**Firth Primary School**

**Travel Plan**

**September 2019/20**

**Introduction**

The school travel plan looks at the journey to and from school. It seeks to make the journey safer and more sustainable. It encourages ‘active travel’ such as walking or cycling as a way to promote healthy lifestyles and as an alternative to using a car where possible. It also encourages parents and staff to think about travel choices and to choose alternatives to the car where possible.

A travel plan offers the following potential benefits to staff, parents and pupils:

* Improved road safety and pupil awareness of their route to/from school and thus enabling walking and cycling
* Improved health and fitness, encouraging healthier and more active lifestyles and can complement other school initiatives
* Fosters independence amongst the pupils

**The School Travel Team**

The school travel team has involved members of the school community, Head Teacher, School Staff, Parent Council Representatives, representatives from Orkney Islands Council and the Junior Road Safety Officers.

**Aims**

The four overall aims of this plan are to:

* Improve safety for pupils on their journey to and from school
* Promote healthy and active travel choices i.e. walking and cycling
* Raise awareness of our safe routes to school
* To improve safety around the school car park

**Situation of the school**

Firth Primary School is located just up the road from the main village of Finstown on the edge of The Ouse.

It has a roll of almost 100 pupils and a catchment area which extends across the parish of Firth and just into Rendall.

The children travel to school by a variety of means – school bus transport, car, walking, cycling or by scooter. The main Kirkwall – Stromness road runs through the village and many of the children are required to cross it at the busy crossroad. There is supposed to be an SCPO there, though in recent months the post has remained vacant. Also some pupils cross at an earlier point, close to the builders merchants which can be very busy in the morning with parked vehicles, reversing vans and so on.

**Roads and Pavements**

Our school is situated on a fairly busy 40mph road. At the busiest time of dropping off and picking up (9.00am – 9.30am and 3.25pm – 3.50pm approx) there is an extended 20mph speed limit indicated by flashing lights.

In terms of parking, there is a car park with clearly marked spaces; it can be very busy, especially on rainy days. There is not a separate access to this for pedestrians. Many children and parents follow the pavement from the village, past the hillock, over the brig and then along the pavement, crossing in a quieter location. This is the best route for pedestrian access. There is not a suitable pavement for pupils walking from the Rendall direction. Most of the village has pedestrian pavements but there are some places where they are very narrow or limited e.g. opposite the Post Office.

**School Transport Entitlement**

Qualification varies according to where a pupil lives in terms of distance from the school.

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| --- |
| Qualifying distance from school |
| School Pupil  | Easter to October | October to Easter |
| Age 7 and under | Over 2 miles | Over 1.5 miles |
| Age 8 and over | Over 3 miles | Over 1.5 miles |

For further information about school transport please contact the education Transport Officer on 01856873535 extension 2427.

Further details of various aspects of school transport provision including the School Transport policy, newsletters and advice to and the responsibilities of parents/carers is available at [www.orkney.gov.uk](http://www.orkney.gov.uk) . Alternatively, for updates there is an OIC school transport Facebook page.

**Access for cars and buses**

Vehicular access to the school is from the main road heading towards Rendall. The entrance leads to the car park and a drop off point. The staff use the lower car parking area during working hours.

The school bus has a designated bus parking space/ drop off zone directly in front of the school. Safe and sensible behaviour are expected at all times when using school transport; boarding and disembarking in an orderly manner and remaining seated throughout the journey. Pupils are expected to wear a seat belt whilst on the bus.

For information on OIC guidelines please view the School Transport policy at [www.orkney.gov.uk/service-Directory/S/School-Transport.htm](http://www.orkney.gov.uk/service-Directory/S/School-Transport.htm)

**Walking and Cycling**

Pupils are encouraged to walk or cycle to school as part of a healthy lifestyle choice. Their skills for travel are supported by the school through the delivery of lessons about crossing roads, safe walking routes, visibility, cycling, safety clothing and cycling helmets and sharing the road with other users. This is delivered through JRSO led groups learning actively together; class lessons and whole school promotions, including assemblies.

**Safety Vests**

All pupils are provided with a fluorescent vest during the winter months and are actively encouraged to wear these or wear their own hi-vis garments every day.

**Education**

In line with Curriculum for Excellence, pupils learn about travel and transport as part of the whole school ethos and culture and as part of Health and Well Being lessons.

At **Early Level** pupils learn about:

* TO BE UPDATED:

At **First Level** pupils learn about:

* TO BE UPDATED:

At **Second Level** pupils learn about:

* A Healthy Lifestyle, P5
* Bikeability levels 1-3 in P5-7
* Road safety, led by JRSOs P7
* TO BE CONTINUED WITH MORE DETAIL, IF REQUIRED

**School Travel Survey**

The main concerns and actions identified through our school travel survey and discussions at Friends of Firth School meetings are noted below. The survey was carefully analysed and full results are included at the end of this report.

