



# Thornton Primary School Travel Plan



Depute Head Teacher: Mr Derek Cobb

School Address: Station Road  
Thornton  
KY1 4AY

Telephone Number: 01592 583465

## **SUMMARY PAGE**

The following travel plan is a collaborative plan by parents, children, staff and stakeholders who have researched and devised the content, agreeing the actions and aims to make the overall journeys to and from Thornton PS safer, healthier and more enjoyable by:

- Reduce congestion around the school by reducing the 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 – inconsiderate parking around the school gate and surrounding streets, 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

Due to the lack of family participation it is difficult to judge how many pupils live within a 2-mile radius of the school, however, during the mapping exercise the majority of the routes identified are within a 5 – 10 minute travel radius from the school gate.

Routes identified as safer routes to school are:

1. Station Road
2. Beech Ave and Donald Crescent Area
3. Brown Crescent/Cameron Park, Flutorum Avenue and Chewton Road Area
4. Strathore Road

### **Proposed Behavioural Actions**

Promote Active Travel School

Promote Safer Routes to School

Road Safety Education School/Parents/Fife Council

Reduce Congestion around the school gate School/Parents/Fife Council

Deliver Cycle Training School/Fife Council

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

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 School background

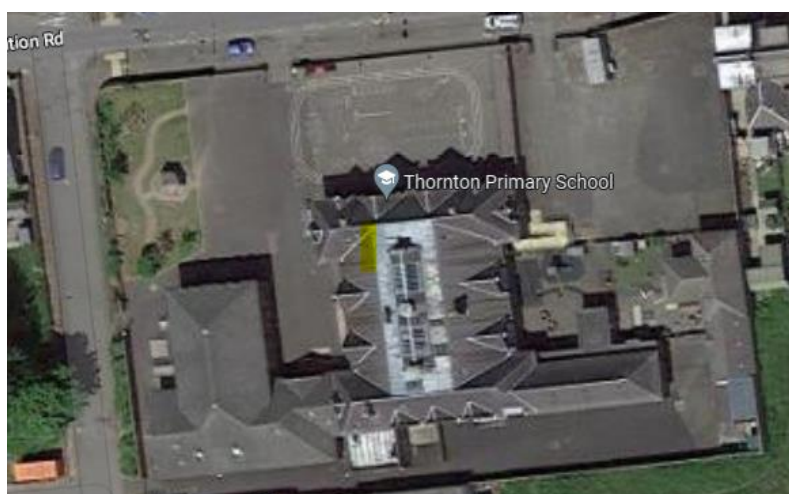
Our school was established in 1904 with the additions of our nursery building and multi-purpose hall in more recent years. All our facilities are located on ground level and provides access for all.

The main building has 10 classrooms housing our 7 classes, Science classroom and Support for Learning classroom. Our nursery building has one main room allowing enrolment for 3 and 4 year old children, morning and afternoon. Our nursery model is 49 weeks a year offering 1140 hours entitlement for our children. The PE/assembly hall and dining hall are shared areas. A central area within the schoolhouses our library, resources and is a branch out area for classes to use for learning activities.

We have strong links with the local community, St Andrews University and are developing links with business partners. We have a high level of support and involvement from our parents/carers. We invite community members as well as parents, carers, grandparents, and friends into our school for special events and performances, open afternoons etc.

Pupil Voice is an integral part of the continuous improvement of our school. We have pupils leading various groups including Pupil Council, Eco Schools, Sports Committee, House Captains and Rights Respecting Schools.

We promote an open-door policy and are always happy to discuss any aspects of the work going on in school. We value the contribution all parents/carers make to our school and have an active Parent Council.



## 2.0 POLICY AND OBJECTIVES

### 2.1 Formation of Junior Road Safety Officers

To address the issues raised with congestion around the school gate and to work on future initiatives the school formed its travel action group which consists of Junior Road Safety Officers and members of the school parent council and parent volunteers.

