

WOODHOUSE GROVE SCHOOL
DCSF NUMBER: 383/6113

SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN

1. INTRODUCTION: AIMS & OBJECTIVES

This plan has been developed as it is a condition of planning applications 06/02481 and 07/02524. Its aims and objectives are:

- 1.1 To campaign for improved public transport provision in the area.
- 1.2 To promote and facilitate car sharing.
- 1.3 To increase patronage on school bus services.
- 1.4 To ensure the safety of all pupils within the school site.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHOOL

- 2.1 'Woodhouse Grove School' consists of three sections on two sites, about three quarters of a mile apart. Woodhouse Grove is the secondary school, admitting pupils aged 11-18. On a separate site are Bronte House, the Junior School, for pupils aged 5-11 and Ashdown Lodge, the Early Years Department, for pupils aged rising 3 to 5.
- 2.2 The school is on the A658 at Apperley Bridge, on the Leeds/Bradford border but comes under the Leeds authority. Appropriate location maps are included at Appendix One.
- 2.3 Woodhouse Grove is an independent, co-educational boarding and day school with some 700 pupils at the senior school and some 300 on the junior school site. There are 110 boarders of whom 8 are members of the junior school. These numbers are the maximum the school would anticipate on roll.
- 2.4 The school employs 86 teaching staff and 125 non-teaching staff. Of these 21 are resident, representing 10% of the total staff population.
- 2.5 Although there are two peak times as parents deliver and collect children, the school's provision of an extended day means that children's arrival at and departure from school are staggered, thus spreading the traffic flow. Children may arrive variously, dependent on age, between 7.45 and 9.00 am and leave between 3.30 and 6.00 pm. On a Saturday the senior school runs an extensive sporting programme.
- 2.6 There is extensive community use of the Senior School, especially the Swimming Pool and Sports Centre. This includes regular evening and weekend use.

3. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The two relevant planning applications are 06/02481 Car Park at Ashdown Lodge, built in August 2007 and 07/02524 Music/Drama block at Woodhouse Grove, commencing in March 2008, to be completed by October 2008.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 During the Autumn Term 2007 consultation took place with parents, pupils and staff, using the given pro-formas as a base. Details are at Appendix Two.

- 4.2 Meeting with Caroline Emmerson, School Travel Adviser (West) Leeds Authority on 29th October 2007.
- 4.3 Request to City Services for School Warning sign. (November 2007)
- 4.4 An update on the progress of the Travel Plan has been given and discussed at each term's Governors' Meeting.

5. EXISTING TRAVEL PATTERNS

- 5.1 As an independent school, the school has a much larger catchment area than a state school which will usually serve its immediate neighbourhood.
- 5.2 Public transport to the school can only be obtained by the A658. Transport links along this road are very poor with bus services almost non-existent. The school has campaigned and will continue to campaign for a vastly improved service for pupils and for part-time staff.
- 5.3 The nearest railway station, Apperley Bridge, which is adjacent to Woodhouse Grove, closed in the 1960's. The school's Governors continue to press the appropriate authorities to action the proposed re-opening of this station. The school read with alarm the article in 'Leeds Transport Today' in January 2008 suggesting that a delay might be caused to the proposed opening of Apperley Bridge Station and responded vigorously to the appropriate authorities to assure them that higher passenger numbers than originally anticipated would be forthcoming.
- 5.4 The A658 is a very busy arterial route between Leeds and Bradford. Pavements between the two school sites are narrow. Walking and cycling to school are inadvisable for pupils on grounds of safety.
- 5.5 The Parental Survey revealed the following information:
 - a) 74% live more than 2 miles from the school.
 - b) The main method of non-resident pupil travel to school is car (78%) including 11% car sharing. 15% use one of the seven school organised 'special' buses. 5% of pupils walk to school.
 - c) Three quarters of parents bringing children to school by car go on to work either every day or on some days.
- 5.6 Corresponding results from the Staff Survey indicated:
 - a) 79% live more than 2 miles from the school.
 - b) 74% use the car to travel to work including 13% car sharing. 18% walk to work.
- 5.7 The results from the Pupil Survey indicated:
 - a) 28% catch one of the school buses.
 - b) Of those that travel by car, two thirds are accompanied by other pupils as well as the driver.
 - c) 80% would travel by train at least occasionally if they could.

6. TRAVEL INFORMATION/EXISTING PRACTICE AND POLICY

- 6.1 At the Junior School site there is one entrance for all. At the Senior School those arriving on foot can enter via a separate route.
- 6.2 At the Junior School there are separate car parks on both sites for staff and for parents. A new 'parents only' car park has been created at Ashdown Lodge for families with the youngest children, a major safety improvement. This takes the total number of 'parent' spaces to 55 including 2 'Disabled' spaces. There are 40 spaces for staff.

