

Evenlode Primary School

Penarth

Ysgol Gynradd Evenlode, Penarth

School Travel Plan March 2008



Evenlode Avenue, Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan, CF64 3PD
Telephone/Fax: 029 20702168

OUR SCHOOL

Our school is situated in the seaside town of Penarth. There are 420 pupils on role. 21 head and teaching staff, 2 administrative staff and 14 LSA's and pupil support workers. The school has a breakfast club and runs after school clubs which means that there are people arriving at the school between 8am and 9am and leaving between 3.20pm and 5pm. The majority of pupils however arrive at approximately 8.45 and leave at 3.30. There are also a number of cleaners, cooks, midday supervisors and the caretaker arriving and leaving throughout the day.

OUR AIM

- To encourage healthy living and a healthy life style and encourage the use of sustainable transport enabling children to walk or cycle to school.
- To improve established safe routes to school
- To eliminate the problem of congestion outside the school gates, thereby reducing pollution and increasing safety of children
- To ensure road safety issues are being taught to pupils

OUR LOCATION

Our school is located within a fairly quiet residential area in lower Penarth, next to Windsor Tennis Club, and backing on to Penarth Athletic Club. It is also less than half a mile to Stanwell Comprehensive School.

It is situated off the main road and is not therefore on a direct bus route. There are, however, cycle routes which run from Lower Penarth, along the disused railway track, across Westbourne Road to school, and an additional one from Castle Avenue, through the Old Penarthians rugby club, across Lavernock Road into Evenlode Avenue.

THE CURRENT SITUATION AND WHAT WE HAVE DONE ALREADY

- A working group has recently been set up in order to address travel issues. The members of this group have been involved in creating this travel plan and bringing together thoughts, ideas and solutions. The group is made up of a teacher, a PTA member who is also a governor representative for the local community and two pupil representatives from the school council.
- There are now four entrances into the school which means that walkers do not have to use the same gate as drivers.
- A one way system has been informally introduced from Lavernock Road, through Evenlode Avenue, into Clinton Road, however this system means that children being dropped off to school are getting out on the opposite side of the road to the school building having to cross the congested road. Alternatively parents are pulling into the lay-by but with limited spaces in the lay-by, parents are double parking or waiting on both sides of the road due to the mass of traffic. The police and traffic wardens have been made aware of the problem and have on occasions been out to monitor and book cars that are causing hazards. However this is a rare occurrence and is not a permanent solution to the problem.
- Double Yellow lines have been marked on the opposite side of road to stop cars parking there during school pick up times
- Bronze and Silver cycling proficiency is delivered to pupils in Year Five by the Vale Of Glamorgan Road Safety team, to ensure children have received sufficient road safety training to allow them to cycle to school
- As mentioned earlier, there is a very good network of cycle paths throughout the catchment area, which were provided by the Vale of Glamorgan. Unfortunately there is currently no storage or shelter at all for bikes at the school, which prevents children from bringing their bikes to school.
- All children participate in Kerbcraft training at KS1
- Our Healthy schools programme has included promoting healthy means of getting to school, using walking to school as a perfect example of how to increase fitness

- A survey has been carried out by the school council to see how people get to school
- Parents are regularly reminded by the Head Teacher about road safety issues outside the school in newsletters
- An earlier finishing time has been implemented for Reception children to help ease congestion outside school
- The school has funded additional car parking space for teaching staff within the school grounds, creating room for a further 10-12 cars which previously had parked outside school causing additional congestion
- The Head Master regularly notifies all local residents of additional activities ie Fayres, sports days etc, so that they can expect increased volume of traffic.

CONSULTATION

The following people, through pupil questionnaires, discussions at meetings and letters have been consulted over the road safety issues:

- Staff
- Pupils
- Parents
- Governors
- PTA
- LEA road safety officers
- Local community and residents

SURVEY RESULTS AND OPINIONS OF PARENTS AND PUPILS

The School Council carried out a survey to establish how far away from the school the children lived, how they travelled back & forward to school, and their reasons for using that particular mode of transport. They also requested suggestions on how these methods of transport could be made safer, more environmentally friendly and improve health & fitness.

A copy of this survey is attached.

Evenlode School Council Safe Routes to School Survey, 2008

Dear Parent,

Please could you help your child to complete the following:-

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

Class Teacher _____

Approximately how far from school do you live?

*Less than $\frac{1}{2}$ mile Between $\frac{1}{2}$ mile & mile Between 1 and 2 miles

Over 2 miles

How do you travel to school?

*Walk Car Bus Taxi Cycle

How do you get home from school?

*Walk Car Bus Taxi Cycle

If you travel by car - what are the main reasons?

*Too far to walk Too dangerous to walk Not enough time

Too much to carry More convenient It's on the way to work

Would you like to change the way you travel to school to benefit the environment and your health? *Yes/No

If Yes, how? *Walk / Cycle

If you currently walk to school, do you feel safe? *Yes / No

If no, what are the dangers?

*No Pavements Speeding Traffic Lonely/secluded areas

Congestion/cars

If you currently walk to school, who do you walk with?

