

PAXTON NURSERY TRAVEL PLAN

Selkirk Road
Methil
Fife
KY8 3LX

Headteacher: Sandie Johnston

Plan Created: Feb 2023



PART ONE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Welcome to the Travel Plan for Paxton Nursery. This plan sets out how the nursery aims to encourage staff, pupils and parents to travel more sustainably to and from centre, in safety. The plan will give some background information on the nursery, consider the policies and objectives relevant to the Travel Plan (TP), look at initiatives – both current and proposed – and use these to underpin a comprehensive action plan to deliver the objectives of the TP.

The success of the TP will be monitored and evaluated fully to demonstrate progress and, if required, allow future changes to the action plan and its targets.

Paxton Nursery received its name from Miss Paxton who opened the original nursery in 1934. It is a large purpose-built standalone nursery which was the first to be built in Fife. The original building, built in the 1960, stands in extensive grounds which the children have free-flow access to and an extension was created to cater for the growing number of children and staff in the setting.

Paxton is situated in the town of Methil and is open 39 weeks of the year to provide care and support to the families within Levenmouth Community. As well as providing high quality early learning and childcare for 3-5year olds, we also cater for two year old children.

We have two playrooms for our 3-5 year old children and a playroom for the Early Entrants. All nursery playrooms offer quality, rich learning and play experiences and each has direct access to secure and recently developed outdoor provision. Staff listen to, and work with the children to ensure learning is embedded from the Curriculum for Excellence and in line with current early years thinking. Further access to a secure and extended outdoor learning environment with raised beds, a tree swing, climbing frame and a trim trail. Our children are also offered a range of visits within the local community including the woods, the beach and the local library.

Parking Provision

Paxton has a small staff car park to the rear of the building which is accessed via the side gate and there is also a dedicated disabled bay at the end of Selkirk Street.

Travel information

The nursery is set within a residential area that is serviced by a local bus route and is close to the Town of Leven and its main bus depot.

The area has well maintained walking routes that are within 20mph zones.

Future plans

No changes to the building are envisaged at present.

Current Travel Issues

The Nursery is producing a travel plan at this time to help seek support in overcoming the foremost difficulty encountered by its users – congestion.

PART TWO

Aims

The overall aims of our Travel Plan are to:

- Increase the number of pupils, parents and staff travelling sustainably to our centre;
- Improve road safety and health for all
- Decrease and ultimately eliminate traffic and parking problems outside the centre and promote better traffic awareness in pupils, parents, staff and local Community.
- Continue to develop improved fitness in pupils
- Reduce the consumption of fossil fuels, saving energy and reducing pollution
- Demonstrate a commitment to the local Community by improving the local environment

Objectives

The objectives of our STP are to:

- increase year on year the number of pupils, parents and staff walking, cycling, using public transport or car sharing to our centre, at the expense of single occupancy (or parent and child) car use;
- address road safety and personal safety concerns to encourage greater use of walking, cycling and public transport use;
- continue to raise awareness, through partnership with parents
- improve the fitness and health of all through walking to/from centre, resulting in increased alertness and improved behaviour of pupils;

- eliminate parking problems at inappropriate areas.

Benefits

In achieving the above objectives, we will significantly increase health and safety awareness within the whole community,

For the nursery:

- improved safety and reduced pollution and emissions;
- reduced traffic in inappropriate areas;
- improved relationships with our neighbours;
- increased use of safer walking routes, reducing safety concerns;
- expanding citizenship opportunities e.g. Eco-Schools Programme participation;
- improve the profile of the centre in the community.

For pupils:

- improved road and personal safety
- increased understanding of sustainable travel issues (eco-centre)
- increased awareness of environmental issues at a local, national and international level (National Walk to Nursery Weeks, Safety Weeks)
- improved fitness through increased walking and cycling (bicycle racks, cycle lanes), scooters
- improved behaviour and alertness at to/from our centre.

For parents and staff:

- increased parent and child contact time going to/from our centre;
- increased interaction between parents on journey to our centre;
- reduced costs for parents/staff;
- reduced parking problems within/ out-with centre grounds.

