



## **Saint Mark's Primary School Travel Plan**

**May 2025**

### **Introduction**

St. Mark's Primary School's Travel Plan intends to set out measures and best practice regarding travel arrangements for both staff and pupils. The school recognises the importance of promoting sustainable transport in order to reduce the current trend of car reliance. The School Travel Plan should assist in addressing the problems related to road safety, environmental issues and promote healthy lifestyles.

The Travel Plan has been devised with input from staff, parents and pupils. We have consulted concerned parties through detailed questionnaires and used the results to effectively plan new initiatives. Any issues concerning our travel plan will be discussed at our Eco Committee meetings as 'Travel' is part of our action plan for our first Green Flag. The minutes from these meetings are presented on our Committee Information Board in a prominent place near the entrance of our school and important information from the meeting agendas are presented and discussed at our Parent Council Meetings. We are a 'Laudato Si' School and are committed to caring for our world and promoting sustainable living.

### **St. Mark's Objectives for the School Travel Plan are to:**

1. Reduce the amount of car trips made for dropping off / collecting pupils from school
2. Reduce congestion around both entrances to the school
3. Reduce damage caused to environment through use of cars
4. Promote healthy lifestyles of pupils, parents and staff

We aim to meet these objectives by promoting alternative methods of transport to pupils, parents and staff.

### **Description of School**

St. Marks Primary is situated in the Fernhill area of Rutherglen and has an approximate role of 150 pupils in the school and a further 20 children attending nursery. We have gained our Gold Award for 'Health Promoting Schools' and are in the process of submitting our application for a Green Flag for the 'Eco School'. We are on the 'Making Rights Real' journey and have recently become a 'Laudato Si' School.

The catchment area takes in children from Fernhill, Blairbeth, Spittal and Burnside. These are all housing schemes from which our children travel. Below is the link to the map which details the catchment area.

<https://southlanarkshire.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=6596b57d339a4910a6b7e60df37b2bfa&center=261751.9334;660103.8125;27700&level=8>

School hours are 9am - 3pm and Nursery is 9am – 3pm. We run a breakfast club from 8.15am until 8.45am every day.

## **Safety Procedures already in Place.**

The school is situated at the top of Kirkriggs Avenue. The only traffic using this end of the road is visitors to / from the school. At this entrance is the staff car park. The road has 'No Parking' lines near the gate. Surrounding roads are used by residents.

The school janitor stands at the gate of the car park 15 minutes before the school day begins at 8:45am and before the school day ends at 2:45pm. The school has a double gate; one side is opened in the morning for cars to drive through and is closed over by 9.15am by the janitor. There is a sign on the gate which states that the car park is for staff, Blue Badge holders and Car Park Pass holders only. During the day, between 9.15am and 2.45pm we try to keep the main gate closed over, however it is not locked and visitors and delivery vehicles can access by opening the gate and are encouraged by signs to close them back over again. The janitor re-opens and monitors this gate at 2:45pm.

The janitor places cones along the front entrance of the school so that cars are unable to drop off pupils out with the drop off/ car parking space area. This area is reserved for emergency vehicles and kitchen deliveries. **The maximum speed limited in the car park is 5mph at all times.** All cars must be parked in bays or marked spaces in the car park at all times.

The car park is for staff, Blue Badge holders and school car park pass holders only. Families have the opportunity to apply for a Car Park Pass through the Head Teacher if they feel they have exceptional circumstances and need a car parking space in the staff car park. Applications can be submitted to the Head Teacher at any time throughout the school year and will be granted at the Head Teacher's discretion. The janitor stands at the gate every morning and checks each car as it approaches the gate to establish if they have a Blue Badge, Car Park pass or are a member of staff.

There is a further entrance to the school on Rowantree Avenue. This is a pedestrian only entrance. This is situated on a residential street. Again there are 'No Parking' lines close to the entrance. This is a narrow road and one side is very busy with residents parked cars. This can cause congestion at busy times.

From this entrance there is a pedestrian walkway which leads to a further gate for access to the school playground. This gate is opened at 8.45am by Pupil Support Staff and the playground is monitored from this time onwards. It is locked shortly after 9am when the children go into the school building and is unlocked before the bell rings at 3pm for parents to collect their children. No motorised vehicles, including electric bikes or scooters are permitted in the playground.

20 Plenty signs are situated near both entrances to the school and 20 is also painted on the road.

## **Summary of School's Transport and Road Safety Problems**

As our school is situated within a housing estate, there is one road leading up to the school and one pedestrian walkway. The street which leads to the walkway is narrow and often has parked cars along one side from residents.

