

Pitteuchar West PS

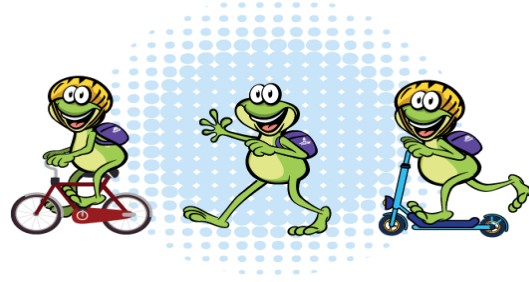
School Travel Plan



Head Teacher: Julie Anderson
School Address: Inverary Avenue
Glenrothes
Fife
KY7 4QL
Telephone No: 01592 583453

Contents

Summary Page



1.0 Introduction

1.1 School Background

2.0 Policies and Objectives

2.1 Formation of Junior Road Safety Officers

3.0 Current Travel Patterns

3.1 Hands Up Survey

3.2 Questionnaire Surveys

4.0 Mapping Work

5.0 Route Audit of key routes to School

6.0 Staff Questionnaire Data

7.0 Behavioural Action Plan

8.0 Monitoring and Evaluation

9.0 Distribution of School Travel Plan

Appendix 1 – Comments raised by Parents

Appendix 2 – Route Audit Document

SCHOOL TRAVEL PLANNING



YOUR GUIDE TO GETTING THINGS MOVING...

Summary Page

The following travel plan is a collaborative plan as parents, children, staff and stakeholders were all involved in researching and devising the content, agreeing the actions and aims to make the overall journeys to and from Pitteuchar West PS safer, healthier and more enjoyable by:

- Making journeys to and from school safer for everyone;
- Reduce traffic in front of the school by reducing the total number of cars used for the school journey;
- Increase awareness of active travel and educating all about road safety;
- Improving Active Travel facilities (bike and scooter storage, helmet storage, etc.);
- Promoting alternatives to car travel (cycling, walking and scooting), increasing the percentages of active travel.

The key issues and perception relating to journeys to and from school were identified as – Parents dropping children off on busy roads on to grass verges, parents stopping on school keep clear signs, more road safety lessons and a reduction to inconsiderate parking outside school gates, which causes problems including: -

- Congestion
- Blocked vision for walkers and cyclists
- Blocked vision for other drivers
- Low proportion of children actively travelling to school, especially in bad weather
- Concerns about road safety and speed of traffic

50% of those who answered this question within the survey highlighted that they lived within a 2 mile radius of the school.

Routes identified as safer routes to school are:

- Remote path leading to Pitteuchar Drive
- Inverary Avenue and residential streets behind the school
- Beaufort Drive

Proposed Behavioural Actions

Promote Active Travel School
Promote Safer Routes to School
Road Safety Education
Reduce Congestion around the school gate.
Deliver Cycle Training School (Bikeability)

This plan is valid for 6 years and will be reviewed during year 3.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 School background

Pitteuchar West Primary School is in the town of Glenrothes, situated approximately 1.5 miles from Glenrothes town centre. It is one of two Primary Schools serving the Pitteuchar area.

The school is a modern one-storey building which was erected in the mid nineteen seventies and is set in attractive grounds. It has a flat roof which had required frequent maintenance, but a programme of refurbishment is now complete.

The school is equipped with a video entry system to safeguard against unauthorised entry to school and all authorised visitors wear identity badges. Inside, the building is divided into three main light, bright open plan wings which are connected by a Central Hall and an Administration Corridor.

Infant classes and middle school classes are accommodated in the two larger wings, off which there are side rooms for withdrawal and music etc, wet areas for art and craft activities and space for class libraries. The third smaller wing is situated at the end of the administration corridor and accommodates the upper school children. It has ample space for a variety of learning activities and resources and there is also a small kitchen contained within the wing.

Each wing has its own cloakroom and toilet facilities and there are water coolers in each area.

The large, central hall is multi-purpose and is used for PE and Drama, assemblies and presentations and also serves as a dining room where children are served school meals made on our own kitchen premises or eat packed lunches brought from home.

