

Parent Comment

"Accident blackspot with one lane going into two and cars overtaking on the outside"

Staff Comment

The junction of Boldmere Road, Jockey Road and Stonehouse Road (cross roads) was a prominent concern raised by all parties through consultation. The cross roads has traffic lights to control traffic flow and a pedestrian phase in all directions. However the pedestrian phase is not considered long enough. Very little time is allowed for crossing, and this is of particular concern to the school as this is where whole classes of pupils have to cross twice a week on their way

to Braemar field. The time is certainly insufficient for a class of 30 children to cross without hurrying (which is inappropriate and promotes poor road safety skills):

"One major concern that we have is the traffic lights at Boldmere Road/ Jockey Road. The time allowed to cross is very limited and on several occasions cars have continued to turn right after lights have turned red. I have contacted the council regarding this, however the problem still exists and I feel when crossing with more than a couple of children that accidents could easily happen."

Parent Comment

In addition, there is very little space to wait at the lights for them to change. This is of particular concern for crossing whole classes of children. The pavement is narrow, and is very close to the pub entrance with pub traffic pulling in and out. Parents have also raised this issue:

"Although many pupils use the crossing / traffic lights on Jockey Road, I'm not convinced it is a safe crossing. Many cars jump the lights and the space on the corner of Jockey/ Boldmere Road by Sutton Park Pub is very limited. At peak school times impatient parents and pupils push past waiting pedestrians, even those supervising a few children, often with pushchairs."

Particular danger spots on the walk to school were highlighted through consultation. Highbridge Road is a very busy road with poor visibility; the junction of Highbridge Road with Britwell Road is a particularly difficult and dangerous place to cross.

Boldmere Road, as a busy shopping centre, has constantly heavy traffic levels. Comments were raised about the zebra crossings on this road. Drivers are not guaranteed to stop at these - this illustrates the need for good road safety awareness of children. It is important that pupils know they still need to be vigilant, even at designated crossing points.

4. What our school is doing at the moment

Current policies, facilities and activities to promote safer and more sustainable travel.

- The local PCSO's visit the school and speak to children in both key stages about issues connected with road safety.
- We have regular safety briefings for children when ever they walk off site during the school day: For example Reception children will shortly be going on a walking trip into Boldmere. Parental consent is always gained for trips such as this. Children are always briefed beforehand and we always exceed the staff to pupil ratio.
- Travel related issues of safety, local citizenship, and the environment are regularly raised within the curriculum in topics such as PSHE, RE, Geography and Science.
- The school are keen to ensure that pupils develop necessary life skills and independence before they reach transition age. Year 6 parents are encouraged to ensure that their children are ready to travel to secondary school independently and safely.
- Some year 5 and 6 pupils travel to school without parental supervision. To make this as safe as possible, the school keeps a 'we walk to school' list. The school checks that these children have arrived each morning and phones parents if they are late.
- The school are working towards the National Healthy School Award. Promoting walking and physical activity is an integral part of this. We also run 'Wake up shake up' every morning to complement this.
- The school recycle and have a compost system for any fruit left-overs.
- The School Council ran an anti litter campaign with posters around the school which pupils in all year groups designed.

An important aspect of this travel plan is to continue maintaining these current practices and policies.

5. Summary of Main Issues and Objectives

The main issues which we have identified through consultation are:

- Speed of traffic in all roads surrounding the school, which are used as routes to school.
- Congestion in the school car park and the effect this has on the safety of pedestrians.
- The impact of parking congestion on local residents and parishioners.
- Crossing Jockey Road.
- Pupils are missing regular daily exercise and awareness of independence and important life skills.

Therefore these are the main objectives for our School Travel Plan:

Objective 1: To encourage sustainable and healthy alternatives to car transport.

This will:

- Help to reduce congestion on surrounding roads and in the church car park.
- Encourage regular exercise.
- Cut the school's carbon footprint.

Objective 2: To apply for physical improvements to safety on the route to school.

This will:

- Potentially lead to Safer Routes to School funding for improved signage, better crossing provision and other safety engineering measures.
- Make the journey to school safer for all pedestrians/cyclists.
- Raise awareness of the school's location.

