

# **Strathearn Community Campus**

## **School Travel Plan 2016/17**



**Strathearn  
Community  
Campus**



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## Introduction

### Strathearn Community Campus

Strathearn Community Campus was built in 2009 and incorporates Crieff High School, Strathearn Community Library, Live Active Leisure and Tayside Contracts Catering. Strathearn Community Campus offers a wide range of facilities for hire for all members of the local community and beyond.

Strathearn Community Campus occupies a stunning position in the heart of some of the most glorious countryside Scotland has to offer. It enjoys views of the Highland Boundary and Turleum to the North, the Ochils to the South and the picturesque town of Crieff to the East. The Campus sits on the site of a Cursus dating back to Neolithic times and is adjacent to the former Stayt or Parliament of Strathearn.



Strathearn Community Campus is located on Pittenzie Road in Crieff. The Pittenzie Road entrance is approximately ten minute walk from the town centre.

Pupils transfer each year from the associated primary schools of Crieff, Muthill, Braco, Madderty and Comrie. We also welcome a consistent intake of pupils from St Dominic's R.C. Primary School.

### What is a School Travel Plan?

A School Travel Plan (STP) is a summary of activities to promote and continually improve safe travel to and from school.

Perth and Kinross Council is committed to encouraging and enabling children and parents in Perth and Kinross to walk and cycle to school where possible, through Safer Routes to Schools' projects. They are working closely with Sustrans, the sustainable transport charity to achieve this.

Our STP is not just about transport, but more importantly is about improving health and safety, broadening our curriculum, improving the environment and contributing to the community.

## Aims of Our School Travel Plan

- to encourage students, parents and staff to think about travel choices and choose alternatives to the car when coming to school
- to encourage active travel like walking and cycling
- to develop Safer Routes to School

## Benefits of a School Travel Plan

- **Improved health** - A travel plan can help promote active travel, encourage healthier and more active lifestyles and can complement initiatives such as Health Promoting Schools.
- **Improved road safety** - A travel plan can help reduce the likelihood of accidents on and near a school by increasing the awareness and care taken by those accessing the site, by improving its amenity for walkers and cyclists and by reducing traffic levels in and around the site.
- **Decreased cost and improved choice** – Despite popular belief, many transport alternatives to single occupancy car use are actually less expensive. In fact, the school may be in a position to negotiate subsidies for particular travel options through Perth & Kinross Council Public Transport Unit. This generates improved choice and adds up to an attractive package of benefits that the school can offer current and prospective staff, parents and students.
- **Better workplaces** - The journey to work can be a large part of a working day. Making the school easier to reach can help to improve staff motivation and morale, and ultimately, staff effectiveness. Promoting active travel such as walking and cycling can also have a positive impact on employee health and fitness and can reduce employee absence through sick leave.
- **Improved site accessibility and amenity** - Reducing on-site car traffic can improve both the accessibility and amenity of Council workplaces, thereby making them more attractive places for employees, contractors, customers and suppliers.
- **Supporting better accessibility through development of transport options** - Encouraging the use of alternative modes of transport, such as cycling, walking, public transport and trip sharing can reduce the number of single occupancy vehicles entering an area and can significantly reduce parking and traffic congestion issues. In turn, this can help to improve the general amenity and accessibility of the site.
- **Justifying the cost of improvements to transport infrastructure** – A travel plan can help to generate a more persuasive case to justify expenditure by transport providers and Perth & Kinross Council on new or improved transport infrastructure or initiatives.
- **Improved employee catchment** - Improved site access can help to support staff recruitment and retention.
- **Increased standing amongst the community** – A focus on accessibility and sustainable transport has the potential to bring significant positive attention to the site and improve standing amongst the local community.
- **Social and environmental responsibility** - Many organisations are looking for ways to demonstrate their commitment to corporate social and environmental responsibility. Active support for the goals of a travel plan can help demonstrate this commitment such as through the reduction of transport-related carbon dioxide

emissions.

