

Balmerino Primary

School Travel

Plan

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Gauldry
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Issue 2 2019



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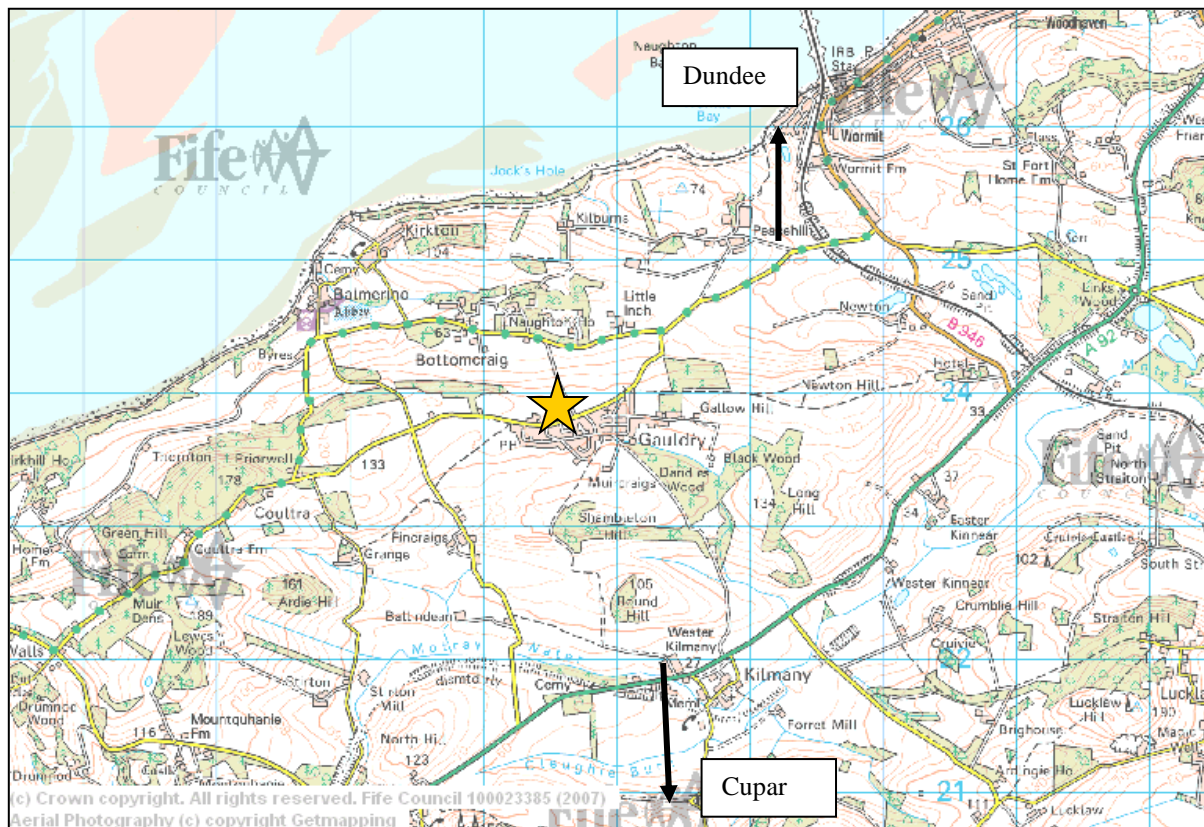
INTRODUCTION:

Balmerino Primary School is situated in The Gauldry which is a small peaceful rural community overlooking the Tay Estuary and close to Wormit and Newport communities.

The village has no industry in it but working farms and estates surround it. A poultry farm is our nearest “industry”, and this is situated at the bottom of a steep hill known locally as the “Gutchers”.

Gauldry has a Church, which is linked to Balmerino Parish, and Church Services are held there on alternative Sundays. There is also a Public House directly over from the school and a vehicle repair garage at the far most end of the village.

Location



Our village school is a healthy mix of: -

- Village children – The majority of these parents commute from Gauldry on a daily basis.
- Children from farms and estates in the surrounding area.

- Children who are placing requests. They primarily come from Newport and Wormit but can be as far afield as Tayport.

The village is very much community spirited. The village hall, which is run by the hall committee, is often the centre in the planning of events such as the village Gala Day and village celebrations.

The school uses the hall for PE activities, after school activities and on occasions for parties, coffee mornings and bring and buy sales. School functions are well supported in the local community and beyond.

Catchment area

The catchment area includes the whole of The Gauldry, Kirkton of Balmerino and Fincraigs. Due to the merge of Rathillet Primary school with Balmerino in 2010 our catchment area has widened to incorporate Kilmany, Rathillet and surrounding areas.