The road which directly leads to the school main entrance is narrow and mainly used by residents. Parents use one side of this road to park on (although they do acknowledge the no parking lines). It does have a small turning area however some parents use this to park. Before and after school, this can become congested with parents having to wait for periods of time after dropping off / picking up their children. This can cause congestion at busy times.

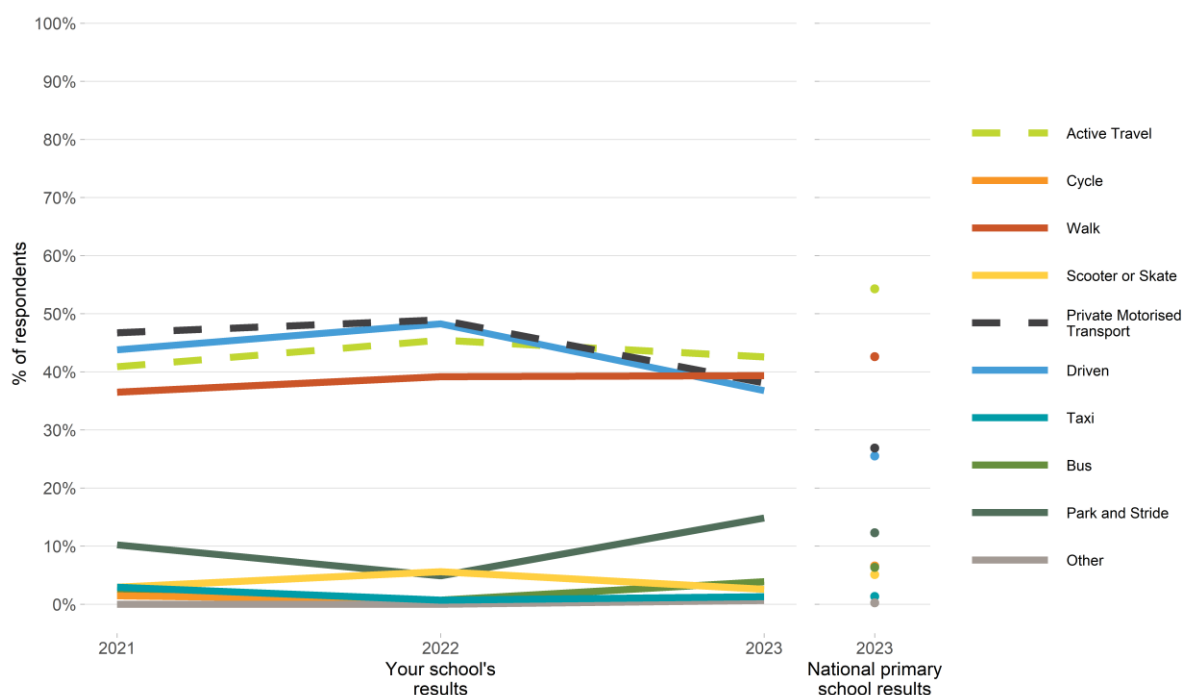
The school car park is not big enough to accommodate the number of staff and families who are attending the school. When the car park is open to all, there are too many cars for the number of spaces and therefore, parents park in unsafe places meaning children cannot use the crossings in the car park safely at the beginning and the end of the day.

Most of our families live within the catchment area and therefore have less than a 20 minute walk to school however most of our pupils are driven to and from school which makes the area in and around the school very congested, unsafe and difficult to manage. This is also not conducive to our Laudato Si and Eco School where we try to promote a healthy lifestyle and sustainable transportation.

## Evidence of Consultation

- Hands Up Survey**

The graph below shows the recent history of results from Saint Mark's participation in the Hands Up Scotland Survey from 2021-2023. This information helped us to plan for our Travel Plan Initiatives for 2025. This gives us an idea of the travel trends over the last few years.



- Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel**

In 2024-2025 session, our Eco Committee distributed, collated and analysed the Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel. We discussed this at whole school assemblies and created a banner for the front of the school gates. The results are shown below and are also on display on the Eco Committee wall in a central area of our school.

	Walking	Scooting	Cycling
Day 1	81	7	3
Day 2	73	6	4
Day 3	78	8	4
Day 4	71	7	3
Day 5	64	6	4
Day 6	63	6	3
Day 7	66	7	4
Day 8	59	7	6
Day 9	65	8	4
Day 10	64	5	3

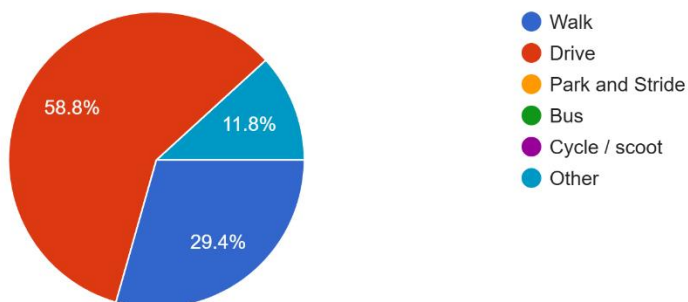
- **Consultation with Families**

We decided to distribute a survey to all families in our school as the main method of consultation. The results were collated and presented below.