Objective 3: To further develop road safety awareness of all pupils and parents.

This will:

- Ensure pupils have important safety life-skills.
- Endow parents with more confidence in the safety of the children en route to school.

6. Target Timetable

Objective 1: To encourage sustainable and healthy alternatives to car transport.

Targets	Actions	Date	Responsibility	Monitoring and Review Plans
Increase the number of children walk to school from approx 40% in February 2008 to 50% by January 2011	Within the new parents' induction, incorporate a 'getting to know you' theme which aims to generate possible links which may encourage shared travel (walking together, or car sharing)	Summer Term 2008. (Induction meetings begin in June 2008)	AH LD	Obtain informal feedback from parents
Decrease the number of cars in church car park from full to capacity in March 2008 to frequent spare spaces by March 2011.	Introduce a regular walking event (this could be walk once a week, or a half termly event) with increased promotion for walk to school weeks in May and October	May 2008, October 2008 and WTS weeks.	LD JB	Monitor numbers participating.
	Walk to school week resources provided by BCC	Further from Autumn Term 2008		
	Build a regular travel slot into the school newsletter. For example pupils' feedback of the walk to school could be provided. This will begin with feedback about the submission of the school travel plan.	From April, summer term 2008, (at least half termly)	LD and Head Teacher	
	To register on www.schooltravelwise.org.uk and to use this facility to promote travel options to this school site and particularly to secondary schools at transition age.	April 2008	LD	Logs on the website are recorded and information on this can be supplied.

	To continue to raise the profile of walking to school through a page on the school website. Feedback from walk to school events can be included in this.	Late Summer term 2008	MH, LD	
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Objective 2: To apply for physical improvements to safety on the route to school.

Target	Actions	Date	Responsibility	Monitoring and Review Plans
<p>Apply for 2008/9 Safer Routes to School funding to make the area outside school safer. The school would like to be considered for a major scheme, or minor measures if this is not possible. In particular, it is felt that the following measures should be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explicit signage to raise 	BCC to Consider the school for safer routes to school funding (Action Helen Budge and Tim Hickey)	April 08	Helen Budge and Tim Hickey	School Travel Plan advisor to report to school about success of SRTS and progress small measures
	Confirm to school whether St Nicholas Catholic Primary is included in the 2008/9 Safer Routes to School Programme	July 08	Helen Budge Tim Hickey	
	If a large scheme is not possible, the school <i>may</i> receive funding for minor engineering works, following assessment by the district engineer.	Sept 08	Naomi Coleman and District Engineer	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • awareness of the school's location. • Flashing warning lights on Jockey Road and the Britwell Road, Highbridge Road junction. • Extended guardrailing at the Jockey Road pedestrian crossing, to provide a safer waiting area for pedestrians. • Improved crossing facilities on Highbridge/ Britwell junction. • Reduced speed limit on Jockey Road 	<p>Minor engineering works due for completion</p>	<p>March 09</p>	<p>Naomi Coleman and District Engineer</p>	
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Objective 3: To further develop road safety awareness of all pupils and parents.

Targets	Actions	Date	Responsibility	Monitoring and Review Plans
<p>Further develop road safety awareness of all pupils and parents throughout academic year 2008/9 and on an ongoing annual basis.</p>	<p>To maintain close links with the community police officers and PCSOs.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>All staff.</p>	<p>Pupils grasp of subject and will be monitored through lessons</p>
	<p>To use school travelwise as a curriculum resources, and also promote to parents as a tool for planning safe travel, particularly at transition age.</p>	<p>June and July 2008</p>	<p>LD Y6 teacher</p>	

	To develop closer links with the BCC Road Safety Officer. With the aim of providing pedestrian training for KS1 and Road Safety Assemblies.	To contact Paul Ruffle Autumn Term 2008	LD, PR	
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7. Responsibilities

Parents

- Encourage children to walk to school safely.
- Park safely within church car park and away from the school gates - not parking on pavements, school zigzag markings or double yellow lines.
- Consider if a car has to be used to take children to school.
- Consider local residents when parking on residential streets.
- Read and respond to newsletters and surveys the school send out.