We do have a nursery in school and many nursery children then go onto attend Balmerino Primary. Our feeder secondary school is Madras College, St. Andrews.

The school roll is currently 62 and the nursery 12. We have 3 and 4 year olds in nursery.

The following members of staff work at the school:

- 1 teaching Headteacher
- 2 Teachers in the Primary, including 2 teachers who job share
- 1 Learning Support Teacher (1 day per fortnight)
- 1 Clerical Assistant
- 1 PSA2
- 2 Early Year Officers
- 1 Janitor
- 1 Dinner lady

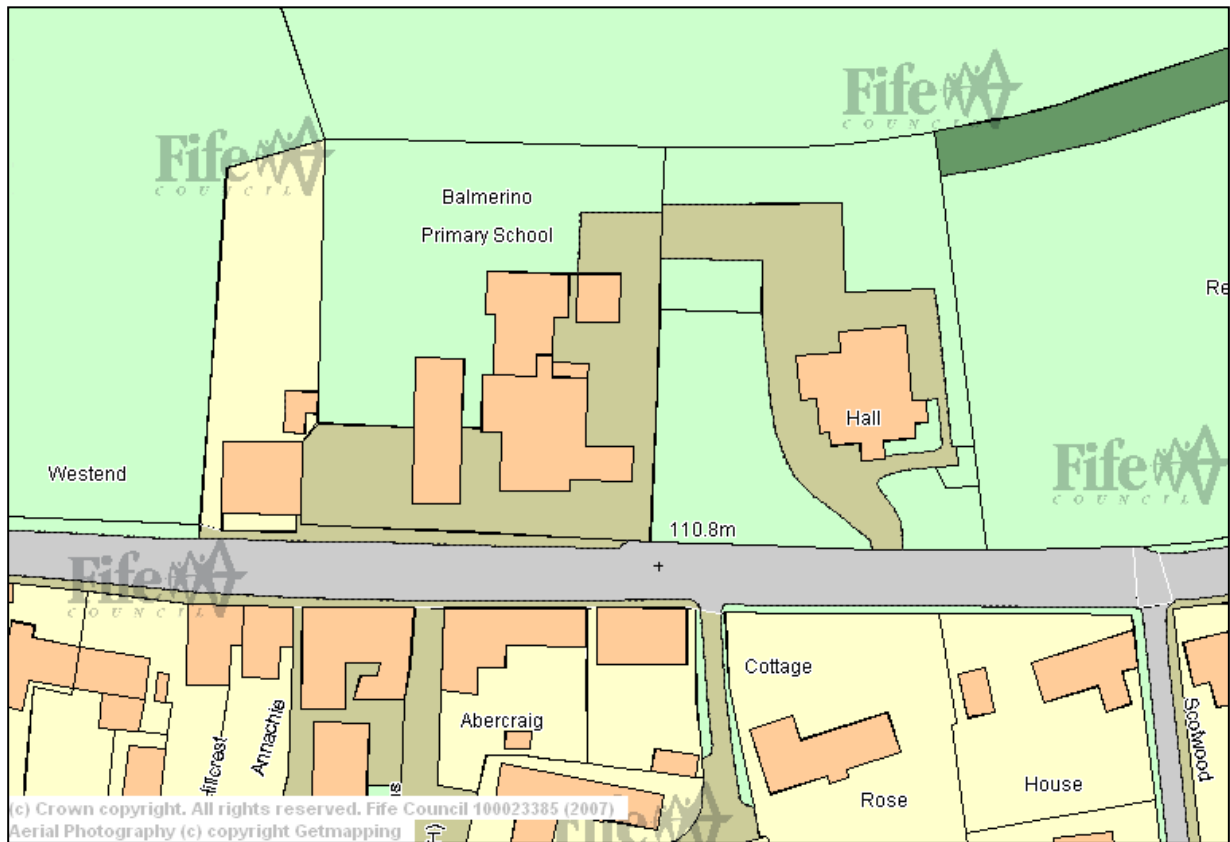
We have a very active Parent Council in Balmerino who work in partnership with the school, fundraising for resources and trips.

We have a Sports Council comprising of pupils and parents and staff and a Pupil council.

SITE AUDIT

The main school building is late Victorian with two additional Medway huts connected by an enclosed walkway. There are 4 classrooms, school office, pupil toilets, and nursery accommodation. On the upper level there is the staff room, HT office and Storage cupboards. Outdoors there is a mix of tarmac and grassed areas with the nursery having its own garden and outdoor space.