- 6.3 At Woodhouse Grove there are approximately 130 spaces, including 6 'Disabled' areas. These are not allocated separately to parents, staff or pupils.
- 6.4 The school operates 6 buses which pick up and drop off pupils to and from school each day. These routes cover a wide network in the Leeds, Bradford and Huddersfield area. To assist with traffic flow and safety at the school gate, the Junior School employs a dedicated Traffic Officer each morning and afternoon to assist with ingress and egress of cars and school buses. Parents requesting information regarding the sharing of lifts are assisted in making contact with each other.
- 6.5 School bus routes and passenger numbers are:
- | | |
|---|----|
| a) Route 1 Addingham/Ilkley/Burley/Guiseley | 52 |
| b) Route 2 Keighley/Bingley/ShIPLEY | 40 |
| c) Route 3 Oakwood/Alwoodley/Adel | 20 |
| d) Route 4 Kirkstall/Weetwood/Horsforth/Calverley | 15 |
| e) Route 5 Huby/Otley/Bramhope/Rawdon | 25 |
| f) Route 6 Huddersfield/Halifax/Shelf/Bradford | 8 |
- 6.6 The Junior School's Traffic Policy and relevant sections from the Senior School's Joining Pack are included at Appendix Three.

7. SUMMARY OF TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY PROBLEMS

- 7.1 See 5.2, 5.3 and 5.4 above. An email from LCC's School Travel Adviser, dated 24th January, identified the possible reopening of Apperley Bridge railway station following an article published in Local Transport Today.
- 7.2 Problems will vary depending on the age of the children. 40% of parents of Junior School pupils felt their children were too young not to be brought to school.
- 7.3 More signage indicating schools plus a 20mph limit on Apperley Lane would make the journey safer. (See 4.3 above). Following reporting of this issue Leeds City Council will be installing a school warning sign on Apperley Lane.

8. PROPOSED MEASURES AND INITIATIVES

- 8.1 School to continue to press for improved public transport. Note that 53% of parents indicated that their children would use the train (when old enough) if schedules were convenient.
- 8.2 Explore ways of developing information regarding car sharing, probably via the school's website.
- 8.3 Promote use of school bus services.
- 8.4 Continue to ensure the safety of pupils within the school site.

9. ACTION PLAN

Objective	Actions	Individual/s Responsible	Timescale	Outcome	Measurement
9.1 To campaign for improved public transport provision	Make contact with the relevant authorities	School Governors Metro Network Rail	Ongoing	More direct bus services Apperley Bridge Station re-opened	School questionnaires
9.2 Promote car share	Continue to assist parents in making contact with one another regarding lift sharing	Marketing Officer	September 2008	Increase in car sharing amongst parents	School questionnaires
9.3 Promote school bus services	Put information on the school website Review fare structure	Marketing Officer	September 2008	Increased bus patronage	School questionnaires
		School Senior Management Team	September 2008		
9.4 Ensure pupils can move around school site safely	Dedicated traffic officer to manage safety at the school gates Details on safe parking included within the joining pack	Headmaster, Brontë House	Already in place	Pupils can move safely around the school site	School questionnaires
		Headmaster, Brontë House	Already in place		

10. TARGETS

Mode of Travel	Existing	+1 Year	Risks Preventing Implementation
Car	67%	62%	
Car Share	11%	14%	
School Bus	15%	17%	
Public Transport	1%	1%	Dependent on provision of more direct bus services Dependent on the re-opening of Apperley Bridge Railway Station
Walk	5%	5%	

(Based on 337 responses received in the parent questionnaire)

11. MONITORING AND REVIEW

11.1 The travel plan will be monitored not less than every three years following the repeat of the parent, pupil and staff questionnaires.