Local Authority

- Provide advice, assistance and information where appropriate.
- Highlight sources of funding or resources for travel plan measures.

Governors

- Support Lesley Devlin with the travel plan and offer help and assistance in taking the plan forward.
- Provide advice on ways the funding can be spent.

School Council

- Discuss views and ideas of pupils at School Council Meetings.
- For School Council Representatives to filter discussions to other pupils.

Pupils

- Show awareness of road safety skills when walking to various school activities and trips.
- Show understanding of road safety issues and practise skills learned.
- Advise Mrs Devlin of any issues or concerns regarding road safety.

Teachers

- Prepare and deliver, if necessary, updated road safety teaching, gathering materials and being involved with the road safety team at Birmingham City Council.
- Regularly incorporate the importance of sustainable transport in the curriculum.
- Where possible, consider sustainable travel options such as car sharing.

Head Teacher and Deputy Head Teacher

- Oversee the programme and involve relevant stakeholders.
- Delegate responsibilities to other staff and monitor effectiveness.
- Provide up-dated information on the travel plan to parents through newsletters.
- Inform pupils of the travel plan.

8. Consultation

Parents

A parents survey was sent out in February 2008. The school received a good response to this. It was clear that parents had given time and consideration to filling in the survey and providing comments. 74 replies were received by due date with more arriving each day. This represents a good proportion of pupils at the school as many surveys will concern more than one child.

Governors

The School Travel Plan was introduced to the full governing body at a meeting on March 17th.

Those who are associate members and staff have been consulted with personally.

Pupils

All pupils were surveyed in February 2008 by class teachers. 100% of pupils were surveyed.

Residents

In February 2008, a letter was sent to residents on Jockey Road opposite the school. This explained that the school is working on a School Travel Plan and asked for residents' comments. A copy of this letter is provided in the appendix

Parishioners

Parishioners were also given consultation letters in February 2008; this was felt particularly important as the school and church are so integrally linked. The church car park is a prominent issue within our travel plan.

Staff

Staff were briefed on the School Travel Plan and on completing the pupil surveys at a meeting in February 2008.

All staff were also asked to fill out a travel survey. Responses to this were detailed and have been included in the survey results section.

Local Authority

The plan has been written with advice given from the School Travel Plan Advisor.

The Local Education Authority will be involved in discussions regarding alterations to the environment, both in design and funding.

9. Monitoring and Review

Monitoring

Changes in travel modes will be monitored through the data collected in the annual January school census. More informal assessment of travel issues will also take place - for example congestion in the church car park will be monitored.

The Travel Plan links with the School Improvement Plan through the Every Child Matters agenda.

- **Be Healthy** - to increase physical activity and promote healthy lifestyles and healthy choices, encouraging children to participate in walking initiatives. The Travel Plan will also link with the Healthy Schools initiative.
- **Stay Safe** - encouraging safer routes to school. Developing road safety skills and cycle training increases the safety of children on the roads and teaching about potential dangers.
- **Enjoy and Achieve** - Attend and enjoy school, achieve educational attainment for example to make the school journey an enjoyable, positive experience. Wider range of children enabled and encouraged to participate in physical activity e.g. walking initiatives.
- **Making a Positive Contribution** - Engage in decision making and support the community and environment. Eliciting children's views by their participation in the development of the school travel plan. Empowering children to engage in decision making and encouraging community interaction. Involve the School Council in the decision making process as regards their journey to school. Offering competitions to get children involved in road safety and raise awareness.

- Achieve economic well being: working with the School Council and children to continuously promote awareness of sustainable travel and the wider environmental issues. Children will grow into adults who are aware of these issues and can make positive choices.

Review

The action plan will be reviewed on an annual basis. The next review will take place in May 2009 and will be conducted by the Deputy Head and the Head Teacher.

The review will consider pupil travel needs arising from new developments in education and transport provision. The School Travel Plan will be revised as necessary to take account of these.

Appendix

Parents' Survey Comments

What changes/initiatives could encourage more pupils to walk and cycle to school or improve walking and cycling for those pupils who already do?

