

Carnock Primary School



School Travel Plan

January 2023



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Website: [Carnock Primary School – #Fairness #Friendship #Honesty #Respect #Responsibility \(glowscotland.org.uk\)](#)

Think smart Travel active

1. BACKGROUND

Carnock Primary is a rural school on the A907. It serves children living in Carnock and Gowkhal, but we also have a number of children from outwith the catchment area. The catchment secondary school is Queen Anne High School. At present, there are 72 pupils and 3 classes in Carnock, which are Primary 1/2/3, Primary 3/4/5 Primary 5/6/7.

Carnock Primary is under joint headship with Crossford Primary. The leadership team is made up of the Headteacher and Principal Teacher who is based primarily at Carnock Primary. The school is well supported by the Parent Council.

The school grounds consist of one single storey building; a hard surfaced playground which faces onto the main road heading through the village and a school garden towards the back of the school.

The children play an active part in the life of the school through the committees; lunch monitors; running the healthy tuck shop; peer mediators and playground friends.

2. SITE AUDIT

The school building houses all the classrooms; assembly/dining gym hall and administration office. A controlled entry system is in operation at the main front door and the rear door from the car park. At the back of the school, a small carpark for staff can be accessed from Queens Haugh.

The school sits at the side of the A907. Outside the school is the village bus stop and a puffin crossing. There are currently ongoing talks at Fife Council level regarding improvement of the road layout and crossing on the A907 in front of the school. A crossing patrol operates here at the start and end of the school day. The speed limit through the village is 30mph, although all of the side roads off the A907 are mandatory 20mph.



2.1 Access Arrangements

Vehicular access for staff and visitors is via Queens Haugh.



Pedestrian access to the school is via three entrances. One of these is to the front of the school directly up from the puffin crossing; another pedestrian access is at the side at the bottom of the "donkey steps"; the third access is through the wooden garden gate halfway down the donkey steps.



Currently four children from Gowkhill travel to school by taxi. The taxi drops off in Queens Haugh and the children walk down the Donkey Steps.



Children are encouraged to cycle or scooter to school. There is bike storage behind the school.



It should be noted here that historically, there have been complaints submitted to the school and Fife Council regarding parking at Newbigging Road/Carnock Mill at school drop off and pick up times. This is an access road and should be kept clear. The area concerned is shown in the photograph below.



3. POLICY & OBJECTIVES

Carnock Primary School Travel Plan has been developed and updated in line with current policies, practices and issues. These include the Curriculum for Excellence framework, especially Health and Wellbeing, and the Health Promoting Schools programme. We have made every effort to work with parents, pupils and Fife Council to produce the Travel Plan.

As a school we are aware of the number of pupils being transported to school by car and we are also aware of the risks of this form of transport. 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 this can have.

3.1 Formation of a Travel Action Group (TAG)

In previous years, the school has had a TAG during committee times to address issues and produce the initial School Travel Plan.

The TAG was made up of a class teacher; the school janitor; pupils from P3-7. Parents were invited to be part of this group. At the moment, there is not a TAG but this will be re-actioned should the need arise. We do, however, now have Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs) who are supported by one of our PSA staff.

3.2 Aims of the School Travel Plan (STP)

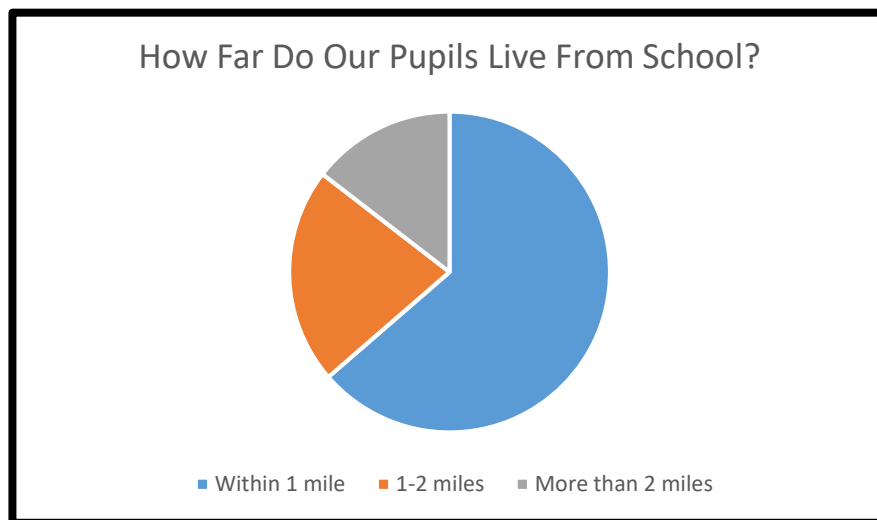
Carnock Primary School Travel Plan aims to:

- Provide up to date information about how pupils, staff and accompanying parents travel to and from school.
- Identify what barriers exist to prevent these groups from travelling to school in a way that they would find more suitable for their needs.
- Identify the possible solutions for travelling to school in a safer, more sustainable way.
- Promote personal safety, fitness and health and well-being.

4. SURVEY AND RESULTS

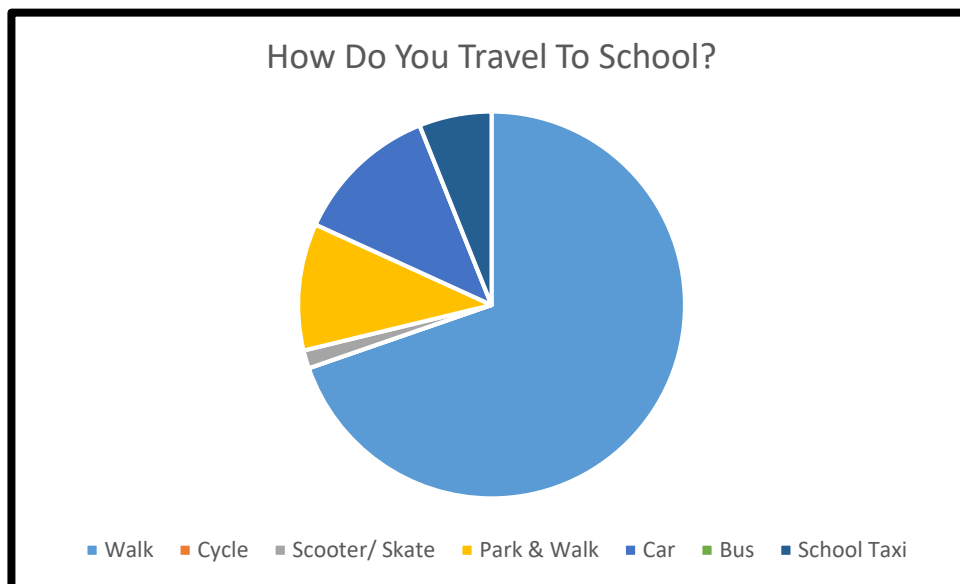
4.1 Pupils and Parents

We used the Hands Up survey from 13th September 2022 to gather the following data. More of our pupils live within one mile of the school compared with 2020 data.



67% of our children live within 1 mile of the school, with a further 21% living within 2 miles. 71% of our children come to school by foot or cycling/scoot.

At the time of the surveys, only one child was reported as scooting, skating or cycling to school: this is partly due to the bike racks out of use throughout the pandemic. We will promote cycling/scooting through awareness raising in school and offering Bikeability training from P5 upwards. We continue to insist on a helmet and a means of locking up the bicycle/scooter.