Donna Grant Teacher

Daisy Duncan - Primary 6

Luke McIntosh - Primary 6

Lily Martin – Primary 6

Mason Brydon – Primary 6

Kai Horridge – Primary 6

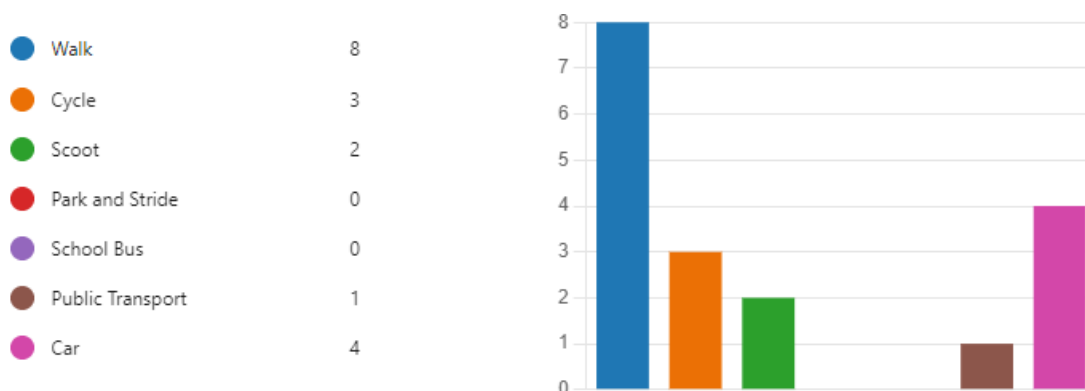
## 3. CURRENT TRAVEL PATTERNS

### 3.1 Questionnaire Surveys

During the consultation period only **18** families responded, and the following analysis is based on the data from these surveys along with the annual Hands Up Survey 2021.

#### 3.1.1 Family Survey Data

**13** families highlighted that active travel was their main mode of travel to school followed by **4** families citing that they drive to school.



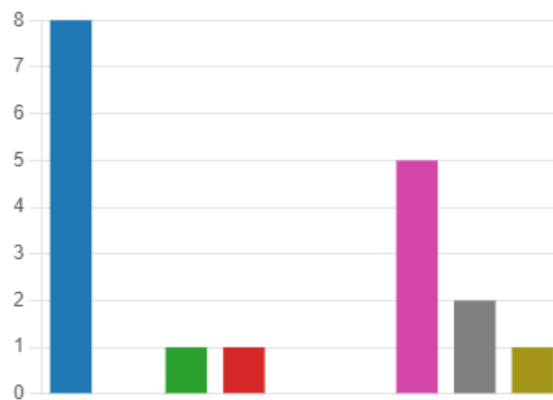
However, the annual Hands UP Survey gives a true reflection of how pupils at Thornton travel to school each day.

| Walk  | Cycle | Scooter / Skate | Park & Stride | Driven | Bus | Taxi | Other |
|-------|-------|-----------------|---------------|--------|-----|------|-------|
| 47.7% | 9.2%  | 7.8%            | 10.5%         | 24.2%  | *   | 0.0% | *     |

Those who indicated that they drove to school were asked “Where do you park, please give the name of the street or car park” no one gave an answer to this question, however, when asked about parking restrictions around the school most answered that they were aware of these and understood that parking on school keep clears incurred a fixed penalty notice.

Families were then asked what is the main reasons for choosing their travel mode, families answered the following.

- It is good for my child's health. 8
- It is good for the environment. 0
- There is limited parking around ... 1
- It is the fastest. 1
- It is the safest. 0
- It is the cheapest. 0
- It fits in with my family routine. 5
- It is the only mode of travel avai... 2
- It is too far 1



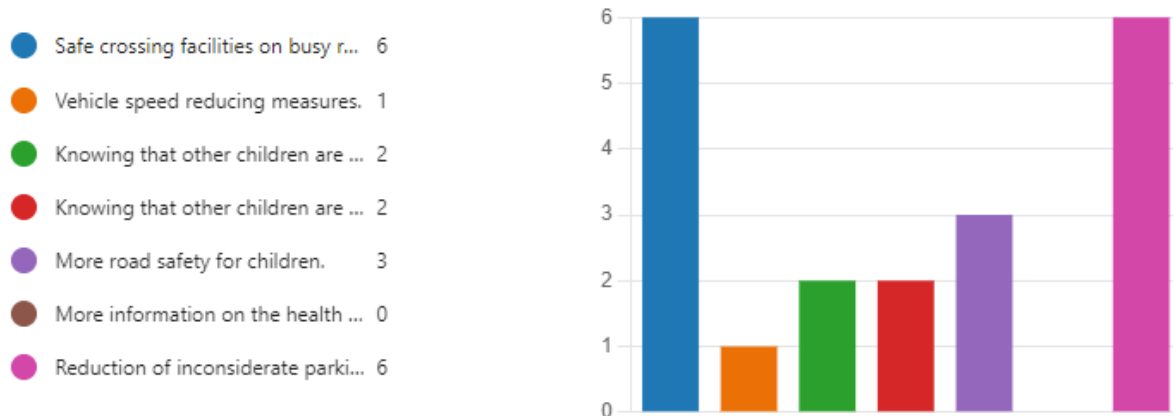
When asked “How far do you live from School?” only 3 families answered this question. The diagram below highlights this data but does not give a true reflection on the number of pupils that live within 2 miles proximity to the school.