Greater awareness of road sense. Road sense initiatives.
Walking bus on various routes to school. Petition to council for consideration of cycle lane on main routes to school. i.e. JockeyRoad, ChesterRoad, College Road
Improve safety measures at busy junctions i.e. Jockey Road and Oakwood Road junction is very difficult for children to cross safely
If pupils are to cycle there should be cycling courses to teach road safety etc. These could be held at the school. Currently parents have to pay for these.
Walking groups/ parties to ensure fun and safety and incentives.
Personally - car is only option due to working hours.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve crossings - Cycle lanes
Safer routes. Earlier supervision in the playground so that parents that work have time to walk the children to school and still have time to get back home to pick up the car and get to work on time.
Cycling could be a problem with the very busy Boldmere Road and Jockey Road
More information on the harm to the environment, more positive awareness of health benefits. Possible class incentives for most walking/cycling.
Teachers could encourage a 'buddy' system which would encourage children to walk with others who live on their route.
By the government not implementing school allocation based on lottery but maintain the proximity admission policy.
More education is needed on parent's attitudes towards using the car instead of walking - children follow parents.
Speed bumps/ lower speed limits on Jockey Road. More safe crossing places. Walking bus a great idea especially if it could be routed around quieter side roads and just the short end of Jockey Road to school.
Cycle routes would help: the roads are for too dangerous for children to cycle on in the morning/afternoon. Walking bus would be an incentive.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Closing the church car park - less parking I think would encourage more walking. 2) Encourage pupils to take cycling proficiency test - this could be done during school time.
Think the main road too dangerous for cyclists in rush hour - can't use pavement but no cycling lane - maybe the introduction of one would help.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) to reduce the speed of traffic on the main roads 2) better lighting 3) better facilities to leave bikes/scooters at school 4) road traffic education for the children.
Set routes for walking, cycling. Road markings nearer school, especially at school entrance where cars enter and leave car park. Incentives - badges for walkers.
Introduce a rota system where 1 parent/carer walks to school with several pupils.
Probably the main constraint is busy working parents who are en route to work and

therefore use car. However shared journeys with other parents may help overcome this.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Close the car park from 8.45 - 9.15 and 3- 4pm or have a barrier installed to only allow staff in, and then open for masses etc. 2) Have a cycle path on the pavement of Jockey Road Mon - Fri 8-9am and 3-4pm and use 1/2 m of the road to keep cars at a distance. 3) Zebra crossing on Britwell Road (school end) 4) Reduce speed limit to 20mph on Jockey Road 8.30 - 9 and 3.30 - 4pm
Cycle lanes
To be escorted so that they are not alone - time constraints with work do not allow me the time to walk with my child
I wouldn't let my children cycle to school as the roads are too busy and dangerous. Cycle routes and lanes may improve this. Walking could be improved by traffic calming measures on side roads and more crossings on main roads.
Cycling a problem since roads are busy and storage at school of bike and helmets is a problem. Children enjoy walking together - the 'walking bus' sounds good.
A merit chart or system to reward those who walk or cycle.
It is not a case of encouraging pupils to walk to school - it is based on circumstances. I leave work at 3pm in the city centre, to get to the car and school for 3.30, not leaving me time to walk.
The only issue, in terms of danger, is the congestion on Jockey Road, however, there is little that can be done to avoid this. Perhaps introducing a 'walking bus' or having a cycle path somewhere in the car park?
Reward stickers/ certificates.
A walking bus is a good idea. I know other schools that have this in place and it works well.
Better and safer and higher quantity of cycle racks at the school for both infant and junior.
Better awareness of drivers that school in the vicinity
The walking bus.
Zebra crossings on more side roads in vicinity of the school. Cycle lanes. DAILY media announcements to 'cut your speed' between 8.30 and 9.00 and 3.15 and 4.15
Perhaps making arrangements via the school for children who live on the same route to walk together. Making arrangements via the school carries more weight and makes it more official than making individual arrangements.
If both parents work it's impossible to walk to and from school and get to work on time. These questions are totally irrelevant (q's 3 &4). I fail to see how the government can encourage women back to work and want them to walk children to school unless of course you work at the same school.
Not possible for all children due to work commitments of parents.
Not allowing cars into the car park. There have already been several accidents - the next could involve a child. Teachers could talk to children about safety of walking to school, rather than tell them that they're 'too young'
I wouldn't want my child to cycle on the road, drivers aren't careful enough around cyclists. It would be a good idea to designate the other edge of the pavement for cyclists to use (of course that would be a council issue)
'The walking bus'
Maybe look at issuing certificates of achievements for walking/cycling to school as in the 'keep smart, keep fit' initiative or issue activity leaflets for parents/children to complete re journey to/from school. To improve walking/cycling for pupils would be to

