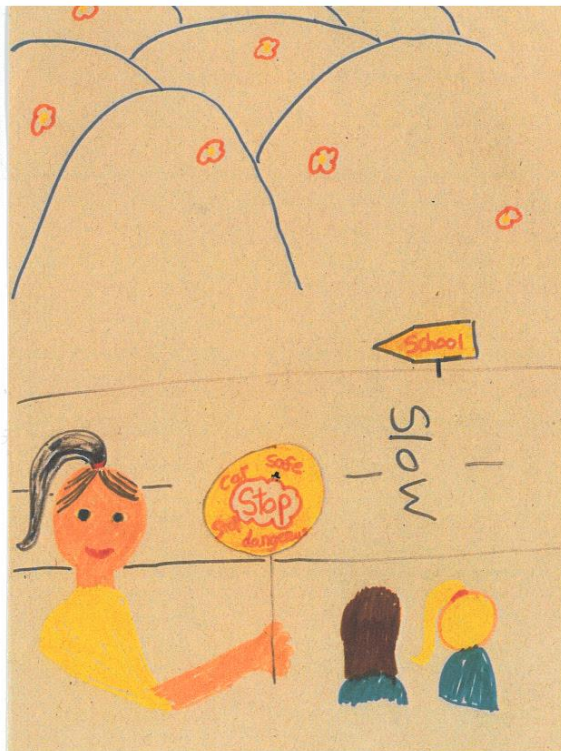




Aberuthven Primary School Travel Plan



Cover Picture by Zoe Watson, 2019

March 2024

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Introduction

At Aberuthven Primary School, we aim to equip all of our pupils with the knowledge and skills necessary to keep themselves safe when travelling to and from School. The safety of all within our school community is paramount.

We believe in supporting pupils to make good choices to both support their physical and emotional wellbeing, as well as explore the benefits to our environment. We encourage our pupils and parents to consider the possible ways to travel to school to gain these benefits.



We welcome any feedback from all within our school community. Please contact our School to share any comments or additional information with us. Your support is always greatly appreciated.

Aims of our Travel Plan

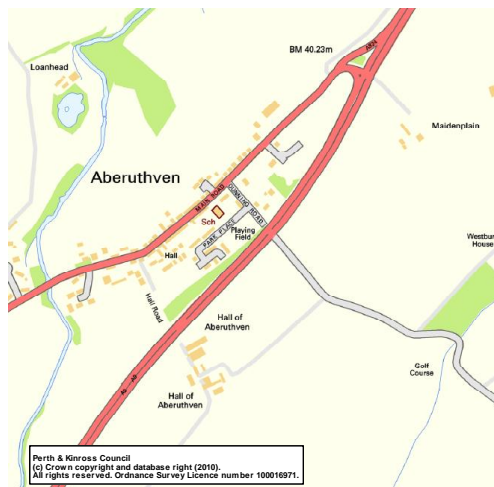
- To encourage pupils and parents to travel safely and healthily to school.
- To encourage parents to include road safety guidance into their family life.
- To encourage children to take an active part in their own road safety.
- To make sure all the routes we travel to and from school are as safe as they can be.
- To cut down traffic around the school as much as possible.
- To make the main road outside the school safer, especially at the times when children are arriving and leaving.

Our School



Aberuthven is a small rural primary school in Perthshire. We have 37 pupils aged from 5 to 12 and 11 members of staff in total. We have support teachers who visit the school on occasion. All teachers and almost all other members of staff live outside the village and therefore drive or cycle to the school.

Roads and Traffic around the School



Aberuthven is just off the A9 near Auchterarder. A very busy main road runs past the main entrance and there are 2 small lanes that go to the left and back of the school.

Cars can get into the school grounds through either the front main entrance gates or through a side gate, which leads down a track to the rear playground.

There is a pathway from the front playground which leads around the right-hand side of the school to the back playground. There is a tall, metal gate at the side of our school building, which is kept padlocked to ensure the safety of our pupils throughout the school day. It is unlocked at the beginning of the day to allow children access to the playground. It locked again at 9.10am. It remains locked until the next morning. There is a small gate from the road at the back of the school, which leads into the back playground. This is kept padlocked at all times to ensure the safety of our pupils throughout the school day.

School Travel Survey

Pupils completed a survey in March 2024 to find out how our pupils are currently travelling to school.

Results of Travel Survey March 2024

35 of our 35 pupils completed their survey in class.

How are pupils travelling to and from school?

Our pupils

Fifteen children walk to school when the weather is good and six children park and stride to School. The remaining fourteen children come all the way to school by car. All of those children who come to school by car live further away. The survey asked the fourteen children if they would like to park and stride instead of coming all the way by car. Five children said they would like to do this. The remaining children shared they would rather have the entire journey to school in the car.

Twenty seven of our pupils are brought to school by someone. Eight children come to school on their own, with a sibling or with a friend.

Of the fifteen children who walk to school, only a few said that they need to cross the road. All said they use the school crossing patroller, when available, to cross the road safely.

Summary

It seems that almost all pupils who live near enough, walk to school. We could encourage the children who are driven all the way to school, to park a little way from the school building and walk the remaining journey to school where possible.

Problems in travelling to school

Some pupils shared that the trickiest part of their journey to school was the amount of traffic lights and road works currently on the roads between their home and school. Some pupils shared their concerns around the high speed of traffic in Aberuthven.

Given a free choice, how would our pupils prefer to travel to and from school?

Car	Bike	Scooter	Walk	Park & Stride
5	15	5	8	2

How much difference does speed make?