- Within 1 mile 2
- Within 2 miles 0
- Within 3 miles 1
- Within 4 miles 1
- 5 miles or more 0



According to the survey **50% of** families are satisfied with the way their child/children travel to school with only **17%** stating that they were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied and **11%** saying they are somewhat dissatisfied. However, of those citing they were dissatisfied none gave an explanation to why!

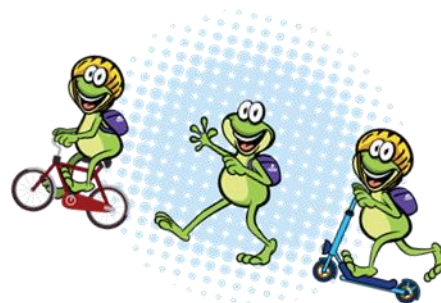
When asked "What factors might affect your decision whether to let your child/ren travel actively to school, or to the bus stop, families indicated that the reduction of inconsiderate parking around the school gate.



**Only 5** families indicated that they were aware of any active travel initiatives taking place at school to encourage pupils to be more sustainable with 5 stated they knew about Bikeability.

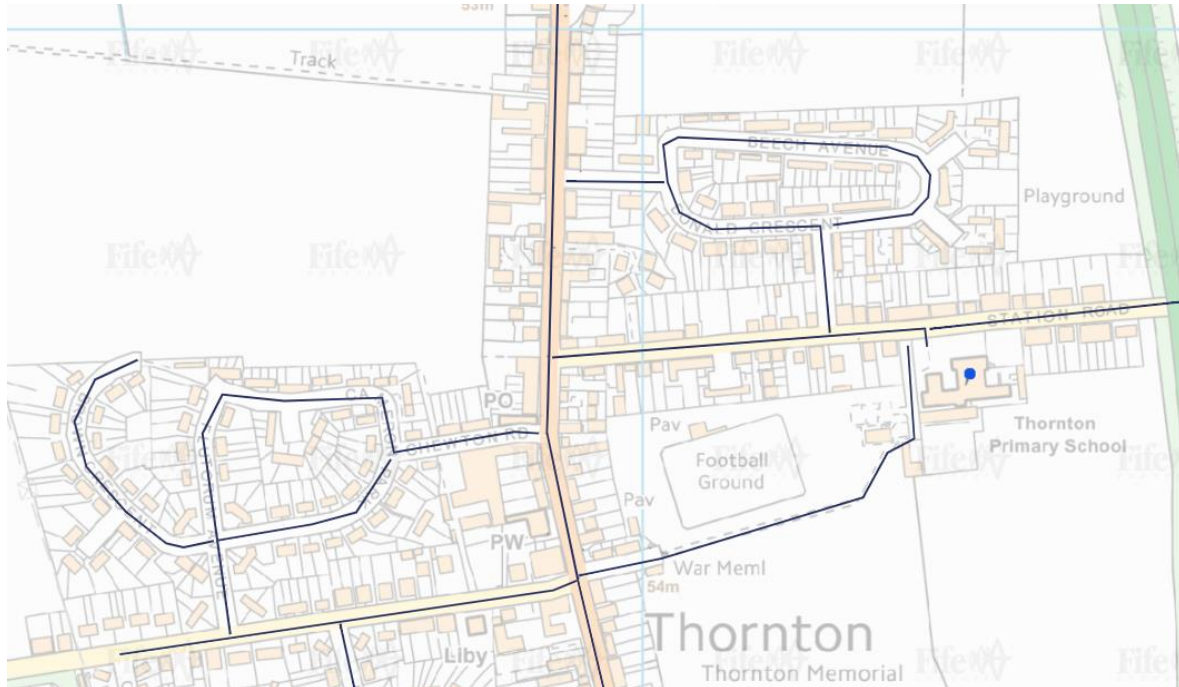
Finally, families were asked if there was anything else they would like to tell us about their journey to school. The following is a list of the most common comments.

- Less cars around the school gate causing congestion
- Stop speeding cars through the village
- School Crossing Patrol Officer
- Safety



#### 4.0 MAPPING WORK

A mapping exercise was carried out within the school to identify the routes pupils travelled. These were then analysed and the 4 main active travel routes to school were identified.