reduce volume and speed of traffic and inconsiderate parking.
Encouragement from parents.
Cycling proficiency courses and cycle shed facilities cycle lanes on the major routes to school.
The cars leaving the school car park as the children cross over with the lollipop man present a real danger. Some are too impatient to leave and are not fully aware of the children crossing and passing in front of them to the infants.
A safer society
Joint walking with other children/families.
Main concern is safety and supervision.
The walk to school would be improved, less fraught, if there were pedestrians crossings at Highbridge Road, Boldmere Road junctions: Antrobus Road/ Boldmere Road junction and Gate Lane / Boldmere Road.
Clear, safe crossing places on roads, particularly side roads need as short cuts by drivers.
Walking bus or bus children to a collection point to then walk under supervision
Parents to walk other children to school, i.e. take turns.
Walking bus
Lower speed limit on Jockey Road.
More flexible drop off time prior to 8.50am
Regular focus at school initiatives/ discussion about importance and reasons for walking to school. Termly reminder to parents about need to walk.

Please comment on the school travel plan, any issues or concerns you have about the school journey and what measures you think should be considered to improve the school journey.

<p>Would not allow them to join a walking bus due to concerns about safety on Jockey Road. A group of children messing around on a busy road such as this could be very dangerous. A good scheme for quieter areas I think.</p> <p>Maybe each term have a 'waling to school' day. Count how many children have walked that day, get a sticker if you walked and each time try to beat the last number you had, or prize for class who had most children</p>
<p>Crossing Highbridge Road at the junction with Britwell and Western Road - cars go too fast and it's hard to see due to the bend and number of parked cars.</p>
<p>We are very fortunate as we live in Wakefield Close and always walk to school. I also sometimes walk other children to the school which helps with the number of cars going to the school. However, reversing off my drive is difficult at school times because of the number of cars parked in Wakefield Close. It is rather frustrating when trying to get to work myself.</p>
<p>I would welcome the idea of a walking bus for my child. However other issues come into play i.e.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I need to be at work early - I have lung disease therefore walking to school with me with be physically difficult.
<p>I think the school journey could be improved by any traffic calming scheme which reduced the speed at which motorists travel (particularly at start and end of school day)</p>
<p>I would love to be in a position no to have to use a car. Unfortunately my car is an 'essential' part of my contract. I would support the walk and stride scheme as it benefits many factors: avoid school run, exercise.</p>