Site plan



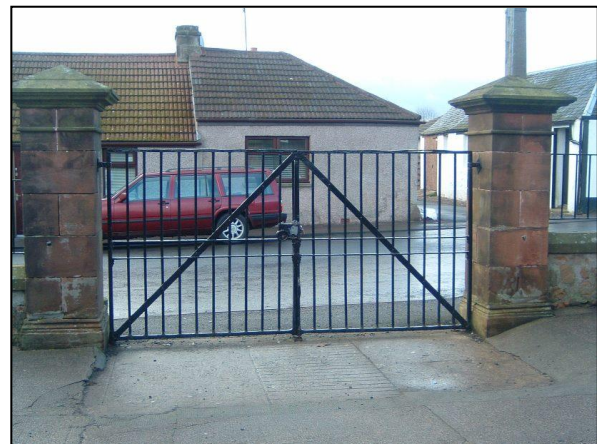
Access arrangements

Pupils walking to school enter and leave by the main gate. Pupils are not allowed to use this gate at any other time of the day unless supervised by an adult. Pupils in Primary 1-3 enter and leave the building by the main entrance. Pupils in Primary 4 upwards enter the Medway huts via the playground at the front of the school. A controlled entry system operates all external doors.

Main gate



Locked front gate





Side gate



Main entrance

Travel arrangements

Car parking

Parking for staff and visitors is out with the school perimeter at the back of the Morison Duncan Hall. This is approximately 70 metres from the side entrance to the school.

Parents are often forced to park in the driveway of the hall when dropping off and picking up pupils due to the lack of space for on street parking. This is particularly busy at 9 am and 3 pm when morning nursery and the school begins and ends.



Village hall car park



Car park entrance

School bus

The bus drops off and collects pupils at the main gate. The pupils do not have to cross a road. Pupils who go home by bus are supervised boarding the bus by a member of staff. The member of staff ensures that each child is securely belted in prior to the bus leaving.

Pupils going on school outings or activities such as swimming are also picked up and dropped off at the main gate.

Cycling / scootering

Many of our pupils choose to travel to school by bike or scooter. There are 2 facilities for leaving bikes and scooters safely inside the school playground. Pupils are discouraged from riding bikes and scooters within the playground upon arrival and departure from school to ensure the safety of others.

POLICY AND OBJECTIVES

As a school we are aware of the increasing numbers of pupils being transported to school by car. We are also aware of the risks of this form of transport. Not only is this detrimental to our environment, each year road traffic accidents cause the majority of accidental deaths of children and young people in Scotland.ⁱ As a result, there is now a heightened awareness of the physical, social and emotional benefits of active travel to school, as well as the positive environmental impact that it can have. It is for these reasons that our school is committed to developing a School Travel Plan

Travel Action Group

To address the issues raised with congestion around the school gate and to work on future initiatives the school reformed it's travel action group. This group consists of: -

Name	Title
Marta Ramage	School Travel Plan Coordinator
Vivien Macqueen	Head Teacher
Karen Peters	Janitor
Catriona Reid	Chair Parent Council
Gillian Webster	Secretary Parent Council
Marlyn Graham	Parent - Parent Council

Aims

The primary aim of Balmerino Primary School's Travel Plan is to: -

Reduce the number of pupils, teachers and staff being driven/driving to and from school therefore, improving the safety and wellbeing of all concerned.

Objectives

- Promote the benefits of alternatives to using the car for journeys to and from school.
- Alleviate parents' fears about road safety
- Educate parents, pupils and school staff about the importance of sustainable, active travel for the school journey