The school is well resourced to promote modern learning and teaching methods.

Within the school grounds there is a separate Nursery Building which accommodates 38 children in each of the morning and afternoon sessions. This was erected in 2000 and is also a light, bright, modern building set in its own recreational space.

Our school grounds have been developed as part of a planned policy to utilise them to extend learning and teaching beyond the confines of the building. Play areas include grass and hard surfaced spaces, some with playground markings and ball walls to encourage a variety of games to be played. There are also “quiet areas” where children can sit or play quieter games. These are attractive areas with flower beds and shrubberies and a variety of playground sculptures called “Westies” which have been designed by the children to act as meeting places and places to leave coats etc.

In the summer we are able to make use of extensive grass areas to encourage larger scale games to be played and also open up wilder areas for children to use and develop a sense of the importance of ecology and environmental responsibility.

The school and grounds are monitored by a CCTV system which helps prevent vandalism.

There are 3 pedestrian gates (Pitteuchar Drive, Beaufort Drive, Inverary Avenue) plus 1 vehicle gate on Inverary Avenue.

Residential streets are within a 20mph zone. However, Pitteuchar Drive is a 40mph zone.

2.0 POLICY AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 Formation of Junior Road Safety Officers

The school has set up a group of JRSO's.

It is recommended to create JRSO's (Junior Road Safety Officers) within the school to help raise road safety awareness and promote road safety issues to everyone in the school and the wider community.

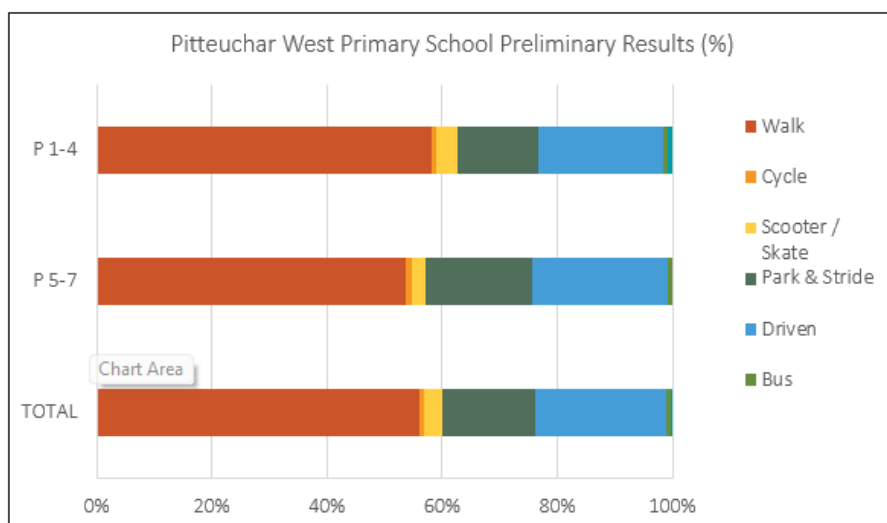
For more information on JRSO see website www.jrso.com

There is also a dedicated team that will assist with the development of JRSO's, email them for more information. Safercommunities.projectofficers@fife.gov.uk

3. CURRENT TRAVEL PATTERNS

3.1 Hands Up Survey

The hands up survey looks at how children travel to school. This information is captured in the month of September on any given day. The information captured for Pitteuchar West in 2022 highlighted that out of 248 children who were present on the day, 56% walked, 1% cycled, 3% scooter/skate, 16% park and stride, 23% driven and 1% bus. Please see the diagram below:



3.2 Questionnaire Surveys

A questionnaire was issued to families and staff prior to completing a route audit. During the consultation period **51** families and 10 staff members responded, and the following analysis is based on the data from those surveys.