11.2 The travel plan will be updated in line with any developments in education and transport.

12. APPENDICES

These are:

Appendix One: Location Map

Appendix Two: Summary of Consultation Exercise

Appendix Three: Ashdown Lodge/Bronte House Travel Policy

APPENDIX TWO

ASHDOWN LODGE, BRONTE HOUSE & WOODHOUSE GROVE

SUMMARY OF PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS BY PERCENTAGE

1. How far from school do you live?

- | | |
|-----------------|----|
| a) Under 1 mile | 12 |
| b) 1-2 miles | 15 |
| c) Over 2 miles | 74 |

2. How does your child usually travel to school?

	<u>Excluding Boarders</u>	<u>Including Boarders</u>
a) Walk	5	26
b) Cycle	0.3	0.2
c) School bus	15	12
d) Public bus	0.8	0.7
e) Car share	11	9
f) Car	67	53

3. Onward destination?

- | | |
|----------------------|----|
| a) Work every day | 51 |
| b) Work occasionally | 23 |
| c) Home | 24 |
| d) Other | 3 |

4. What prevents you from using other modes of transport?

(An example of some responses)

No direct bus

No school bus

Cost of school bus (especially if more than one child)

More convenient

After school activities

Too many heavy bags to bring to school

Children too young at the moment

Siblings at Brontë/other schools

Safety of public transport

5. If Apperley Bridge station were re-opened, would you use the train?

- | | |
|-----------------|----|
| a) Daily | 26 |
| b) Occasionally | 27 |
| c) Never | 47 |

6. Which initiatives would you support?

- | | |
|---------------------|----|
| a) Car share | 29 |
| b) School bus | 26 |
| c) Public bus | 5 |
| d) Become a boarder | 1 |
| e) Train | 26 |
| f) Cycle | 4 |
| g) Walk | 9 |

7. What are the dangers of your child's journey to school?

(An example of some responses)

No cycle route

Underpass – sometimes closed, older children smoking, overgrown, intimidating

Main road too busy to cross safely

Turning right out of school drive

Turning right out of Esholt

No pavement on the school drive

Walking to public bus stop/home when it's dark

No footpath on Woodlands Drive

8. How could your journey to school be improved?

(An example of some responses)

Improve onsite traffic flow/one way system/wider entrance

Shuttle bus through Esholt

Footpath on the driveway

More bus routes, extended bus network

Cheaper bus fares

Car sharing

Train station

Public bus stop nearer school

More parking – use bottom car park for buses

Railings and signs on Apperley Lane, 20 mph limit – strictly enforced.

Staff to meet children off train and escort to school.

APPENDIX TWO

ASHDOWN LODGE, BRONTE HOUSE & WOODHOUSE GROVE

SUMMARY OF STAFF QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS BY PERCENTAGE

1. How far from school do you live?

- | | |
|-----------------|----|
| a) Under 1 mile | 20 |
| b) 1-2 miles | 1 |
| c) Over 2 miles | 79 |

2. How do you usually travel to school?

- | | |
|---------------|----|
| a) Walk | 18 |
| b) Cycle | 3 |
| c) Public Bus | 3 |
| d) Car | 74 |

3. If you travel by car who travels with you?

- | | |
|---------------|----|
| a) No-one | 67 |
| b) Colleagues | 20 |
| c) Partner | 3 |
| d) Children | 10 |

4. If possible would you get a bus to and from work?

- | | |
|---------------|----|
| a) Yes | 8 |
| b) No | 83 |
| c) Don't know | 10 |

5. If possible would you catch a train to and from work?

- | | |
|---------------|----|
| a) Yes | 13 |
| b) No | 41 |
| c) Don't know | 46 |

6. Reasons for not walking to work:

(Almost 100% of answers)

1. Too far
2. Too much to bring in

7. Reasons for not cycling to work:

1. Too far
2. Don't own a bike
3. Too much to bring in
4. Bring children in
5. Roads are too dangerous, no cycle lanes
6. Inadequate showering/changing facilities
7. Need car during the day

8. Reasons for not using public transport

1. Infrequency of buses
2. Take too long
3. Bringing young children
4. Bringing heavy items into work

APPENDIX THREE

EXTRACTS FROM WOODHOUSE GROVE'S JOINING BOOKLET

1. Cars

Sixth Formers who have passed their driving test may drive to school. They should park in the Sports Centre car park and may not drive into the playground or to the Sixth Form Centre except with the express permission of the Second Master or Head of Sixth Form. Permission to drive to school may be given by the Head of Sixth Form. Cars should not be used except to drive to and from home and school at the start and end of each school day. Passengers may not be carried except with the express written permission of the parents of the driver and passengers.

Pupils should be dropped off in the main car park or drop-off zones near the Sports Centre in the morning and collected from there in the afternoon. Please observe the speed limits which are marked on the entrance routes and indicated by road signs. The speed limits are 5 or 15 miles per hour depending on location in school.

2. CYCLING

Pupils may come to School by bicycle provided permission has been sought from the relevant Head of Section. The school will also require written permission from a parent or guardian. All pupils are advised to wear protective head-gear and are expected to comply with the Highway Code.