- **Community and independence** – Active travel, in particular, contributes to creating a stronger school community and a sense of independence among the students.
- **Environmental accreditation** - Active participation in and support for sustainable transport measures can help the Strathearn Community Campus to achieve and maintain environmental accreditation such as the Eco Schools initiative.

## **Access and Onsite Facilities**

Access to Strathearn Community Campus is by foot, bicycle, bus, and car, or by a combination of these modes of transport. The main facility will be open between 7am to 10pm on weekdays and 8am to 5pm at weekends, The facility is allowed to open outside of these hours for functions such as social events.

Strathearn Community Campus site can be accessed via a number of entrances.

There are four entrances onto the campus site:

- Pittenzie Road - a shared entrance with cars with a separate footpath
- Monteath Street car park
- Monteath Street walkway - pedestrians and cyclists only
- Broich Road - pedestrians and cyclists only

Once on site the following entrances can be used to access the building:

- The Main Entrance used by visitors/users, including parents of pupils to access the campus and report to reception
- The main student and staff entrance – through a western facing door on the west side of the campus, with a further south facing door entrance available. Staff may also access the campus via a security door opposite the front rugby pitch.

Each of these entrances is locked after school hours and access is then only via the Main Entrance to the campus through reception.

## **Parking on Campus**

The car park is used by staff and visitors to the school, as well as members of the community. Parking facilities are as follows:

- 85 car parking spaces including 11 disabled parking bays for vehicles displaying the blue disabled badge only. There is also an additional 12 spaces in the over flow car park on Monteith Street. On occasion where the Campus is expected to be busy, Crieff Primary School car park can be used out with school hours.
- In addition, there is also a parking bay at the rear of the Campus for buses. This is used for school transport for Crieff High School, Crieff Primary School and St Dominic's RC Primary School.

## Cycling and Walking

Strathearn Community Campus is located in the south of Crieff. This location, when considered in combination with key walking and cycle routes within Crieff, demonstrates that the potential walking and cycling catchment of the campus is good.

Pittenzie Road and the surrounding area have adequate footpaths on at least one side of the road. The roundabout outside the Leisure facilities has a pedestrian refuge at each intersection, aside from the facilities entrance. There is currently no controlled crossing outside of the campus.

Strathearn Community Campus has two cycle storage areas which will be covered. Forty cycle parking spaces will be provided; thirty for students and an additional ten for visitors. The storage areas are located close to the main entrance and, as with the whole campus site, will be monitored by CCTV.

The campus has lockers for all students. There are also be lockers and shower/changing facilities in the leisure facilities which will be available for staff and visitors who walk or cycle to the campus. The campus lacks storage and/or drying space for wet or muddy clothing.

## Road Issues

The roads around Crieff and the campus site are relatively safe, as they mainly serve the local residents and the farming communities to the west of the site.

The speed limit on Broich Road and the southern end of Pittenzie Road has been reduced since the campus and nearby primary school has been built which has reduced the risks associated with walking and cycling from nearby locations (Figure 2). Poor drainage, particularly on the western end of Pittenzie Road, is a hazard to cyclists, as avoiding them would require pulling further into the centre of the road (Figure 3).



**Figure 2 - Broich Road**



**Figure 3 - Poor drainage on Pittenzie Road**

The intersection of Pittenzie Road, Maxton Road, Broich Terrace and Kincardine Road (Figure 4) is potentially dangerous for students and visitors walking to the campus due to the conflicting movements. Currently, there are no pedestrian refuges and the intersections favour vehicular traffic. A large number of intersections in one location can be difficult for pedestrians to navigate, especially without crossing aids, as the whole intersection has to be judged at once.



**Figure 4 - Pittenzie Road, Maxton Road, Broich Terrace and Kincardine Road Intersection**

### **Education Transport**

Crieff High School is currently served by two double decker buses, eight single decker buses, one minibus and two taxis. Eight of the vehicles operate as Local Bus Services. Approximately 226 students, entitled to free school transport, are allocated to these vehicles. The school roll is presently 564 students.

The school transport currently sets down and uplifts the students on the bus bay between Crieff primary School and the rear of the Campus. Students will walk from the school transport drop off/boarding area to the main campus building. School management continue to ensure that the drop off/boarding area is managed accordingly.