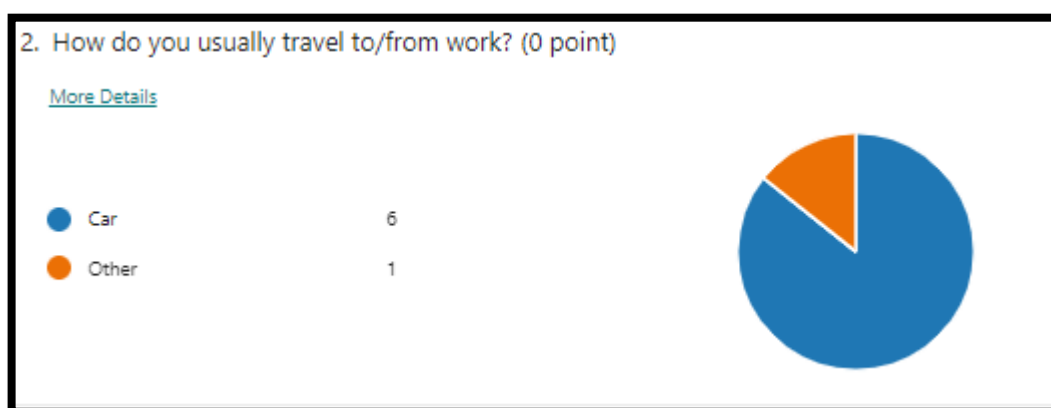


Children who travelled to school by car mainly lived out with the village. The percentage of children living in the village is very closely aligned with the percentage of our children who walk and scoot to school.

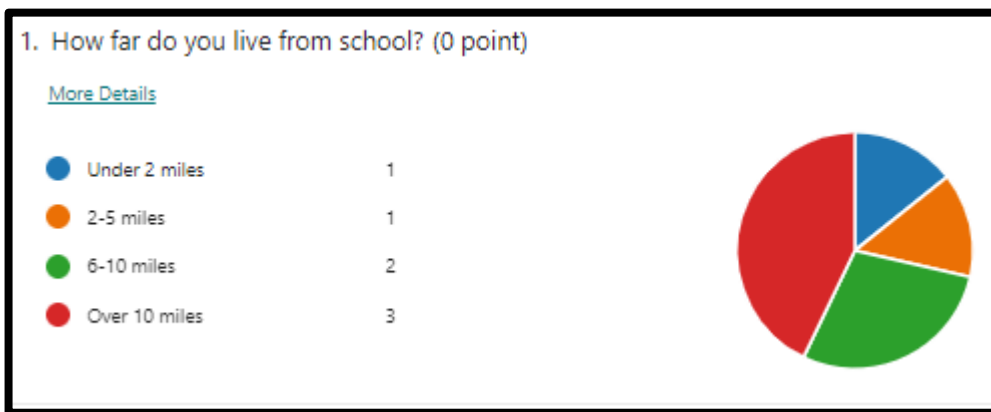
In early 2020, various walking routes to school were being explored by Council officers; from Gowkhill and Oakley to Carnock; Carnock community centre to the school. There has been no further information about the outcome.

4.2 Staff

In January 2023, staff throughout the school were asked to complete a survey to find out how they travel to and from work: there were 7 responses received. The “other” answer is for walking to work.



The majority of journeys were completed by staff driving alone to work. When asked if they would consider car sharing with another member of staff, just under 50% said they would. However, the hours worked by staff were cited as the main obstacle to this.



The question was asked if staff would consider an alternative mode of transport to work, however lack of suitable buses/number of buses required was cited as the main reason why this does not happen.