For the community:

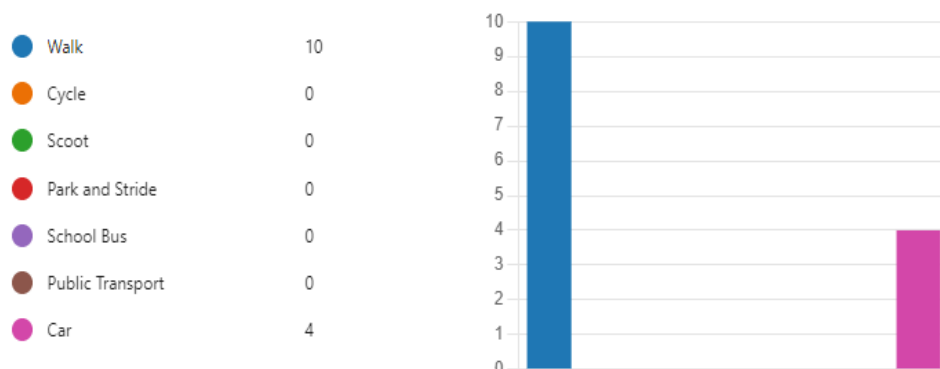
- joint working with the community to resolve issues eg discouraging parking outside the nursery
- Consult with Council with regards to raising awareness of the twenty zone, e.g. more visible signs, and road surface indicator.

PART 3

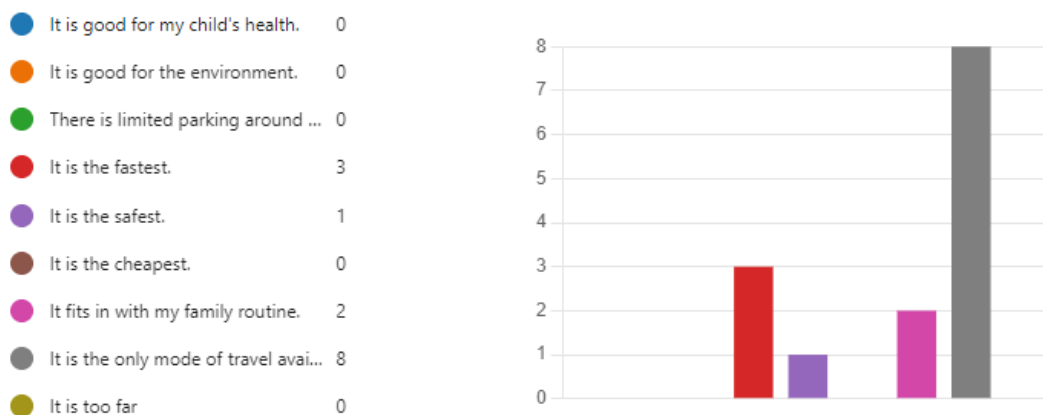
CONSULTATION RESULTS

Families and staff were questioned about travel to our centre. The response from parents was low however, the data below are the responses from the various questionnaires.

- 🚗 At nursery all children are brought in by parents or carers.
- 🚗 From the sample of families surveyed, 50% live within 1 mile of the nursery.
- 🚗 From the sample of families surveyed, 10 families regularly walk with the additional 4 using a car for the journey to nursery.



- 🚗 When asked what is the main reason for choosing this mode of travel the majority of those that answered said it fitted in with their routine.



- 🚗 When asked about what factors might affect your decision whether or not to let your child/ren actively travel to nursery the majority of parents stated the reduction of inconsiderate parking around the nursery entrance as well as safe crossing facilities on busy roads.

- 🚗 Families were also asked if there was anything else they wanted to tell us about their journey to nursery. Only 3 families commented:-

I love walking with my son to nursery but there defo needs to be less cars running/parked on the road leading up to the nursery to make it more safer for my son to walk up

Both me and my daughters enjoy the walk to and from school and nursery. It allows us to have chats about their day and learn about road safety.