The questionnaire was distributed to all of our families and 17 were returned. The responses helped us to understand parents' views and to plan possible future initiatives.

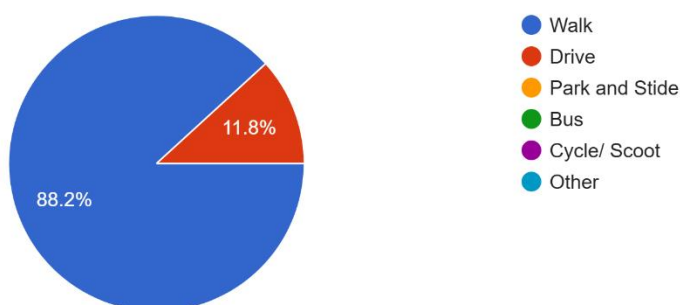
How do you get to school?

17 responses



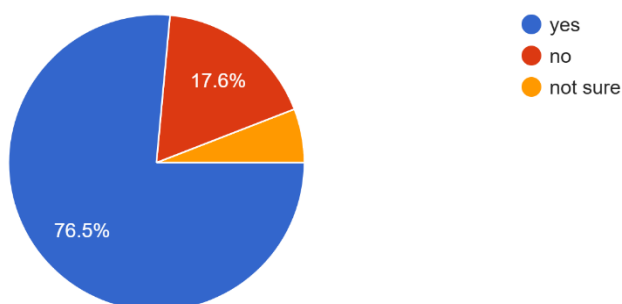
If you could choose, how would you choose to get to school?

17 responses



The St Mark's Car Park is too congested and dangerous for pupils if it is opened to everyone. Do you feel like the children are safer now that the car park is closed?

17 responses

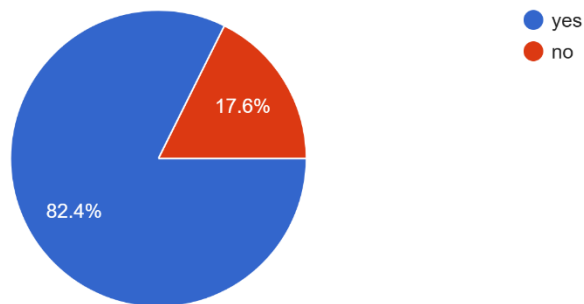


We want to encourage more pupils to walk to school. What would help you to walk to school?

- Scooters or bikes
- More time
- Earlier breakfast club
- Less busy roads
- Traffic lights/ lollipop person
- Better weather

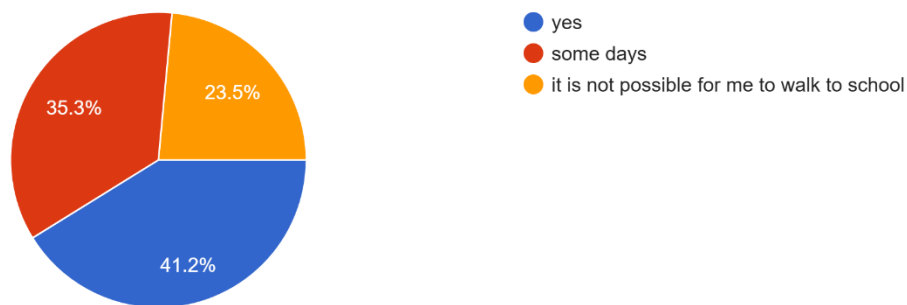
Would you be willing to park a little further away from the school to help reduce congestion?

17 responses



If the school hosted a 'Walk to School Week' once a term, would you make arrangements to walk for the designated weeks?

17 responses



Do you have any suggestions of where parents could park safely and walk to school?