<p>As a working parent we continue our journey on to work after dropping children off at before school club.</p> <p>A walking bus is a fantastic idea - but would it be at different times i.e. to suit school children attending before school club?</p> <p>Road safety is a real concern. Very difficult crossing at Highbridge/Britwell Road. Traffic so very fast and children would need a high lever of road safety at this cross roads - lollipop person would be helpful here.</p>
<p>No measures could be put in place to safeguard children from the events of the last few days.</p>
<p>We are keen to encourage our children to walk part/all the way to school, however work and out of school activities make time critical and do not allow the 25 minute required walk all the way home.</p> <p>One major concern that we have is the traffic lights at Boldmere Road/ Jockey Road. The time allowed to cross is very limited and on several occasions cars have continued to turn right after lights have turned red. I have contacted the council regarding this, however the problem still exists and I feel when crossing more than a couple of children then accidents could easily happen.</p>
<p>In principle the idea of a school walking plan is good. However, it needs to be talked about at an open forum to discuss hazards/ risks that may be associated before implementation. There has to be clear guidance with documented points to follow and adhere to. An idea would be start the communication process at PTA meetings with invites to parents/ guardians etc.</p>
<p>Walking bus appears a good idea.</p>
<p>We realise in some cases it may prove difficult to avoid travelling to/from school by car due to work commitments or one or both parents or even child car commitments for that matter and time constraints of these, but agree there is a need to reduce travelling to school by car. Not only for congestion purposes but also for a more healthy, active lifestyle.</p>
<p>Our school journey is fine, when my youngest daughter doesn't have to be dropped at nursery, we will walk to school everyday.</p>
<p>Our school run is done 5 times a week on route to work. We use before school twice a week - Madhatters and Seesaws. Both are an earlier drop off at 8.00 - Madhatters there is a very slight volume on the school premises - very safe. And Seesaws bring a number of children all together which equates to car share?</p> <p>The walking bus is a fantastic solution to car volumes and encouraging pupils to walk.</p>
<p>As my children are in the junior school, I would like to see a path or marked area at the 'in' side of the car park. I often see cars pulling in at speed and even though there are children walking down there, parents who are drivers treat it as their right of way. Often I have to run or grab my child out of the way. A lot of children use this route into school, as they have done for years. It is always the same parents blocking the drive each AM and PM. A patrol should be carried out randomly. PM - the car park is always a cause for concern as you have to dodge inconsiderate drivers and doors opening etc. I am surprised that an accident hasn't happened yet - and am not going to let it be my child!</p> <p>Also a 20 mph zone by school - like Maney Hill.</p>
<p>Encourage parents not to use the car park. Many parents actually sit in their cars from 8.30 or earlier to guarantee that their car gets a space! Parents very misguidedly seem to think that they're doing the right thing.</p>
<p>I believe it is a good idea to address school travel. For families that live close to the</p>

<p>school and are able to escort their children on the school journey, walking or cycling, it is very important they use that method. Difficulties arise when parents are working and need their car for work, due to time limits it is unavoidable a car journey has to be made.</p> <p>I do strongly believe the issue of the school car park is addressed. Adults are very inconsiderate when parking especially in the afternoon, blocking the entrance and double parking. I have been collecting my children from St Nicholas for more than 10 years and the problem has got worse. There would be no access for emergency vehicles. I'm horrified by people's attitude and believe the school should take some action.</p>
<p>Jockey Road is extremely busy and is a main route used by emergency vehicles i.e. ambulance, Police and Fire and so after using the lollipop man it is still very hazardous for young children to cross at the traffic lights (Boldmere Road/ Stonehouse Road) without a parent.</p>
<p>My child and I would be very interested in the 'walking bus' as I would be very concerned about my 9 year old walking got school unsupervised, especially having to cross the Highbridge Road/ Britwell Road / Western Road junction.</p>
<p>If children could be left before 8.50 at school, it may be easier for working parents to walk children to school and return home or continue on to work. Using public transport or walking - time is the issue. The Jockey Road is too busy and fast moving to allow my children to walk to school alone, even though they have asked. It is also the age of the children who have limited judgement of traffic speed when crossing roads. I believe a walking bus would solve these issues.</p>
<p>The walking bus though good in theory poses some problems, e.g. are children to wait unaccompanied at stops for parent volunteer to arrive (behaviour disruptions and risk of unsavoury people hanging around the shops) <u>or</u> break down in communication with parent volunteer being ill, not turning up without notice <u>or</u> times not being rigidly adhered to. I think parents dropping to a volunteer's house at a certain time would be better - group leaves house at set time even if some not present.</p> <p>In big favour of more zebra crossings on side roads - possibly with flashing warning lights, that can be enabled and disabled at the peak school times, to make them serviceable in all weathers. DEFINITELY NOT MORE PELICAN CROSSINGS.</p>
<p>I think a travel plan is a good idea. We drive to school most of the time. In the morning this is necessary as I continue straight to work. However the plan makes me realise I should aim to walk to school to pick them up. This makes a lot of sense as trying to park in the school car park can be a real headache!</p>
<p>We would walk to school everyday if time allowed, but I have to drop elder child at different school and then proceed to St Nicholas then I have to be at work for 9am. I also drop another older child to Bishop Walsh every day from another family.</p>
<p>In theory I would love to support a school travel plan but in reality a high proportion of parents drop and collect our children on our way to or returning from work. Unless employees become more flexible towards parents needing to do the school run and unless the school allows or accommodates more spaces in Madhatters; then I don't see how the situation can improve.</p>
<p>I drive to school on the part time days I work and I need to get off straight to work quickly. On the days I do not work, we walk to and from school</p>
<p>I don't feel parents should be allowed to park/ pull off the church forecourt at peak times. If there were several designated meeting areas approximately 10-15 minutes walk from the school, where you got your child to this point for a set time, then a walking bus from this point. I feel this would be a great traffic calming idea. The</p>