**Main concerns and feedback:**

* The busy road through the village children have to cross to get to and from school
* The speed vehicles travel through the village and past the school, especially heavy goods vehicles
* The general safely of the school car park and people parking in the disabled parking spaces and the good only area
* Lack of street lighting on the road from the school to the village
* Lack of speed control measures and safe places for pupils to cross the road

**Actions taken:**

* Areas of concern have been shared at the Parent Council meetings and will be shared with Orkney Islands Council
* The parent Council have written a letter to Orkney Islands Council sharing their concerns and arranged for some of the local Councillors to see the car park in action
* The Junior Road Safety Officers and some of the staff have created and shared a new car park plan with clearly marked routes and parking spaces
* Reminders have been regularly sent out to parents in relation to parking within disabled spaces and the loading bay
* As an on-going part of the safety plan the Junior Road Safety Officers group has been established
* The post of School Crossing Patrol Officer has been advertised again and promoted on the school Facebook page

**Monitor and Review**

The School Travel Plan will be reviewed and updated annually as part of the self-evaluation process and will involve all stakeholders.

The ‘Hands Up’ survey will be done annually and data analysed to show travel and transport trends.

Support will be sought from the School Travel Co-ordinator, Yvonne Scott, to help with training JRSOs, Bikeability resources and the application for Cycling Friendly School Award.

Mrs Yvonne Scott, (School Travel Co-ordinator), Community Social Services, Orkney Islands Council, Council Offices, School Place, Kirkwall, Orkney.

Tel: 01856 873535 extn. 2620 Email: yvonne.scott@orkney.gov.uk

**Promotion**

The School Travel Plan will be made available from the school office on request. We will also display it on the JRSO noticeboard.

**Action Plan**

The action plan…



FIRTH PRIMARY SCHOOL – ACTIONS FOR TRAVEL PLAN

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| Aim | TargetWhat? | Action How? | PersonnnelWho? | TimescaleWhen? | Resources/Funding |
| To increase safety in the school car park. | To provide a safe car parking solution that is suitable for the traffic volume experienced daily at school. | Discuss, draw up and share a car park plan with all concerned.JRSO’s promote at assembly. | Head TeacherParent CouncilJunior Road Safety Officers | Starting term 1 2018/19.Short timescale. | Car park plan/map with routes marked. |
| Inform parents and pupils and keep them up to date. | Put on school noticeboard, Facebook page, website.Letter to parents.  | JRSOs write letter to parents.Admin/HT provide updates. | Starting term 1 2018/19. |  |
| Remind parents and visitors not to park in disabled spaces and loading bay unless they have an appropriate badge. |  | Starting term 1 2018/19. |  |
| To promote safety for all on routes to school. | To increase safely measures around the school/village. Explore options such as a pedestrian crossing, increased street lighting and the speed limits around the school. | Action plan, letters, observations at different times of day.Speed control measures/lighting. | Parent CouncilSupported by school staff, pupils and parent forum.OIC. Yvonne Scott. | Longer term | External /central funding – OIC |
| To get the SCPO post appointed and a relief established meantime. | Council to advertise and school to support. | OICSchool team | Term 1 2018/19 |  |
| Bus Safety and behaviour. | Assemblies run by JRSO’s raising issues relating to getting on/off bus safely, wearing seatbelts.Possible newsletter to parents with reminders for pupils included.Pupils will line up, be checked on a register and escorted to the bus. | JRSOsHT/PTAdmin | On-going |  |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Road Safety identified within the curriculum and included regularly, especially in winter. | Continue to promote within school. Encourage pupils to identify the impact of travel decisions and behaviours. | StaffJRSOs.Yvonne Scott | On-going | Road Safety Scotland resources.JRSO competitions. |
| To promote healthy and active travel choices. | Increase number of pupils who walk or cycle to school and/or encourage pupils to walk/cycle to/from bus pick up points.Children are more aware of safe cycling and the highway code.Children gain confidence in riding a bike at different stages appropriate to them.Explore working towards ‘Cycle Friendly School’ status. | Continue to deliver Bikeability level 1 and 2 training for P5-7.Source a ‘pool bike’ to be available in school.Nursery pupils to participate in ‘Play on Pedals’ training. | Cycle training assistants – PT and volunteers.Trained nursery staff.HT/PTJRSO group. | On-going(8 week Block of Bikeability/ Play on Pedals focussed block of training). | Bikeablility resources.Cycle assistant training promoted and attended by staff or volunteers.Balance bikes. |