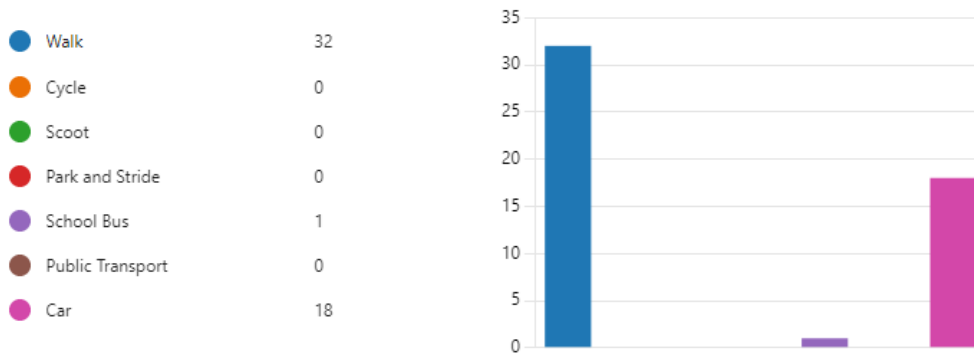
Family Survey Data

32 families highlighted that walking was the main mode of travel to school with 1 family stating that they either get the school Bus or use Public Transport.

30 families stated that driving was their preferred mode of travel.

How do you usually travel to school?

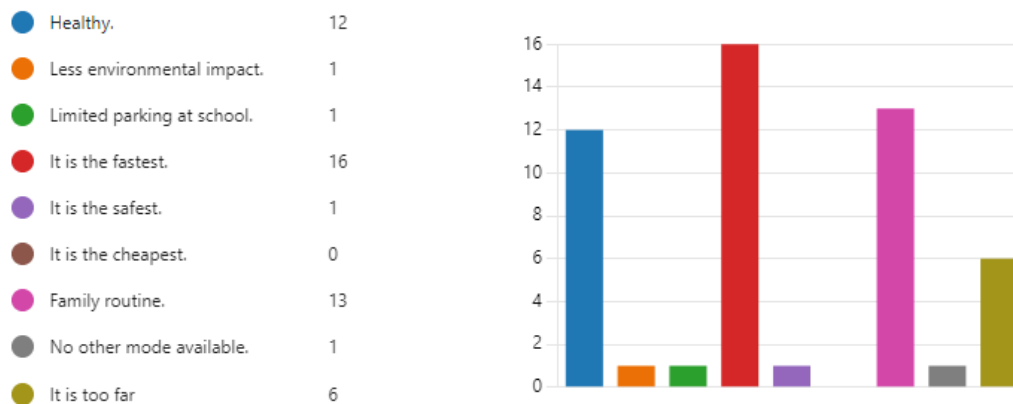
[More Details](#)



The main reasons given for travel mode choices are:

. What is the main reason for choosing this mode of travel?

[More Details](#)



When asked how far from the school do you travel 17% of families stated they live within a 1 mile radius with a further 50% saying that they lived within a 2 mile radius.

. How far do you live from the School?

[More Details](#)

● Within 1 mile	3
● Within 2 miles	9
● Within 3 miles	3
● Within 4 miles	3
● 5 miles or more	0



35% of family say the journey to school takes less than 5 minutes with **45%** saying it takes 5-10 mins.

. How long does your journey to school take, approximately?

[More Details](#)

● Less than 5 mins	18
● 5- 10 mins	23
● 10- 15 mins	10
● 15 - 20 mins	0
● More than 20 mins	0



According to the survey 51% of parents are very satisfied with the way their child/children travel to school with only 8% stating that they were neither satisfied or dissatisfied, but none gave a reason to why they felt dissatisfied with their journey.

. How satisfied are you with the way your child/children travels to school?

[More Details](#)

● Very satisfied	26
● Somewhat satisfied	20
● Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	4
● Somewhat dissatisfied	1
● Very dissatisfied	0



Parents were also asked “to what extent do they agree with the following statements about your child/children journey to school”.