- If children are hit by a car travelling at 20 mph, nearly all of them survive the accident.
- If children are hit by cars travelling at 30 mph, half of them are likely to be killed.
- If children are hit by cars travelling at 40 mph, most of them will be killed.

These are figures worked out by the Department for Transport that looks after all our roads and traffic. It is important that cars go slowly when there are children around.

Parking Outside the School

The yellow and white line markings around the school entrance are there to prevent anyone parking or stopping just outside the school where children will be trying to cross the road.



Our School Crossing Patroller, Mr Foulkes, shared that most people are parking in appropriate places which have no impact on visibility for crossing the road outside of our School, however on a few occasions has had to report to School that some people have parked on the markings. School have then issued a reminder to all within our school community around safe parking during pick up and drop off times. All members of our school community wait to cross safely with our School Crossing Patroller.



Road Safety in the Curriculum

Lessons

Road Safety is explored with our pupils every year during Health Week through a variety of resources, videos and discussion.

Staff Visits

We have a very supportive School Janitor and School Crossing Patroller within our school community. Both Mr Martin and Mr Foulkes have joined us for Road Safety Assemblies to discuss safety when crossing the road to and from school and give frequent, ongoing updates to support the safety of all.



Bikeability

P5-7 pupils have the opportunity to take part in a six-week training course to help them cycle safely. These sessions will be led by trained volunteers and Staff through Bikeability Levels 1 and 2. Skills taught include how to check your bike and helmet are safe plus how to do a safe start and stop, left and right turns.



We also promote additional workshops/ sessions ran by Bikeability to encourage our pupils to further develop their safe cycling skills on our School website, Newsletters and Twitter feed.



LOOKING TO GET YOUR KIDS CYCLE CONFIDENT THEN BOOK THEM INTO ONE OF OUR SUMMER BIKEABILITY CAMPS WHERE THEY WILL LEARN ALL THE SKILLS NECESSARY TO CYCLE CONFIDENTLY AND COMPETENTLY ON THE ROAD.

OVER THE THREE DAYS YOUR CHILDREN WILL TRAINED TO LEVEL 2 OF BIKEABILITY BY CYCLING SCOTLAND TRAINED TUTOR. THE AIM OF THE CAMPS IS LEARN A VALUABLE LIFE SKILL AND TO HAVE FUN DOING SO.

THE CAMPS WILL RUN FROM 1000HRS - 1530HRS AND WILL BE HELD ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

10 - 12TH JULY AT BELLS SPORTS CENTRE, PERTH
18 - 20TH JULY AT STRATHGAIN COMMUNITY CAMPUS, CRIEFF
23 - 25TH JULY AT NORTH INCH COMMUNITY CAMPUS, PERTH

PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD IS ABLE TO RIDE A BICYCLE AS THIS IS A COMPRESSED COURSE. BICYCLES AND HELMETS CAN BE PROVIDED IF YOUR CHILD DOES NOT HAVE ACCESS TO BICYCLE.

THE COURSE WILL BE LIMITED TO A MAXIMUM OF 16 CHILDREN AND OPEN TO THOSE AGED 8 - 12.

WE WILL ALSO HAVE DR BIKE TO GIVE YOUR CHILDS BIKE A HEALTH CHECK.

YOU CAN BOOK AT www.eventbrite.co.uk OR CONTACT THE LOCAL BIKEABILITY CO-ORDINATOR AT: HLBBS@PCC.GOV.UK OR 01738475173 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

What has been done so far in Aberuthven to deal with the problems caused by traffic on the main road?

- Twenty's plenty signs have been put up on the road outside the school.
- The pavements outside the school have been made wider to help the crossing patroller see better and make crossing the road safer.
- We have encouraged people not to park on the yellow and white road markings on the main road outside the school by getting a new banner.
- Speed awareness signs have been added to the top of Main Road targeting cars as they enter the village to deter speeding.
- Frequent Police Speed Checks on Main Road throughout the year to deter speeding



What effect has this had?

The parking has improved but the speed of the traffic passing the school may still be faster than 20mph and that means cars cannot always stop safely when the lollipop person steps out or a child starts to cross the road.

The speed of traffic on the Main Road could still be dangerous for children coming to and leaving school. This is especially important at times when our School Crossing Patroller is unable to be there or when children are leaving

school after 3.30pm, when the crossing patroller has gone home and there are no staff or parents.

What other issues do we need to deal with?

We need to continue to encourage our families to use our School Crossing Patroller when crossing the road outside the school both in the morning before the start of the school day and in the afternoon at the end of the school day. This will help to ensure all are able to cross safely to school.

We need to continue to work with members of our local community to encourage all road users to adhere to the speed limit currently in place throughout Aberuthven village.

Action Points

These are the things we need to do to achieve our aims:

- Teach children about road crossings and stopping distances of vehicles. Share repercussions of what could happen as a result of being struck by a car even at a slower speed.
- Continue to raise awareness of every child's right to 'be protected' in line with Article 19 of the UNCRC.
- Keep checking that everyone is parking properly on the main road outside the school – keep checking with the School Crossing Patroller that this is still okay.
- Check what Road Safety is being taught in the classes each year during Health Week to make sure pupils are learning everything they need between Primary 1 and Primary 7.
- Support the Health & Wellbeing Committee to help spread the Road Safety message within the School using wall displays, posters and competitions.
- Get parents, school staff, pupils and other people to look at the travel plan regularly between now and its next review.

When will we do our next Travel Plan?

We will continue to observe and share information within our School Community throughout the year which will support the ongoing road safety of all.
Our Travel Plan will be reviewed March 2025.