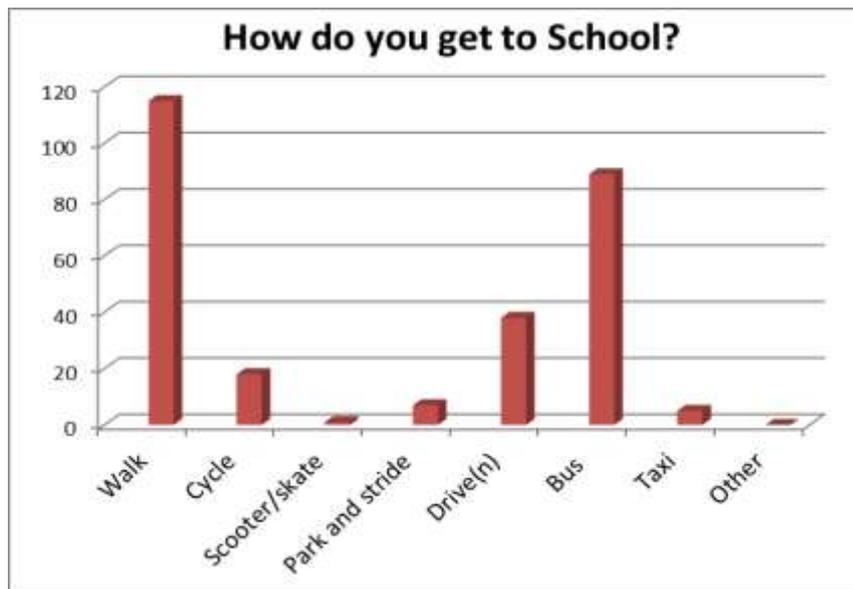
It is important that students who are not entitled to free school transport are encouraged to either travel to school on one of the available service buses which serve the school or walk/ cycle to school. The school continually discouraged parents from using the campus car park to drop off/uplift their children.

### **Local Bus Services**

For school transport purposes, Strathearn Community Campus is well served by local bus services.

However, for the wider community use of the campus, including the library and sports facilities, public transport options are more limited. Currently, the Crieff Town Service (service 45) does not serve the campus direct. There is one off-peak service between Auchterarder and Crieff that does operate directly passed the campus, but this has a relatively limited timetable. The main bus services service Crieff operate along the High Street and this is a ten to fifteen minute walk from the campus. Whilst this walk may be acceptable to some people, others may be unable to walk this distance. Therefore, the possibility of diverting the Town Bus Service to service the campus (and provide links with the High Street) is to be investigated.

## Hands Up Survey – September 2016



### Next Steps

- To continue with Annual Surveys - It is important to measure your progress and success by doing annual 'hands up' surveys with your school. If possible, do these once during summer and once during the winter, as the travel patterns are generally quite different. If these surveys are also completed with the postcode data attached, then it is possible to spot problem areas and areas that could be specifically targeted. Talk to your School Travel Coordinator for more details about surveying your school and campus users.
- To continue to monitor customer/user feedback on travel issues.

### Links to Travel Resources

#### Perth & Kinross Council Resources

<http://www.pkc.gov.uk/Education+and+learning/Schools>

#### School Travel Plans

Information on Perth & Kinross Council specific school travel plans and walking buses

#### Free School Transport

Perth & Kinross Council provide free transport for secondary students who live more than three miles from school

#### Cycling

Perth & Kinross Council have developed a number of cycling route maps, which are available from the Council

#### Public Transport Information

Information on services provided by local public transport operators Stagecoach

[www.stagecoachbus.com](http://www.stagecoachbus.com)

Information on services offered by external providers of travel information such as Traveline Scotland and Transport Direct

[www.travelinescotland.com](http://www.travelinescotland.com)

[www.transportdirect.info](http://www.transportdirect.info)

Sustrans UK - <http://www.sustrans.org.uk>

Safe Routes to Schools - <http://www.saferoutestoschools.org.uk>