



**CHARLESWORTH SCHOOL**

*...from tiny acorns great oaks grow*



# TRAVEL PLAN UPDATE - 2021



**The responsibility for ensuring that the Travel Plan is regularly reviewed and updated rests with the School Governing Board**

## 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 accessible by Public transport - being 2 miles from Broadbottom railway station and served by a number of buses into Glossop, Marple, Stockport and Manchester - although these are not very frequent.

It consists of slightly more than 500 houses – many 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**

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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 ¼ mile apart, separated by the busy A626. There is an active 'Breakfast Club' held in the Infant building and, before the COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions, some after school activities were held in the Junior building. Children, parents and school staff regularly walk between the two sites at various times throughout the day.

## 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 outside the Infant site on Long Lane and the other at the War Memorial in the centre of the village to assist children across the A626 and Town Lane. After a number of years, these posts are both now permanently filled.

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. However, flashing lights indicating a temporary reduction in speed to 20 miles an hour at the beginning and end of the school day were installed outside both school sites.

A village Speed Group was established, the members of which will carry out traffic surveys and will be trained to use speed cameras.

6. **In order to assist decrease the number of 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 area used to park cars is registered common land and not a designated car park. It has recently been partly resurfaced by the Parish Council to remove dangerous potholes. It is not designated 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 crosses this area. Parents have been requested not to park in this area to allow safe passage for children into and out of school.

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. During the Covid-19 national crisis these exercises have ceased.

10. **Dog fouling** - signs have been 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.

12. **Safe routes** - A 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 was turned down by the Parish Council. It was felt to be unsightly and unnecessary.

However, negotiations were opened with the George and Dragon for a pedestrian way to be allowed for people to walk behind the pub via the footpath leading from Lee Vale Drive to the school site on Long Lane and for an off-shoot path to be built from that footpath through the pub car park and onto Glossop Road. This suggestion has had to be shelved as houses have been built on the car park and there is now no available space for a safe path through the car park,

A suggestion was made for a footpath to run through the small public garden situated at the top of Long Lane adjacent to the pub. However, this land was bequeathed under a Deed of Covenant to be held in Trust by the Parish Council so long as it was not used as a public cut-through but was to be used as a peaceful garden.

## Current present and future pressures

1. There is likely to be increased traffic through the village as more houses are to be built in Chisworth, Charlesworth and at Gamesley Bridge
2. A new spur road to the airport and M56 accessed via Marple, Hazel Grove and Poynton is likely to create more traffic through the village
3. There is a lack of bus services to and from the main areas outside the village which attract children to the school e.g Simmondley
4. There is no footpath on over half a mile of the very narrow, winding, busy road leading to Simmondley from the school, so it is very dangerous for children to walk or cycle that route

## Proposals for Further Safety Improvements

1. The Parish Council opened negotiations with the appropriate authorities to consider the possibility of installing a Pelican Crossing opposite the gate to St John's Church on the A626 and in providing a pedestrian route through the Churchyard. The Pelican crossing may, however, take at least two years to come to completion/obtain agreement as surveys etc will need to be implemented. The school Governing Board to send a letter of support for this proposal to Derbyshire County Council.
2. The provision of a safe surface on the path leading from Long Lane around the school field at the Infant site and to the Churchyard gate, to provide a safe route to Marple Road, is being actively progressed.
3. Prior to the COVID-19 lockdowns and closures of Public Houses, the school was negotiating the free use of the George and Dragon Car Park at school drop-off and collection times. These negotiations will be concluded once the premises re-open although the car park has been greatly reduced in size due to the building of houses on the site.
5. The Parish Council to be requested to reconsider placing footprints or paw prints along the safe routes between the school sites, for children to follow.
6. The possibility of a safe route through the George and Dragon Car Park be re-considered in conjunction with the Parish Council.
7. 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. A proposal was made in the 2015 Travel Plan to move the direction of this document 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 regular targeted whole school Travel Plan projects. This would embed the Travel Plan as an important aspect of learning life skills. Many of the suggestions itemised below were initially discussed and further developed with the lead staff member for the Travel Plan. She, in turn, presented the proposals to her colleagues at a Staff Meeting and obtained their favourable comments. Parts of it have been implemented but that was before the recent lockdowns. The extended suggestions formatted below could all fulfil cross - curriculum requirements and meet some of the needs of other educational programmes and projects and are presented again 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 - climate change, sustainable travel**
- **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 to parents**
- **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**
  
- **Food sourcing and the carbon footprint**

*Up-dated Travel Plan presented to the Teaching and Learning Committee of the Governing Board by Dorothy Phillips, Governor with lead responsibility – February 2021 and to the Full Governing Body in March 2021. with grateful thanks for the assistance given by Ms, B. Howard , teacher with lead responsibility.*