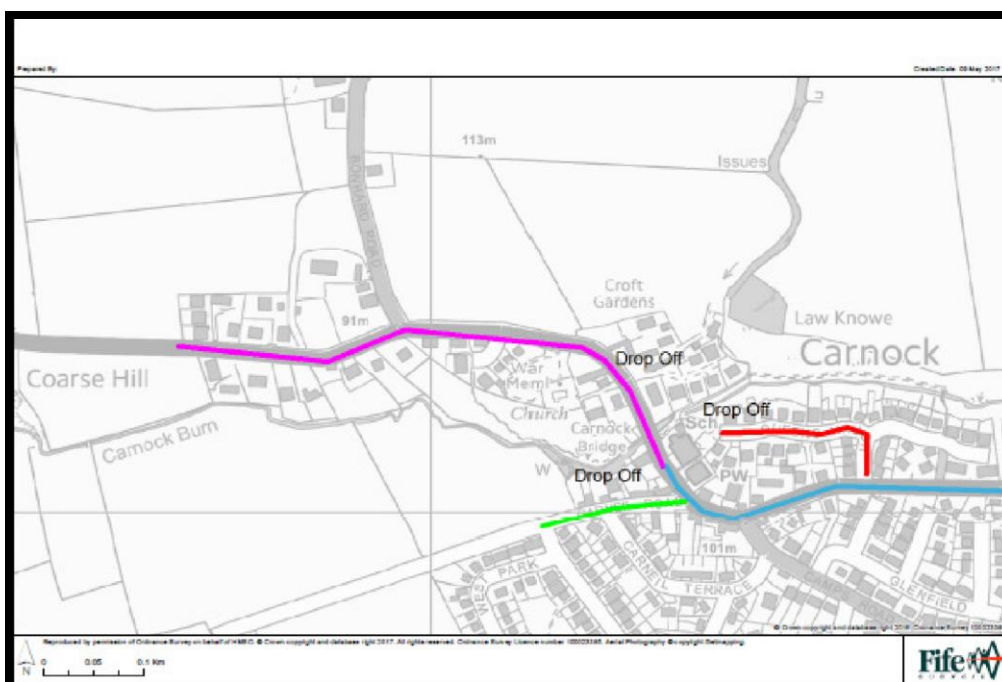
4.3 Are we moving in the right direction? (January 2023)

Yes, we are. Although only 67% of our children live within 1 mile of the school, 71% of our children come to school by foot, cycling or skating/scooting.

Parents are generally parking further away from school and encouraging their children to walk down to school. There continues to be no complaints about parking in the vicinity of the Newbigging area, or indeed any other area around the school.

5. MAPPING WORK

A few years ago, a group of children, a teacher and the school caretaker/school crossing patrol officer carried out a mapping exercise to identify the main routes to school. During this exercise, each child in the school identified their usual route to school and drop off point if appropriate. These routes can be seen below.



6. ROUTE AUDIT OF KEY ROUTES TO SCHOOL

The mapping work enabled the JROS' to identify a core network of streets used to travel to school. A strategic audit of these routes was then carried out in January 2023. The route audit was attended by:

- Mrs Howell (JRSO Co-ordinator)
- 5 JRSO members

The audit involved walking the identified network of streets and paths leading to the school and identifying any potential safety hazards or potential improvements. The routes audited were Main Street, Carneil Road, Carneil Gardens, the path through the park, Burnbank and Newbigging Road/Carnock Mill.

6.1 Summary of issues identified during the safety audit

Puffin Crossing, Main Street

The puffin crossing directly outside the school is extremely well used. A school crossing patrol officer operates the crossing at school times. However, it is in the middle of the traffic lights and the systems work independently of each other. It is therefore possible that drivers can get a green light at the traffic lights, but a red light at the crossing. This can occasionally result in drivers who aren't paying attention to miss the red light at the crossing. There is currently work being undertaken at Council level about re-siting the Puffin Crossing.

Path through Carnock Park

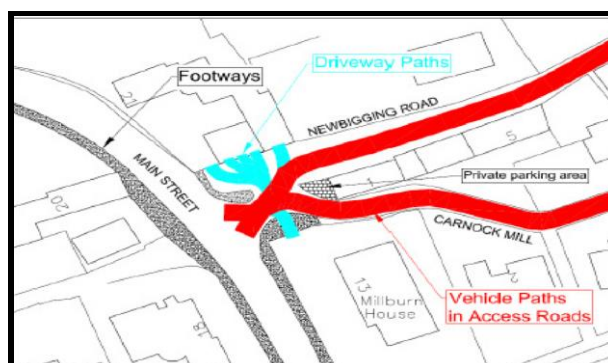
This could be an area for concern during winter months as the bridge connecting the park to Main Street is narrow and can become slippery when wet or icy.

Remote footpath Carneil Road to Main Street

The remote footpath is steep and narrow which is absolutely fine during the summer months. Problems can arise in winter when it is icy and the slope makes it difficult to negotiate.