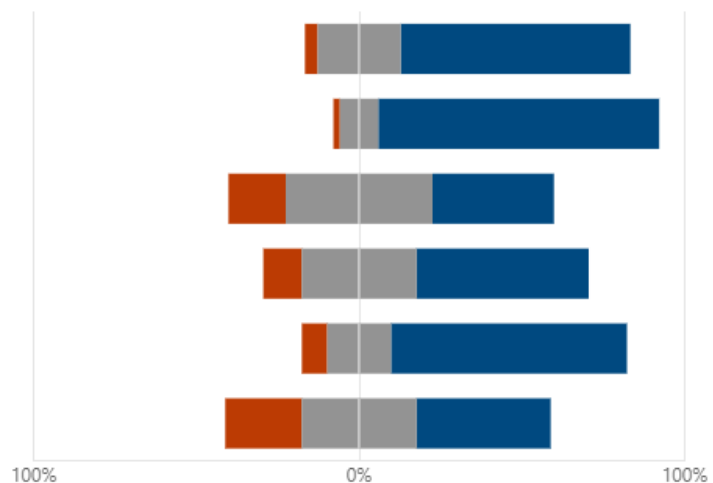
86% of parents agreed that active travel is important.

3. To what extent do you agree with the following statements about your child/children's journey to school?

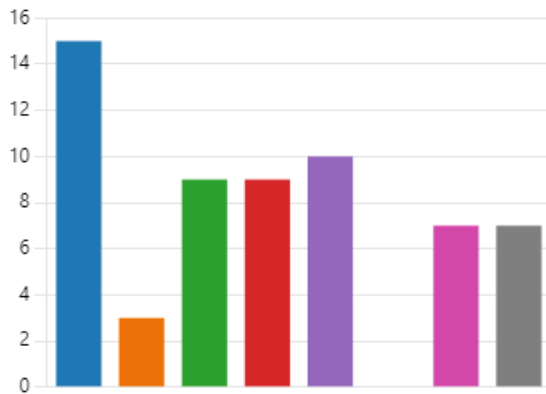
[More Details](#)

■ Disagree ■ Neither/Nor ■ Agree

- It is an opportunity to spend quality time with your child/ren.
- It is important for children to travel actively to help with daily exercise.
- Children should not travel to school by car if possible.
- The pressures of daily life mean I have to find the quickest way to do the school run.
- There is too much traffic outside the school.
- Inconsiderate parking by parents prevents me from allowing my child/ren to actively travel to school.

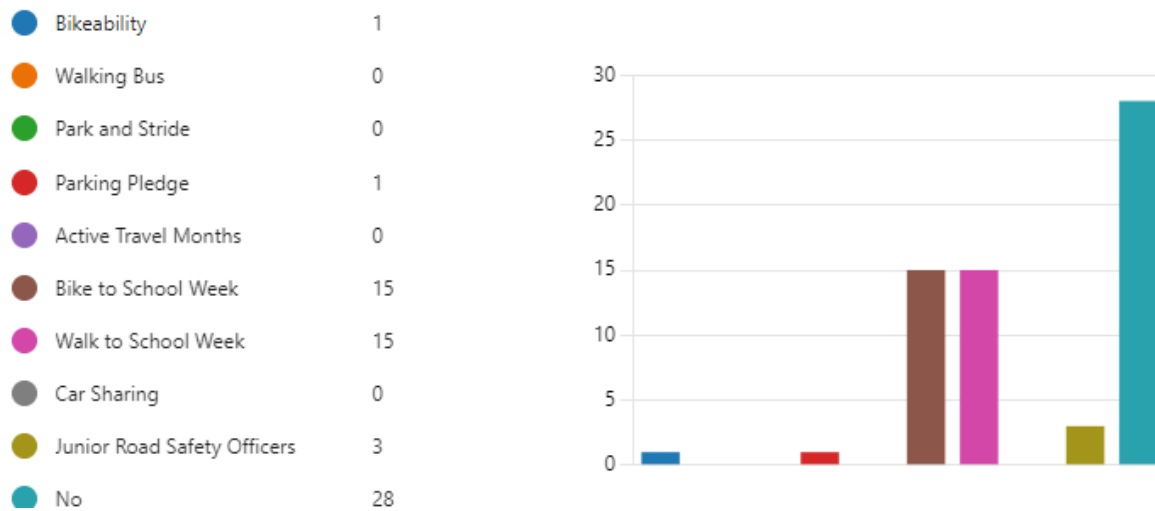


Parents then went on to state that the following factors have an impact on their decision on whether they would allow their child/children to actively travel to school.