<p>school drop in the morning is hazardous for parents let alone children, an accident waiting to happen! Let's do it sooner than 2011!</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A zebra crossing would be useful. - Warning signs at entrance and exit to car park as children have to cross these to access school path. - Parents parking across driveways and on double yellow lines both annoying for residents on Jockey Road like myself as well as obstructing paths, making it difficult for pushchairs / wheel chairs to pass by. Also means having to cross road between parked cars which obstructs the view of both pedestrians and drivers alike
<p>No incentives for children minders @ St Nicholas to walk children to school in the morning, hence the reason I use Seesaws. Boldmere school advertises child minders for working mums to allow them to walk. Perhaps St Nicholas could advertise for this service.</p>
<p>Any measures put in place to encourage a child to walk to school is an excellent idea. A zebra crossing on the Jockey Road would improve the safety concern (between Melrose Ave and the lights at Boldmere Rd). Flashing lights/ sign/ speed indicators all would help to improve the safety on the Jockey Road.</p>
<p>As mentioned before, I have to drop an older child at Bishop Walsh school first as the bus service is not very good from New Oscott to that area. I would love to be able to do more walking but can't due to the above. I think residential roads nearby could be used more to reduce congestion in the school car park. Also we used to be able to park in the pub car park next door but this has been blocked off now.</p>
<p>I think this is a very good idea however not suitable as a working parent who drops off on route to work place.</p>
<p>School car park should be 2 min drop off only - i.e. no parking like an airport.</p>
<p>As both parents work full time our daughter attends the before and after school club at Madhatters. As dropping off/ collecting normally coincides with us travelling to work, we would find walking to school inconvenient though we think the walking bus is a good idea.</p>
<p>Measures to consider: Car share, walking bus, school bus Concerns re <u>car park</u>: fear of an accident while in the care of another parents. Not sure my child would be comfortable with this. Possibly good option for older children. <u>Walking bus</u>: Great for fine weather, but given we live quite a distance from school, this wouldn't be great in rain/ extreme weather. <u>School bus</u>: difficulty with arranging route to collect maximum children.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jockey road is an extremely busy road and the noise from the traffic is very loud, to the point that you have to shout to have a conversation. If the speed limit was reduced during peak hours, this would reduce the level of noise and make it safe for children to walk to school. - The pavement is quite narrow and the road is fairly wide. So the pavement could be widened to encourage walking and cycling. - I would like to see zebra crossings on Britwell Road and Wakefield Road as the traffic zooms around those corners. - Use an 'electric' bus to collect the children at designated points all the way along Jockey Road.
<p>Main concerns when walking to/ from school is the volume and speed of traffic combined with limited road safety skills of my child (only 4 $\frac{1}{2}$). Crossing side roads poses problems</p>