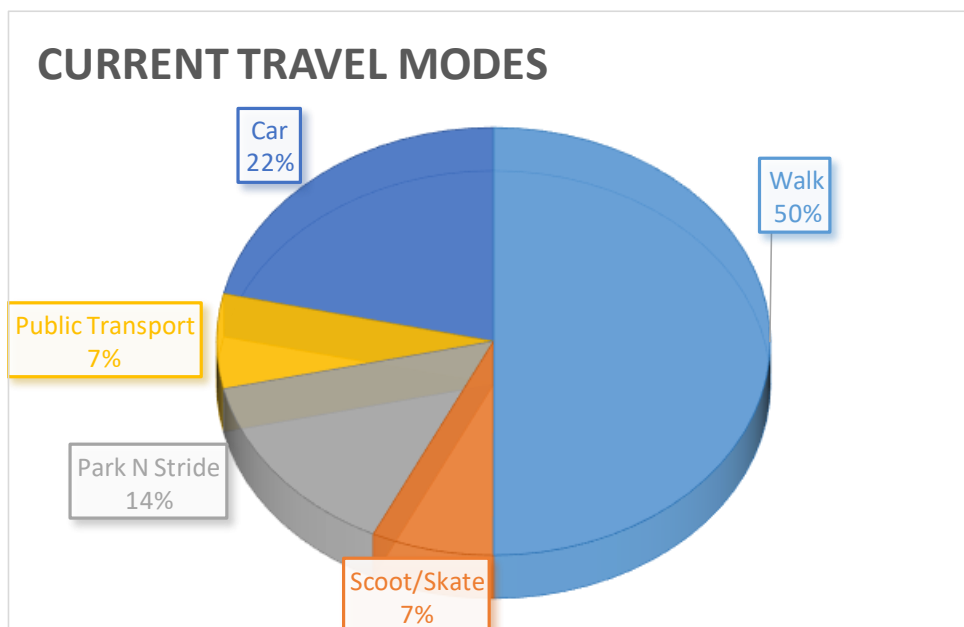
- Improve safety within the school catchment area
- Establish Safer Routes to School (SRTS)
- Improve relationships with the schools' neighbours and local community
- Raise pupils/family awareness of personal safety for pedestrians and cyclists
- Enhance the school community's knowledge of their locality
- Strengthen links between families and schools
- Reduce the number of children being driven to the school
- Reduce the number of staff driving to school
- Create a safer environment for pupils, teachers and the school's neighbours

CURRENT TRAVEL PATTERNS

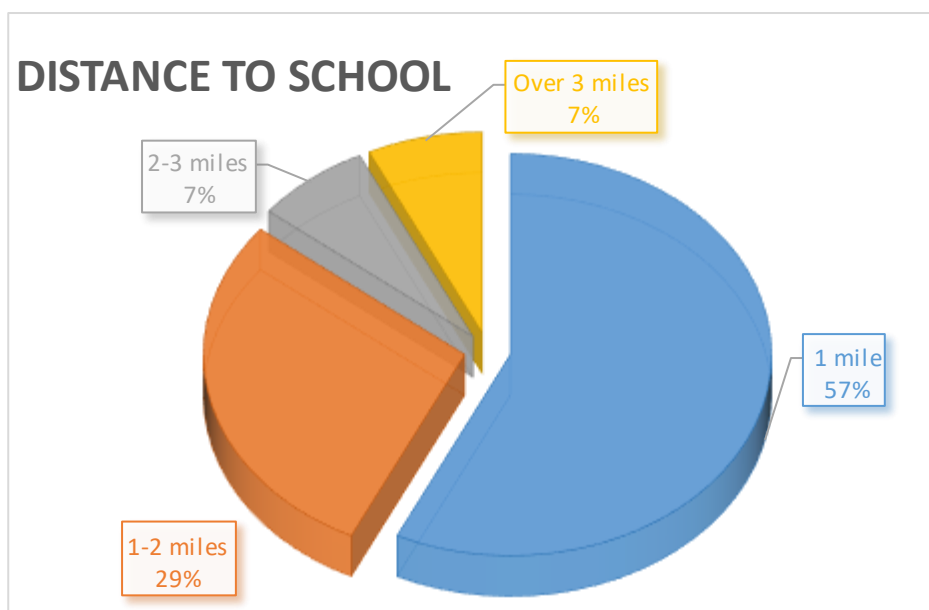
A joint pupil and carer questionnaire was sent out as homework to all pupils across the school in January 2019; in total 14 family responses were returned.

Key survey results

The main mode of travel to Balmerino Primary that pupils and parents identified was walking at 50%.



Reasons for this preferred method may be that 57% of families reported that they live within 1 mile of school.



Car was the second most popular method as it is extremely common for parents to drop their children off at school on route to doing something else, or due to safety issues caused by congestion around the school gate (22% of families stated that this was the case).

According to the survey 71% of parents would prefer that their child/ren travelled to school in a more active manner.

When asked “what would encourage you to change your mode of transport to make the routes to school safe for all and ease congestion at the school gate?” some of the common responses were

- Early drop off
- A breakfast club
- Nothing
- Parking further away from the school

Carers and pupils were then asked, “Is there anything else you would like to share about your own travel choices or how we can make your child's journey to school safer?” the popular responses were

- School crossing patrol
- Add a crossing outside the school gate
- Better cycle routes
- Look at narrow pavements and include a barrier outside the school gate.

