

# St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

## SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN

*“We learn, love, respect and accept our responsibilities through our faith in Jesus Christ”*

### Autumn Term 2017 - Review

#### **Aim:**

- St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School is committed to ensuring that everyone travelling to and from the school can do so as safely as possible. We encourage those travelling to the site to use environmentally friendly modes of transport and to be aware of the needs of those living and working in the immediate vicinity of the school. We believe this contributes to the health, safety and developing independence of pupils and good relationships with our neighbours and businesses.
- Learning is promoted by offering a broad and balanced curriculum for each pupil. The majority of our school policies are associated with the objectives of this travel plan by addressing pedestrian, cycle, bus and car journeys. (Every Child Matters, PSHE, Core and Foundation Curriculum Policies)

This plan has been developed by the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) with support and co-operation from staff, pupils, parents, governors.

Our Travel Plan co-ordinator is: Michelle Keating

#### **Current Situation**

Main Travel Issues for the school:

- High Street Puckeridge creates problems especially when cars are parked on either side of the road
- Traffic congestion in the High Street especially at the time of start and finish of school day when a number of vehicles are involved in dropping off and collecting pupils
- Housing opposite the school has created more off-street private parking but not sufficient for all of our neighbours vehicles
- Hairdresser shop next to the school – customers use whatever place available for parking outside school
- School car park is small, just enough spaces for current staff and visitors
- Often buses for School Swimming/Visits are unable to park in the lay-by
- People who live on the street park in the bays reserved for School transport
- Neighbouring houses have on average more than one vehicle per household
- Parked cars are a dangerous hazard to road crossing patrol as view is constantly blocked

## ***School***

The school is a small voluntary aided Catholic Primary School with approximately 121 pupils ranging from 3 years and four month to 11 years. It is located at the outskirts of Puckeridge, .

Pupils join our school from neighbouring parishes – Old Hall Green, Buntingford, Bishop Stortford and Ware. Also from Standon, Dane End, Thundridge, and surrounding villages.

School gates open at 08.30 for an 08.55 start and school finishes at 15.15.

St Thomas of Canterbury also has a Nursery. Currently pupils join the school for morning sessions 08.55 – 12.00. We offer 30 hour Nursery provision.

Pupils remain on the premises for most of the time except when they visit the church for school Masses; investigate the neighbourhood for curriculum coverage; KS1 Road Safety and KS2 Cycling Proficiency; swimming for all year groups (coach collects children and takes them to Bishop Stortford); and trips away from School.

After school clubs run all year around, pick up is usually at 16.30.

The school offers parents/carers evenings, open days, various fund raising activities including Christmas Bazaar, Summer Fayre and other uses during the academic year.

Curriculum Opportunities across the Key Stages including the Early Years :

- Safe and environmentally friendly school journeys/visits can be discussion topics at PSHE lessons (SEAL Programme), Collective Worship and Assemblies, Circle Time, School Council
- As a half form entry school we aim to take in 30 pupils in Nursery/Reception class and 30 pupils in each of the year groups 1/2, 3/4, and 5/6.
- Parental access to the school for dropping off and picking up the children is in front of the school entrance. This is not conducive to safe practice as road is narrow and visibility can be obscured by parked vehicles and vans. Often in the morning Parents park their vehicles some distance from the school and walk with their children to the school entrance. The reverse happens at the end of the school day. We encourage parents to comply with this practice
- Provision for safe storage of bicycles/scooters has been accommodated by the provision of a cycle shelter

## ***Journeys to School***

Staff undertake a 'hands up' survey each year of all pupils. Parents are also

asked to fill in questionnaires on their regular travel to and from school.

#### Summary of Results:2017

33 = 28.45% of pupils usually walk to school

73 = 62.93% of pupils usually travel by car/taxi

10 = 8.62% of pupils usually travel by bicycle/scooter

116 Pupils

We have considered the use of walking buses but this has proved to be impracticable.

#### **Objectives**

- A reduction in car related journeys in the morning and afternoon
- Increase proportion of total journeys to school by walking, cycling and bus
- Increase the road safety awareness of pupils – already in place in both key stages
- Consult with Herts Highways, PCSO, neighbours and business to develop a school travel strategy promoting safety and environmental sustainability
- Further improve the pedestrian access to the school. A safe walking area has been provided within the school car park
- Total clearance of vehicles which may obscure the view of road crossing patrol person and thus prevent accidents when pupils cross the road
- To ensure safe crossing of the road when pupils attend the Church

#### ***Working towards these objectives will lead to the following benefits:***

- Pupil health and safety
- Greater awareness of transport issues and the impact of traffic on the environment
- Improved relationships with the local community
- Reduced congestion and pollution around school
- Opportunities for pupils to be involved in improvements to their own environment

#### **Targets**

To evaluate success in working towards our objectives, the following targets for each of our objectives have been set: (See Action Plan)

#### ***Action Plan***

*See Appendix*

#### ***Publicity***

We will publicise our Plan in the following ways:

- A summary of our Plan will be included in the school website
- Information to parents of new pupils will include our Travel Plan objectives and information about travel initiatives
- School newsletters will include regular updates on travel issues, and where appropriate the parish newsletter and local press will be informed.

- Travel Plan developments will be included, as appropriate, as an item on Governors meeting and School Council Agendas
- Road Safety Unit
- Local PS News / Businesses
- Parent Teacher Association Involvement

***Monitoring arrangements***

Our school co-ordinator will organise an annual class by class ‘hands up’ survey each year to evaluate the effectiveness of the Travel Plan and its actions to date.

This will be reported to:

- Co-ordinator, Senior Leadership Team (SLT), who will review the Plan as appropriate
- Neighbouring residents / parishioners, businesses
- Governing Body
- School Council
- PTA

***Review Arrangements***

- We will review the Plan annually in November following the outcome of the monitoring arrangements.
- The School's Travel Plan Co-ordinator will be responsible for arranging the review
- We will review the Plan immediately in the event of any accident, issue or development that may affect the Plan.

***Reporting***

Our monitoring results will be reported to:  
 School’s Senior Leadership Team (SLT)  
 Parent Teacher Association  
 School Council  
 Governing Body and/or its Committees

Signed: Michelle Keating.....(Head Teacher)

Vincent King.....(Chair of Governors)

Date: 20 November 2017  
 Review Date: November 2019