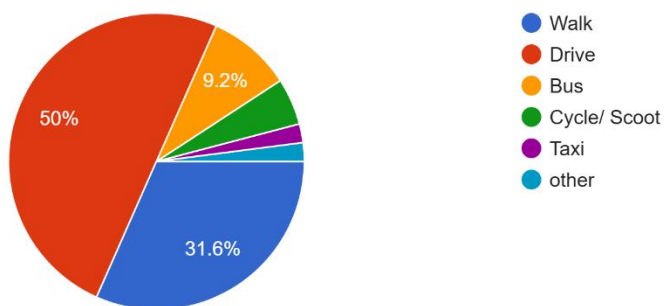
- Church car park
- Bottom of the gate
- Tesco car park

## Consultation with Pupils

We distributed a pupil consultation via Google Forms to our 130 pupils and 98 pupils responded. Below are the results of the survey.

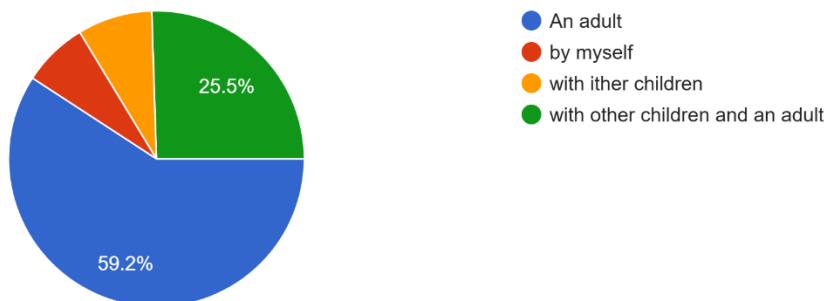
How do you get to school?

98 responses



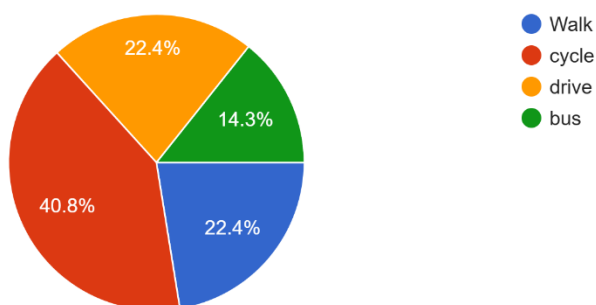
Who do you come to school with?

98 responses



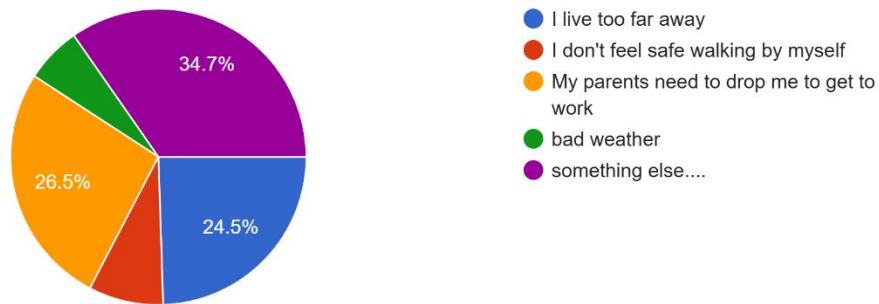
If you could choose how to get to school, how would you come?

98 responses



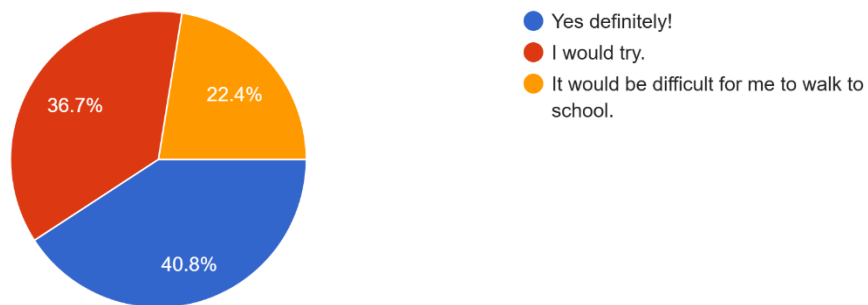
If you do not walk to school, why not?

98 responses



If Saint Mark's encouraged a Walk to School Week, would you try to participate?

98 responses



How could St Mark's encourage you to walk to school?

- Point system /Class points / Prizes/ trophy/ extra play/
- School motto
- Step tracker
- Letter to parents to tell them it's safe to walk to school
- Walk to school week
- Meet up with friends and walk together
- Parents to walk half way
- Provide water bottles for the journey

## Current Travel Patterns

It is clear from the surveys conducted that the majority of our families drive to school. It is also apparent from the Walk and Wheel Survey that many families are willing to walk/scoot/ cycle to school given enough time to plan and prepare.

Families have stated that they recognise the need for the car park to be closed in order for it to be safe for our pupils to use before and after school.