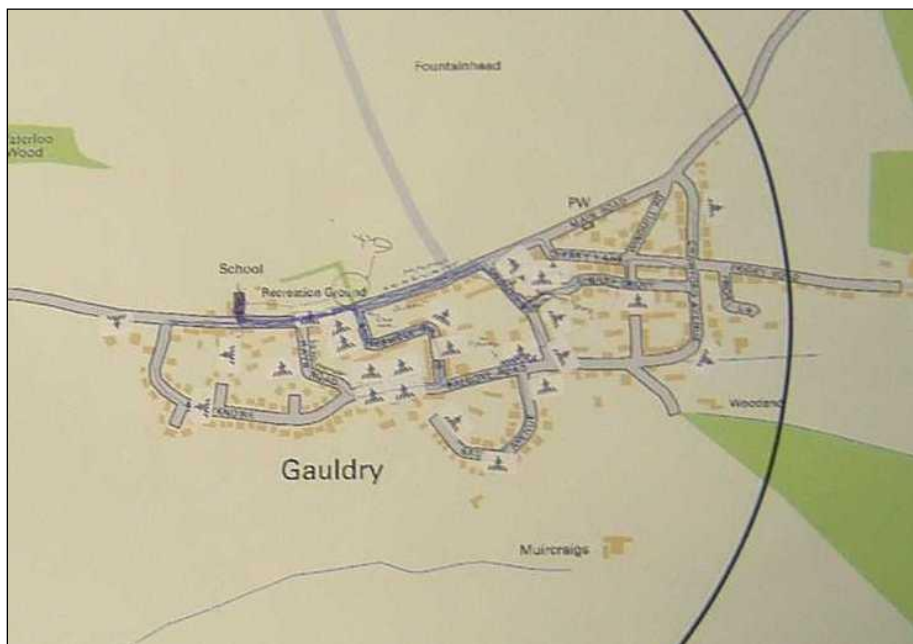
Comparative travel data

Comparison table							
	Walk	Cycle	Scoot/Skate	Park & Walk	Bus	Taxi	Car
School Travel Plan surveys (%)							
Jan 19	50%	0%	7%	14%	7%	0%	22%
Hands Up Travel Tally (%)							
Sept 18	32%	12%	2%	0%	22%	3%	30%
Fife - primary schools – Hands Up Travel Tally %							
Sept 18	46%	4 %	4%	16%	5%	1%	23%

- Less pupils in Balmerino Primary walk to school compared to the Fife school average, however the school travel plan questionnaire highlighted that 50% of those who completed walked to school. If we look at this figure, then pupils at Balmerino are more active than those throughout Fife.
- More pupils however travel by the centrally funded bus due to the rural location of the school and the diversity of locations.
- The percentages for arriving by car are on par with the Fife wide scheme of things.

MAPPING AND SAFETY AUDIT OF KEY ROUTES: -

Due to the rural location of the school and the fact that there has been no catchment change we have used the findings from the previous mapping exercise and completed a desktop and drive by review of the area.



KEY ISSUES AND BARRIERS: -

The following key issue and perception relating to journeys to and from Balmerino Primary School were identified as –

Inconsiderate parking around the school which causes problems including:

- congestion at school gate
- blocked vision for walkers and cyclists
- blocked vision for other drivers
- Low proportion of children walking to school, especially in bad weather.
- Concerns about road safety when walking or cycling

ACTION PLAN: -

Balmerino's Travel Action Plan, summarising the key travel issues and proposed solutions for the school, is presented on the next page.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION: -

The Travel Action Group will carry out an annual survey to monitor changes in travel patterns and will review the success of the School Travel Plan.

A progress report will then be forwarded to parents, Parent Council and other interested parties.

DISTRIBUTION: -

The School Travel Plan will be distributed to organisation and contacts:

- Fife Council Transportation Services
- Fife Council Education Service
- Fife Constabulary Road Safety Unit
- Fife NHS Health Promotion Unit
- School Board/Parent Council
- Local Councillor
- Community Council

Behavioural Measures

Action	Solution	Action Owner	Target Date	Priority
Road Safety Education	Education in school and at home.	School, Pupils and Parents	Ongoing	High
Promote the use of safe routes to school.	Posters, newsletters, assemblies, websites and Social Media	School, TAG and Parents	Termly	High
Continue to participate in incentive schemes that encourage sustainable methods of travel to school.	Active Travel Month, Walk to school Week, Bike Week	School, TAG and ,	Termly	Medium
Distribute travel plan to the appropriate bodies and make available to parents.	School website, parent council and summarised in the school newsletter	School	September 2019	High
Bikeability	Continue to develop training	School/Bikeability officer	Yearly	Medium

Physical Measures

Action	Action Owner	Target Date	Priority
Relining of school zig zags and keep clear road marking	Fife Council, Transportation Service	Academic Year 19/20	Medium