- Safe crossing facilities on busy roads.
- Vehicle speed reducing measures.
- Knowing that other children are walking/ cycling.
- Knowing that other children are walking/ cycling
- More road safety for children.
- More information on the health and environmental benefits of walking and cycling.
- Reduction of inconsiderate parking at the gate.
- Other

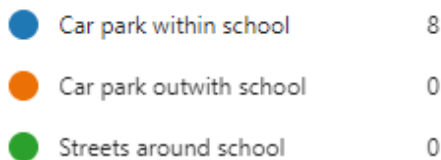
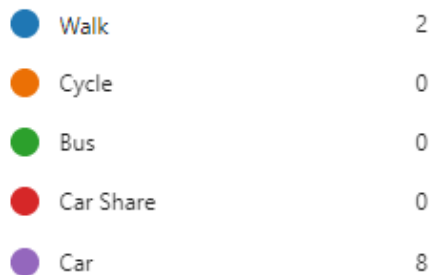
Parents were asked if they were aware of any initiatives being taken at school to encourage more sustainable travel patterns. The following diagrams highlights their response.



Finally, when asked if there was anything else, they would like to tell us about their journey the main issues raised were inconsiderate parking and safety. Full List in **Appendix 1**

6.0 STAFF QUESTIONNAIRE DATA

Members of staff undertook an online survey on how they travel to school and the impact this has on the school run. The following analysis highlights their mode of travel.



Majority of staff cited that they drove to school and parked within the school grounds with 1 person parking outwith.

When asked what would encourage them to consider alternative modes of transport majority stated that nothing as they have other commitments outside school and buses are irregular.

When asked about any improvements they could make to their journey to ensure the routes to school were less congested all staff commented n/a.



7.0 BEHAVIOURAL ACTION PLAN

Action	Solution	Action Owner	Target Date (Academic year)
Promote Active Travel	Take part in Active Travel Months	School/TAG	Term 2 & Term 4
	Take part in Bike Week	School/TAG	Term 4
	Take part in the Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel	School/TAG	Term 3
	Walk to school week	School/TAG	Term 4
Promote Safer routes to school	Upload map to website	School	Term 1
	Put information board up at parents nights	School/TAG	Term 1
	Articles/videos in school newsletters, social media and assemblies to encourage parents to use park and stride sites identified and to encourage sustainable travel where possible	School/TAG	Term 2 Term 4 Ongoing
Road Safety Education	Run poster campaigns	School/TAG	Ongoing
	Take part in Road Safety Week.		Term 2
Reduce congestion around school gate	Develop the following: Parking Pledge Park N Stride Site Walking Bus	School/TAG	Ongoing
Bikeability	Offer cycle training to all pupils	School	Ongoing
Pitteuchar Drive – Drop off zone and stairs	Liase with Traffic Management	Marta and Trudy	Ongoing

8.0 MONITORING & EVALUATION

The JRSO's will continue to meet periodically to monitor progress and will review the Travel Plan on an annual basis.

Specific progress will be monitored by participation in the "Hands Up Survey Scotland" each year and a repeat of the full travel survey will take place 6 years after initial launch.

The school's ongoing commitment to travel planning will be publicised in the school handbook, the school newsletters, the Parent's notice board and through assemblies.

9.0 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
- Fife Council School Estates Team
- Parent Partnership
- Active Schools
- Copies will also be made available to the parents from the School Office and via the school information site.



Appendix 1

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your journey to school?

My child goes to school by walking because I do not have a car.

Cars parked where kids can't see the road.

Parents who drive should be following the road markings and not making it dangerous for the walking children. Too many parents park on a regular basis at the traffic lights, which means children cannot see any oncoming traffic. Accident waiting to happen.