#### 5.0 ROUTE AUDIT OF KEY ROUTES TO SCHOOL

A site visit of the above key routes was carried out on afternoon of 23<sup>rd</sup> January. The weather conditions were cold bright and sunny.

The main issues noted by the JRSO's was congestion outside the school gate.

## 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 4                      |
|                                      | Take part in Bike Week  | School/TAG   | Term 4                      |
|                                      | Take part in the Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel  | School/TAG   | Term 3                      |
| Promote Safer routes to school       | Upload map to website   | School       | Term 4                      |
|                                      | Put information board up at parents' nights   | School/TAG   | Term 4                      |
|                                      | Articles in school newsletters, social media and assemblies   | School/TAG   | Ongoing                     |
| Road Safety Education                | Run poster campaigns  | School/TAG   | Ongoing                     |
| Reduce congestion around school gate | Develop the following:  | School/TAG   | Ongoing                     |
|                                      | Parking Pledge  |              | Term 4                      |
|                                      | Park N Stride Site  |              | Term 4                      |
| Bikeability                          | Walking Bus   | School       | Term 4                      |
|                                      | Offer cycle training to all P6 and P7 pupils – look at moving cycle parking to front of the building.<br>Apply for cycle parking fund and investigate becoming a Cycle Friendly school. |              | Term 1/2                    |
|                                      |   |              | Term 4                      |

## 8.0 Physical Measures

| Action              | Action Owner | Target Date |
|---------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Refresh of markings | FC           | 2023        |



## **9.0 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 Travel Tally" 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.

## **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
- 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. – Route Audit**

**FIFE COUNCIL  
ASSETS, TRANSPORTATION & ENVIRONMENT  
THORNTON PRIMARY SCHOOL, DUNFERMLINE  
ROUTE SAFETY AUDIT**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This report results from an Audit of key routes undertaken at Thornton Primary School at the request of the school to facilitate their School Travel Plan.

The school is situated within a 20 mph zone on Station Road. Station Road is classed as a cul de sac with no real turning point for cars to manoeuvre safely without driving further down the street away from the school. There are 3 gates to the school.

A site visit of the key routes was carried out on the afternoon of 26<sup>th</sup> January. The weather conditions were cold bright and sunny. The audit team consisted of:

|              |                                |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| Marta Ramage | School Travel Plan Coordinator |
| Donna Grant  | Teacher                        |
|              | JRSO                           |
|              | JRSO                           |
|              | JRSO                           |
|              | JRSO                           |

The key routes audited were:

- Station Road
- Beech Ave/Donald Crescent
- Lochore Road
- Brown Cres/Flutorum Ave/Chewton Road
- Main Street

## **FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Station Road**

#### **Issue**

In the street audit the issue of the number of parked cars at peak times in the vicinity of the school was raised. It was stated that these were a hazard for pupils having to cross the road to access the school. It was also noted that the school keep clear markings and restrictions were not being adhered to and they need a refresh.

#### **Side Entrance to School – Parking and visibility for pupils crossing**

Pupils entering and exiting the from the side entrance find it difficult to cross due to parked cars and those entering and leaving the public car park.

#### **Recommendations**

School travel plan coordinator to request refresh of markings. School to organise ongoing action supported by the community police to get the message across to parents about parking congestion.

### **Main Street**

During the audit Main Street was not seen as a barrier to active travel as it is within a 20 mph zone. There is a zebra crossing that connects the surrounding streets west of the school and this is used by pupils to cross this busy section. Pupils were very well disciplined and aware of road safety issues when using the crossing, however, it was stated that younger members of the school may not be adverse to the same road safety training.

#### **Recommendations**

School travel plan coordinator to work with the JRSO's to deliver road safety campaigns utilising Road Safety Scotland resources.

### **Lochore Road**

On the day of the audit the JRSO's who attended walked along Lochore Road and noted that although the road was used by heavy vehicles from neighbouring businesses that the route felt safe and did not cause them any concerns when actively travelling to school.

#### **Recommendations**

Through the actions agreed within the travel plan JRSO's to continue to promote road safety campaigns utilising school assemblies, social media and school website.

### **Beech Ave/Donald Crescent and Brown Cres/Flutorum Ave/Chewton Road**

The core streets around the school are residential and are covered by a full time mandatory 20mph speed limit and have associated traffic calming measures. At times visibility is difficult due to residential parking but there are sufficient gaps to allow pupils to cross the road safely.

#### **Recommendations**

Continue to deliver road safety campaigns through the school travel plan.

## **SUMMARY**

Thornton Primary school is well served by existing crossing points and footways. The challenge at Thornton 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.