Pavements are in a poor state of repair (at crossing with den walk), the road up to the nursery- only one side has a pavement and the other side is a road. Would prefer pavement at each side so children do not need to cross at the busy junction (or walk on the grass which inconsiderate dog owners do not clean). not nursery's fault on any of these issues but would enhance the journey to nursery for the kids if they were improved.

- 🚗 For the staff the preferred mode of transport to the nursery is car. With the majority parking within in the nursery grounds, however, a few stated that they parked in the surrounding streets.



- 🚗 33% of staff did express and interest in car sharing.
- 🚗 Staff stated that to encourage them to move to another mode of travel would require them to live closer to the nursery, change in childcare circumstances and the weather.

STREET SAFETY AUDIT

Background: A Street Safety Audit of routes to the nursery was carried out on the morning of 22 February 2023. The audit was attended Marta Ramage of Roads and Transportation Services.

Current Situation: The nursery has one pedestrian entrance from Selkirk Street and there are good footpath links through the catchment area.

The residential roads adjacent to the nursery are covered by a full time mandatory 20mph speed limit and have associated traffic calming features.

There is an enforceable "school keep clears" on Selkirk Road outside the nursery entrance. There is also a dedicated disabled bay.

Core Network: The strategic routes chosen for street safety audit are: Selkirk Street, Den Walk, Methilhaven Road and surrounding residential area.

Selkirk Street: The neighbourhood was designed in the 1950s and therefore the roads tend to be narrow and unsatisfactory for the volume of present-day traffic. Selkirk Street outside the nursery can become particularly congested with local resident and parental parking. Inconsiderate parking on the school keep clears and entering the school grounds is a real concern for the nursery staff and parents who actively travel to nursery.

Recommendation: MR to request that maintenance refresh the markings to the existing school keep clears. MR to request that the parking attendants prioritise this area to make drivers aware of existing restrictions. MR to seek alternative parking site to set up a park and stride site.

Anticipated Time Scale: Financial year 23/24

Den Walk: The road is covered by a mandatory 20 mph zone and is a very populated residential zone. However, during the audit there was areas along the route that parents could park without causing congestion and walk a short distance to the nursery entrance. This would reduce the congestion in Selkirk Street and allow parents to feel safer entering the nursery entrance.

Recommendation: MR to investigate creating a drop off zone along Den Walk and working with nursery staff to promote park and stride campaigns to reduce the congestion around the nursery entrance.

Anticipated Time Scale: Ongoing

Residential Streets: The footpath network around the nursery is very good and links the residential area, the nursery and the main routes to Leven all within a 20 mph zone. There is adequate traffic calming measurements in place with raised speed bumps, 20 mph signage, however, during the audit it was noted that from Den Walk there was not a sign to highlight drivers that the nursery was there.

Recommendation: MR to work with the nursery to create a plan and promote the links.

Anticipated Time Scale Ongoing

PART FOUR

Action Plan

Issue	Solution	Who	Timescale
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Number of cars bringing in children to nursery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Encourage parents to undertake a more active travel mode to the centre. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Centre staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Ongoing after launch of plan.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Marta to work with the nursery to create a park and stride site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Centre staff to update parents about park and stride site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ As soon as possible.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Promote travel activities through social media. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Centre staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Numbers of cars bringing in staff to work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Encourage staff to car share ☞ Encourage staff to use alternative methods of transport when appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Centre Management and Marta 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Congestion on Selkirk Street. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Include nursery on parking attendants' schools list for periodic visits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Roads and Transportation services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Ongoing

PART FIVE

Monitoring and Evaluation

- ☞ Proper monitoring of targets will include specific questionnaires to parents/carers in the different age groups.
- ☞ Information on monitoring and progress will be fed back to parents through newsletters and staff at regular staff meetings.
- ☞ Information about any changes to road will have to go through legal procedures before being actioned.
- ☞ I would expect all local homes effected to be individually contacted about any changes.
- ☞ The plan would need to be monitored and evaluated according to action taken by transportation services.