Out with catchment try to walk on the days not working.

The traffic around the school is terrible and poses a real risk to children.

We are very lucky that we don't have to cross any roads on the walk to school.

Have no choice but to travel by car as would take 30+ mins to walk. We have just bought a new house and had to go out with the area for our budget.

Parking over dropped kerbs and crossings is an issue.

We are not catchment area so too far to walk.

My child walks to and from school on his own.

Inconsiderate parking by other parents makes drop off difficult and unsafe.

People constantly parking on the no parking white zig zags markings at the traffic lights making it unsafe for the kids that are using the crossing, perhaps the presence of the community police officers would help. This has been reported to the school and the community police but nothing seems to happen and no response to issues reported to them.

I now avoid Inverary Avenue, as the parking and driving by parents is atrocious and is an accident waiting to happen. The parents who persist on parking on/near corners and at the entrance of Inverary Avenue are causing delays and near misses.

As my child gets older, I would be happy to let him take a bus to Pitteuchar, but the only school bus service in Finglassie is for Pitteuchar East. Not sure why the bus service cannot drop off at both schools in Pitteuchar. I would not feel comfortable allowing a primary age child travel by foot or bike alone from Finglassie to PW - too many main carriageways.

There has been few mornings when the patrol person has not been there until about 5 minutes before school starts. Which is no good.

There are always older (P7) children fighting near the road at the underpass at the end of the day so I'm very reluctant to allow my child to walk to and from school alone.

Too much speeding from staff and parents and local residents

We live close to the school so makes sense to walk to school -starts the day off.

I would like my daughter to feel more confident walking to and from school herself, but she isn't ready. Maybe a discussion with classmates and teachers might help.

APPENDIX 2

FIFE COUNCIL
ASSETS, TRANSPORTATION & ENVIRONMENT

Route Audit of Key Routes to School.

A site visit of the key routes was carried out on the morning of Tuesday 02nd May 2023. The weather conditions were dry and overcast. Those in attendance were the school travel plan team and the JRSO's.



The areas audited were: -

- Remote path leading to Pitteuchar Drive
- Inverary Avenue and residential streets behind the school
- Beaufort Drive

The school has three pedestrian entrances one on Inverary Avenue, Beaufort Drive and a remote path leading to Pitteuchar Drive.

The residential areas adjacent to the school are covered by a full time mandatory 20mph speed limit and has associated traffic calming features and repeater signs. Pitteuchar Drive is a 40mph road.

At the time of undertaking the key route audit all school keep clear signage and other relevant markings were clear and readable.

Inverary Avenue and residential streets

Issue

Pupils walking from the residential streets around Pitteuchar use the main gate on Inverary Avenue to access the school grounds. JRSO's stated that this area is particularly congested at drop off and pick up times by those parents who drive their children to school.

Some stated that the parents are parking on the school keep clear signs, although there is ample off street parking available all around the area.

Recommendation

Investigate options to encourage parking in bays and reducing congestion around the school gate.

Action

School Travel Plan team to work with the JRSO's to develop parking campaigns to highlight the danger parents are causing by parking in the dedicated bus lane.

School to share these campaigns with parents through their communication channels. Also to hold an assembly with the whole school for JRSO's to update pupils on the plans.



Remote path to Pitteuchar Drive

Issue

At the back of the school there is access to a small remote path which leads to Pitteuchar Drive. This road is extremely busy and JRSO's advised that Parents stop at the side off this road on the grass verge to drop off children. Children are then having to walk down a grassy slope to the path in all weathers, making this unsafe in wet an icy condition.