*With your parents With other parents On your own

With other children

Can you make any suggestions on how we can improve the locality / school to enable the children to travel safer to school and improve their health & fitness?

Signed _____

Thankyou

*Please delete as appropriate

RESULTS OF SURVEY

The school Council analysed the results from these surveys and came up with the following results.

- The number of children living within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile radius of the school was 87 children ie 21%
- The number of children living between $\frac{1}{2}$ mile and 1 mile radius was 200 children ie 47%
- The number of children living between 1 and 2 miles radius was 93 ie 22%
- The remaining 40 ie 10% live over 2 miles from the school.

The results showing how people currently travel to school are shown below

- 75 children currently attend Breakfast Club, held at school, as their parents go to work, so they need to come by car as the parents are continuing on their journey.
- In addition to this a further 162 use the car as their most common mode of transport
- 158 walk on a regular basis
- 25 cycle to school, either on their own, or accompanied by their parents.

The following comments / suggestions were also received:-

- Many people would like to cycle to school with their children, but there is nowhere for the children's bikes to be left during the day and they can not take them home for them if they are cycling as well.
- Many parents were very concerned about the congestion and double parking outside the school and are very concerned about their childrens safety.

- Parents with younger siblings attending Bute Cottage Nursery, explained the need to use their cars, due to the similarity of start and finish times not allowing time to walk from one school to the other.
- Now that Stanwell has opted for a finish time some half hour earlier than Evenlode, it has made it more difficult for elder siblings to collect brothers & sisters from Evenlode, and there is nowhere suitable for them to wait, especially during the winter.
- Many wished the school would operate a walking bus scheme which their children could take part in.

ISSUES AND IDEAL SOLUTIONS





Issue 1

The previous photo's show the congestion outside the school gate. There is an obvious hazard to children walking or cycling. The one way system that has been introduced has helped however it means that children getting in and out of cars have to cross the road very often weaving in and out of parked cars.

Issue 2

Not enough children walk or cycle to school. 68% of children live within walking distance of the school, however less than half of these actually do. More children walking or cycling would mean that the children are being more active and are therefore healthier. It would also help to raise awareness of environmental issues and pollution and be a major contribution to combating the major hazards of traffic congestion outside the school gates.

Issue 3

There is no shelter for walking parents and no storage or cover for bicycles. The school is in a very privileged position with the extensive

network of cycle paths which are easily accessible by half the population of the school, however the issue of storing bikes in a safe and dry place throughout the day prevents many parents from cycling with their children, or allowing older children to cycle, to school.

Issue 4

Despite being a built up residential area with a school, Evenlode Avenue does not have a reduced speed limit, cars are permitted by law to travel at the national speed limit of 30mph. This is an obvious hazard and concern of staff and parents when encouraging walking or cycling to school. The installation of traffic lights at the Lavernock/Dinas Road junction has also seen an increase in volume and speed of traffic along Evenlode Avenue, as they are trying to avoid the increased congestion on Lavernock Road.

SOLUTIONS

As a school, vast strides have been made towards improving the road safety issues in and around the school. We would hope that some of the desirable outcomes could be achieved to improve the road safety issues in and around our school

- Have an official one way system around the school where traffic travels in the opposite direction ie from Clinton Road, into Lavernock Road meaning children are not needing to cross the road when arriving or being picked up by car.
- A road calming system and 20mph speed limit along Evenlode Avenue
- A shelter and bike shed where cyclists can store their bikes throughout the day are essential if we are going to increase the number of parents and children finding alternative ways to travel to school.
- Set up a drop off and pick up point that is away from the school gate
- Continue to hold kerbcraft training and cycling proficiency for the pupils

- Continue to promote walking and cycling to school regularly. Send a leaflet home at the beginning of each school year highlighting the benefits of this and recommending safe routes.
- Hold regular assemblies about journeys to school with good news and stories being shared, rewarding if appropriate.
- Raise the issue of road safety regularly at school council meetings
- Promote and encourage Junior Road Safety Officers
- Run promotions to encourage alternative travel plans ie Walk On Wednesdays, or Cycle to School Week
- Provide incentives for those children who walk or cycle to school
- Begin consultations with parents and teachers with a view to setting up a "walking bus" scheme.
- Liaise with schools Eco Committee, to increase awareness of environmental issues regarding travel to school. Discuss car share schemes.
- Increase parental awareness of issues through newly developed school website.

ACTION PLAN

Short Term

- 1) Forward School Travel Plan to Vale of Glamorgan Road Safety Officers to see if funding is available for new cycle racks and shelters.
- 2) Make the School Travel Plan available to all parents via the schools new website and seek further involvement from them, such as finding volunteers to run / support walking bus scheme.
- 3) School Council to organise regular "Walk to School " weeks, ie one per term.

Medium / Long Term

Consult with Vale of Glamorgan Road Safety Officers, with a view to providing an official one way system, and to implement permanent traffic calming and reduced speed limits.

REVIEW SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN APRIL 2009