<p>due to cars speeding around corners. Leaving school on foot is biggest area of concern with lots of people excitable children running ahead together/ playing, a very busy car park with lots of cars entering and leaving (crossing over the pavement we walk on) and the very busy main road.</p>
<p>Jockey Road is very busy and it always concerns me when walking to and from school. The entrance and exit to the school car park should be clearly defined as many children just run across as they don't see where the entrance/ exit is - some road markings would be helpful. Lessons in road safety would also be good to add to the lessons parents give at home.</p>
<p>Think with school on a main road with not a lot of available parking spaces choices are limited - most people live close by but don't always walk because of need to travel on with time constraints. The walking bus would be a great idea to reduce the need for extra numbers/ volume of people needing a safe drop within school gate. Would be happy to put children into safe control of walking bus and when available would be happy to be part of its running.</p>
<p>Church car park is a danger hazard for children - inconsiderate parents parking - this needs to be monitored - closing the car park to parents would be safer for children and their parents.</p>
<p>My only concern with all of the ideas mentioned is that most parents I know drop their children on their way to work so participation in park and stride and the walking bus may be limited. I also consider the roads too dangerous to allow children to cycle on them. I would love to see the walking bus implemented however, and this could well benefit working parents as they could drop their children at the walking bus stop and then continue on to work.</p>
<p>We live on a very busy main road (Jockey Road). Many of St Nicholas' children walk to and from school on this road and a lot of secondary school children. If parents have to drive to school and they know other parents living close who do the same, encourage them to share. (Possibly send out a survey to be filled in). Encourage parents to attend local council meeting - speed limits/ bumps and more crossings etc.</p>
<p>Parents should be encouraged to walk if their journey is not dependent on going to work, drop other children off after etc... Ask the question 'Is the journey necessary?' Encourage children and parents on health issues, exercise, the environment etc.</p>
<p>The main reason for the use of our car is due to the fact I live 1 mile away and have a 1½ year old and a 3 year old. The distance will become less of an issue as they get older and more road aware.</p>
<p>The plan is good. The only reason why we have to travel by car is due to having to take a sibling to a different nursery. Time constraints at present make it impossible to walk.</p>
<p>The most dangerous part of the walk to school is when the children enter the church car park, no amount of road safety skills prepare them for the total lack of respect that some parents have regarding the safety of the children. I strongly believe that parents should not be allowed to park in the car park as some will never consider the polite notices that are put in the school newsletter. If St Nicholas school want to ensure the safety of the children a 'no parking' policy on the car park would greatly assist.</p>
<p>Glad to see the school actively encouraging walking, for both health and environmental reasons. Although many pupils use the crossing / traffic lights on Jockey Road, I'm not convinced it is a safe crossing. Many cars jump the lights and the space on the corner of Jockey/ Boldmere Road by Sutton Park Pub is very limited. At peak school times impatient parents and pupils push past waiting pedestrians, even those supervising a few</p>

children, often with pushchairs.
I think it is an excellent idea and would like to support it. The initiative should be given significance in the SIP.
If school was able to accept pupils earlier e.g. from 8.30 - 3.40am and somehow facilitate supervision of children until 3.45pm, this may enable more parents to walk children around work commitments and arrangements for additional children in the family.
The parking in the school car park is dreadful. Some people have no consideration for others or the fact that an emergency vehicle could not get through or a child could get injured. A walking bus would be excellent idea for those parents who normally pick up or drop off at 9.00 or 3.30. Not all families would benefit however if they worked out of school hours.
I do think that a walking bus is an excellent idea. However I would not use it yet as I prefer to bring my children to school myself or for my husband to do it. However once my child reached Year 6 I would consider it to encourage independence.
Cars travel very quickly down College and Jockey Road and this is of great concern to me. They use it as a speed alley sometimes. Perhaps speed cameras would slow the traffic to the 40 mph limit Also, better/ safer places to cross busy junctions such as Jockey Road / Oakwood Road - you have to check 3 ways are clear before you can cross safely and this is very difficult for children to do.
Totally approve with implementation of the travel plan. Walking bus would be excellent and would iron out large number of travel problems we face daily. My major concern on a quick fit is the school car park and the incorrect parking of parents. This is very unsafe and inconsiderate to pupils and parents. Despite numerous reminders from school, people constantly ignore notice and reminders. Good suggestion would be railings down drive in entrance that would allow pupils to walk safely out of the school grounds.
I use the car due to health reasons though when this is improved I plan to walk to school. If/when children walk on their own their lack of road sense greatly concerns me.

Signatures

Signed _____

Date _____

Anna McGuire - Head Teacher

Signed _____

Date _____

Lesley Devlin - Deputy Head Teacher

Signed _____

Date _____

Patricia Platt - Chair of Governors

Signed _____

Date _____

Chris Gilbert - Head of Asset Management, Birmingham City Council

Signed _____

Date _____

Chris Haynes - Strategic Policy Manager, Head of Transportation Strategy