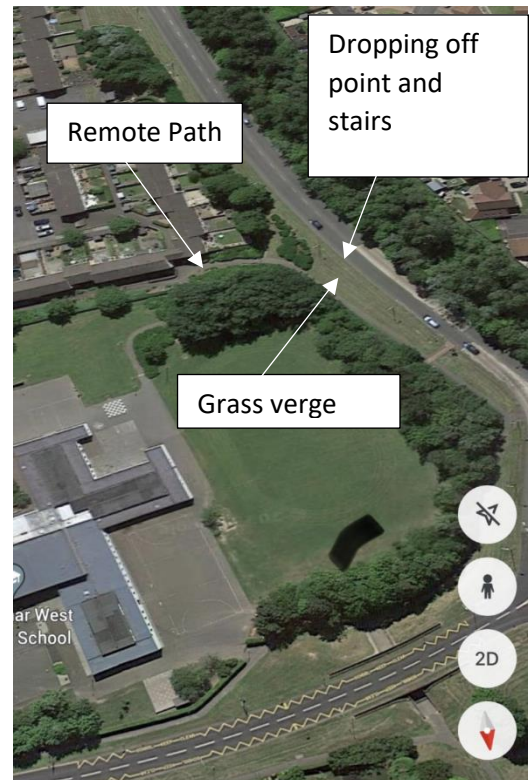
They also commented about number of vapes that are discarded in the area from teenagers.

Recommendations

Investigate which department within the council is responsible for the possible installation of a path from the road. The path will then link to the remote path making this safer in wet slippy conditions

Action

JRSO's to run campaigns with the school about pupil behaviour and the choices they make while actively travelling to school.

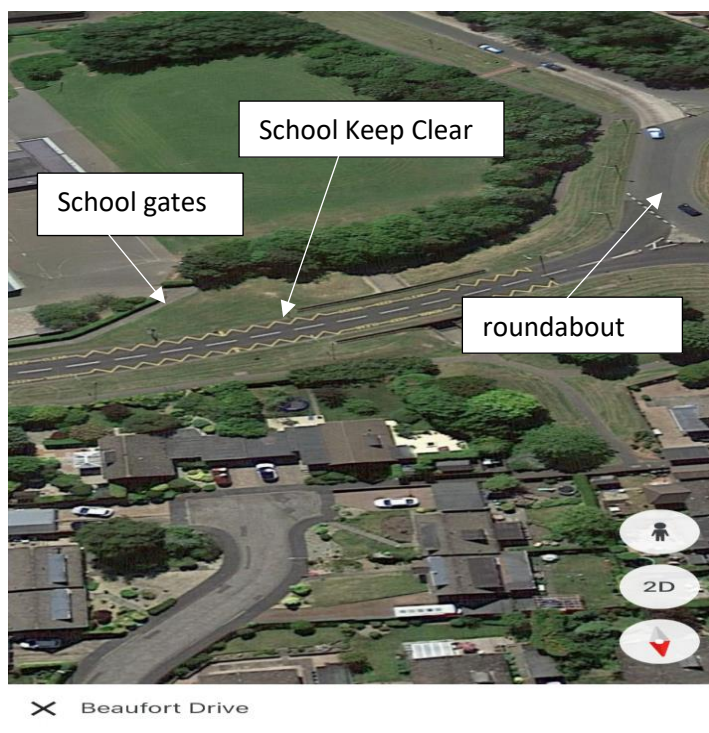


Beaufort Drive

Issues

Beaufort Drive is a 30 mph speed limit road. The road is busy as it is the main road travelled to school from different directions. Visibility is clear with the road being wide. There are zebra crossing points further down the road and traffic calming bumps, but not directly outside the school. There is an underpass at the top of Beaufort Drive, making it safe to cross the busy roundabout.

The main issue here is that Parents are parking on the School Keep Clear signs dropping off their children on to a grass verge just before a busy roundabout.



Recommendations

Investigate safer areas to park encouraging parents to park away from the keep clear signs.

Action

Send out communication to Parents via School App, Groupcall etc, advising that parking on the school keep clear signs can result in a fine.

Summary

Pitteuchar West school is well served by existing crossing points and footways. The challenge at Pitteuchar West will be encouraging parents to change their behavioural patterns and introduce active travel into their daily routine.

This will help reduce congestion and improve safety around the school gate. Promoting safe walking routes and seeking the implementation of the recommendations should make the trip to school more enjoyable and encourage more participation in active travel.