## Deterrents and Obstacles

Through the survey, our families were able to determine deterrents and obstacles which prevent them walking to school in the morning or afternoon. Some of these are out with our control as they are circumstantial, for example working parents who need to drop off early in order to get to work on time, multiple school drop offs and childcare. However, some deterrents and obstacles were raised to which the school could find a potential solution. Consultation with staff, parents and pupils have helped us come up with the ideas below.

Obstacle	Solution
Bad Weather	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Relaxed entry from 8.45am if the weather is particularly bad. Children can walk to school with the knowledge that they can get indoors before 9am to dry off, get warm and keep out of the bad weather.</li><li>• Winter Jackets available through Cost of the School Day initiative so every child can keep warm in winter and walk to school whilst staying dry.</li></ul>
Live too far away	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Park and Stride Car Stops – potential to drive part of the way and walk some of the journey.</li></ul>
Not enough time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Planned 'Walk to School' weeks where families have the dates in advance and can make arrangements for specific dates to walk to school.</li></ul>
Lollipop person Traffic lights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Campaign to authority to request a lollipop person or traffic lights to help facilitate road crossing on route to school, particularly at the crossing point on the Cathkin bypass road. This may help parents feel more confident in allowing children to walk to school by themselves.</li></ul>

## **Key Initiatives with Objectives and Targets**

- **Walking / Car Travel**

Following our survey results we recognise many of our parents would like to walk to school in an ideal world but work commitments and bad weather are a barrier. Parents highlighted that they would be willing to make the effort to walk to school during a 'Walk to School Week' initiative if this was arranged in advance once a term.

Some parents also highlighted that they would be willing to park their cars and walk the remaining distance to the school on some mornings. Therefore, we have decided to revisit and encourage Park and Stride. We asked for suggestions of suitable places to park further away from the school so that families could congregate and walk together in the mornings. Our families are also the residents of the surrounding streets, so they know the most suitable places to park and stride.

### **Objectives:**

- to encourage more pupils to walk to school, promoting a healthy lifestyle.
- to reduce congestion in the car park and surrounding streets of the school.

### **Targets:**

- to establish a 'Walk to School Week' once a term to encourage walking to school.
- to establish appropriate 'Park and Stride' areas in the local community, sign post them and encourage families to use them.

- **Publicity / Awareness**

### **Objectives:**

- to establish and maintain an information board to promote our School Travel Plan

### **Targets:**

- to display information regarding our 'Park and Stride' car stops.
- to update parents on any new initiatives
- to report on any developments relating to school travel
- any developments / initiatives will also be reported in our School and Eco Newsletters

## Plans for Monitoring and Review

Timescale	Plan	Leaders
Term 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consult Parent Council on initial Travel Plan and ask for feedback</li> </ul>	Mrs Livingston Mrs O'Donnell PC
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consult Eco Committee and ask for feedback and ideas</li> </ul>	Mrs Alexander Mrs Livingston
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update 'Park and Stride' posters for the local area.</li> <li>Establish safe meet ups for group walking</li> </ul>	Eco Committee
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distribute information to Parent Council, and parent forum on Parent Portal about the Park and Stride areas.</li> </ul>	Mrs Welsh Mrs Livingston
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan a Walk to School Week for term 1.</li> <li>Advertise on Parent Portal</li> <li>Talk at Assembly</li> </ul>	Mrs Livingston Mrs Alexander Eco Committee Mrs O'Donnell
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a noticeboard</li> <li>Report all changes to Travel Plan on school website and noticeboard.</li> </ul>	Mrs Livingston
Term 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review 'Walk to school week' and make changes necessary for term 2.</li> </ul>	Mrs Livingston Mrs Alexander
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish second 'Walk to School Week'</li> </ul>	Mrs Livingston Mrs Alexander Eco Committee Mrs O'Donnell
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review changes which need to be made to the Travel Plan after first term.</li> <li>Consult with Janitor on car park safety.</li> <li>Speak with nursery staff about car park safety.</li> <li>Distribute questionnaire to parents on car park safety and perception of Walk to School Week and Walk and Stride areas.</li> <li>Re-emphasise initiatives at assembly and through Laudato Si focus</li> <li>Report all changes to Travel Plan on school website and noticeboard.</li> </ul>	Mrs Livingston Mrs O'Donnell Mr O'Donnell Nursery staff Parents
Term 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review car park safety</li> <li>Review initiatives and plan another Walk to School Week.</li> <li>Distribute pupil questionnaire to establish the success of WTSW and Park and Stride areas.</li> <li>Report all changes to Travel Plan on school website and noticeboard.</li> </ul>	Mrs Livingston Mrs O'Donnell Mr O'Donnell Nursery staff Parents