



CHARLESWORTH SCHOOL

...from tiny acorns great oaks grow



TRAVEL PLAN UPDATE - 2015



The responsibility for ensuring that the Travel Plan is regularly reviewed and up-dated rests with the School Governing Body

Introduction

Charlesworth is a village near the town of Glossop, Derbyshire, England. It is located two miles south-west of Glossop's town centre and shares a county border with the nearby village of Broadbottom in Tameside, Greater Manchester.

It is situated on the main Glossop to Marple road (A626) and is readily accessible by Public transport - being 2 miles from Broadbottom railway station and served by a number of buses into Glossop, Marple, Stockport and Manchester.

It consists of slightly more than 500 houses - most situated in a conservation area - and is surrounded by a green belt. Many of the residents commute to work outside the area.

About the School

Charlesworth Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Long Lane, Charlesworth, Glossop SK13 5ET

Telephone: 01457 853475

DFES Reference Number 830/3163

Charlesworth School is a small village primary school with a Christian Foundation that values each individual child and strives to help them achieve their own potential and develop into thoughtful and creative individuals who respect each other and their environment. There are close links with the local community and every opportunity is taken to expand the children's knowledge of the area and contribute to it.

The school consists of two sites. The Infant building is on Long Lane and the Junior building is on Town Lane and the sites are approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ mile apart, separated by the busy A626. There is an active 'Breakfast Club' held in the Infant building and some after school activities held in the Junior building.

Current Traffic Situation in the Village

The roads through Charlesworth are generally busy, especially at rush hour, with lorries as well as commuters using the village roads as a 'rat-run' to the motorway which is approximately 4 miles away. The roads through the village are narrow in places with blind spots and have narrow or non-existent pavements in the less built-up areas. There are a small number of shops in the village centre situated around the main crossroad, which adds to the local congestion.

Current Pupil Travel Arrangements

Although many of the school pupils live in Charlesworth an increasing number live in the neighbouring areas of Broadbottom, Chisworth, Gamesley and Glossop. Although those living close by walk to school, many are transported by car. There are only eight car parking spaces at the Junior site and none at the Infant site, so most parents park in the road outside the school sites.

Previous Travel Safety Concerns Identified, raised with appropriate bodies and responses received

1. **Lack of Crossing patrols** - money was provided for two crossing patrol personnel. One post was filled and currently assists children and parents to cross the A626 and Town Lane. The second post was advertised several times but could not be filled. Further interviews are to take place in November 2015 to provide assistance to children and parents crossing Long Lane.
2. **Poor road markings** - these were renewed and zig-zag lines extended outside the school gates.
3. **Poor road signage** - flashing lights were installed and school signs sited more clearly.
4. **Poor pavement surfaces near the schools** - these were and continue to be renewed.
5. **Speed of traffic near the schools** - traffic speed surveys were undertaken by the authorities and the traffic was found to be generally compliant with current speed limits.
6. **In order to assist decrease the number cars used to bring children to school in inclement weather, somewhere dry was required for parents and children to shelter whilst waiting for the school doors to open, other than in cars** - shelters were erected at both school sites.
7. **There was a need for children to be encouraged to wear Hi-vis safety jackets** - such jackets were purchased by the school to be worn by all pupils when needing to be outside the school environs during school hours and by those children travelling to the Junior site from Breakfast Club or from the Infant site to the Junior site for an 'after school' activity.
8. **Car Park congestion at the Junior site** - the car park is not school nor Chapel owned, is not properly surfaced, is not for the sole use of the school and parking spaces are not defined. This is an area of congestion and danger for those on foot especially as a public footpath also terminates in this area. On-going attempts are being made by the Head Teacher to identify ownership and responsibility for the land, to have it resurfaced and parking spaces clearly marked out.
9. **Decrease in the number of children walking to school** - every year children are encouraged to take part in 'buddy walking' and 'walking bus' exercises. The success of this is limited given the number of children who either do not live close to the school or in Charlesworth.
10. **Dog fouling** - signs erected on school premises forbidding dogs to be brought into the school grounds.
11. **Possibility of young children running into the road at Long Lane from the footpath leading from the Lee Vale estate** - a steel barrier was erected on the edge of the pavement at the end of the footpath.

Proposals for Further Safety Improvements

1. Request for footprints/paw prints to be painted on the ground identifying the safe route to be taken when walking between school sites or from the school sites to the local shops.
2. Continue to pursue the appointment of a second school crossing patrol officer - to be based at the gate of the Infant site.

3. Most of the previous Travel Plan concerns have been connected with improving the safety of the environment around the school sites. However, travelling safely involves more than environmental safety and car usage. This proposal moves the Travel Plan on to a different level by recognising the importance of increasing children's knowledge and detailed understanding of all matters connected to their travelling options and responsibilities in today's world. Although aspects of this have been taught in part at various times in school, it is suggested that this could be more effectively achieved by holding a targeted 'make travelling fun and safe week' for the whole school in the summer term. The suggestions itemised below were initially discussed and further developed individually with the lead staff member for the Travel Plan. She, in turn, has presented the proposals to her colleagues at a Staff Meeting and obtained their favourable comments. The basic suggestions formatted below could all fulfil cross-curriculum requirements and meet some of the needs of other educational programmes and projects and are presented as a simple framework to be further developed by the school staff to suit the age and abilities of each class of children:

- **Travel on foot** -
 - a. **personal safety - stranger danger**
 - b. **the Green Cross Code**
 - c. **how to find your way - map reading - treasure hunt - orienteering competition - Ordnance Survey symbols**
 - d. **footpath usage**
 - e. **the Country Code**
 - f. **walking for fun and health - observational quizzes**
 - d. **developing a 'green' environment**
- **Cycling** -
 - a. **personal safety - what to wear**
 - b. **looking after a bicycle - lights, mending a puncture, tyre care**
 - c. **riding a bicycle safely for self and others - cyclists and the law**
 - e. **cycling proficiency test**
 - d. **initiating a campaign for national requirement for cycling safety - letters to MPs, posters, questionnaire etc**
- **Local Public Transport** -
 - a. **using a bus - take a journey - how to behave**
 - b. **using a train - take a journey - how to behave**
 - c. **using a taxi - talk by driver - how a meter works**
- **Travelling in a car** -
 - a. **use of seats and belts**
 - b. **know the Highway Code**
 - c. **understand road signs**
 - d. **how a car works - build an engine (model), visit a car factory**
 - e. **traffic survey and other data gathering**
- **Travelling abroad** -
 - a. **personal safety**
 - b. **visit an airport**
 - c. **trip on a boat**
 - d. **water safety**