Newbigging Road/Carnock Mill Access

Some parents choose to park and walk from the Newbigging/Carnock Mill junction. In the past, this indiscriminate parking causes access issues for residents of these streets. There have been no recent issues. The following diagram shows the notional paths that vehicles have to take to access the two roads and many driveways and garages in the area.



7. KEY ISSUES AND BARRIERS

The main issues appear to relate to road safety particularly near the Puffin Crossing. Namely, confusion between the traffic lights and Puffin crossing lights.

Difficulties relating to walking to school were also identified. Specific concerns were the following:

- Pupils not following instructions from the school crossing patrol officer.
- Speed of traffic.

8. ACTION PLAN

The following actions have been identified as priorities to help tackle the issues, barriers and concerns identified above.

Behavioural Initiatives

<u>Action</u>	<u>Solutions</u>	<u>Action Owner</u>	<u>Outcome/Update – January 2023</u>
Road safety education as part of the curriculum and at home	Pupils will be regularly reminded of staying safe Annual Hi-Vis day to coincide with the winter solstice.	School/ Parents	Children have had input about road safety as part of the HWB curriculum. Hi-Vis day took place in December 2022.
Promote active travel within the school community	Whole school participation in Active Travel Months	School committees/JRSOs	School signed up to Sustrans active travel.
Promote park and walk to all parents/carers.	School newsletters; organise and celebrate a park'n' walk week	School/JRSOs	ongoing
The footpath leading from Carneil Road to Main Street is steep and narrow. Problems can arise when it is icy and the slope makes it more difficult.	Children should be encouraged to walk along Carneil Road to the junction of Main Street if they think the footpath could be slippery. Pupils to be reminded of this at assemblies during the colder months.	School/Parents	
Concerns raised regarding the speed of traffic coming through the village past the school.	School to work with community police on how this can be addressed, e.g. pupils working with the speed gun	School JRSOs	Fife Council are currently consulting on this issue.
Promotion of the School Travel Plan to parents and Partners	Distribute Travel Plan to appropriate bodies and make available to staff, parents and carers via the school website	School	Travel plan is available on the website.

Physical Measures

<u>Action</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Action Owner</u>	<u>Outcome/Update</u>
Puffin Crossing working independently of traffic lights, resulting in reports of driver failing to stop.	Registration plate numbers of vehicles who do not observe the red light at the crossing can be reported to Police Scotland.	School/Parent Council	Plans for work are currently being considered by Fife Council.
There are sections of footway that can be difficult to negotiate when greenery overhangs walls.	Monitor the situation.	School	No difficulties observed January 2023.

ACTION PLAN – January 2023 – January 2024

<u>Action</u>	<u>Solutions</u>	<u>Action Owner</u>	<u>Target date</u>
Road safety education as part of the curriculum and at home	Pupils will be regularly reminded of staying safe Hi-Vis day to coincide with the winter solstice.	School/JRSOs Parents	Ongoing
Continue with Bikeability courses	Older pupils may be encouraged to cycle from our closest village – Oakley.	School	Current P6 and P7 are trained to level 2. P5 to be trained in Level 1 by June 2023.
Promote the use of safe routes to school.	Updated Travel Plan shared with school community via Groupcall and school website.	School	January 2024
The footpath leading from Carneil Road to Main Street is steep and narrow. Problems can arise when it is icy and the slope makes it more difficult.	Children should be encouraged to walk along Carneil Road to the junction of Main Street if they think the footpath could be slippery. Pupils to be reminded of this at assemblies during the colder months.	School/Parents	Although there have been no incidents of children slipping which we have been made aware of, we will continue to continue to situation.

9. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Our JRSOs will be involved in monitoring and evaluating our STP. Specific progress will be monitored by the annual “Hands Up Survey”. The school will include pertinent information regarding safe travel to school in school newsletters and at school assemblies.

10. DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN

The following bodies will receive a copy of the School Travel Plan

- Fife Council Assets, transport and Environment via the Travel Plan Team
- Fife Council Education Service via the School
- Fife Council Education Service Directorate Operations Team
- Parent Council
- Active Schools
- Copies will also be made available to the parents via the school website.