

St Michael's Church of England Primary School
and
Steventon Preschool Playgroup

St Michael's Church of England Primary School
The Causeway
Steventon OX13 6SQ

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Document owner:

Alison Jarratt, Chair of Governors, St Michael's Church of England Primary School

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Author

This School and Preschool Travel Plan has been put together by the Governing Body of St Michael's Church of England Primary School on behalf of our school and preschool community. This plan updates and replaces our previous School Travel Plan which was approved in 2008.

We have been asked to update our previous Travel Plan by Oxfordshire County Council Highways and Vale of White Horse Planning Department to give background to residential planning development in the village.

There is substantial overlap between the preschool and school communities. We have therefore worked together to produce this plan.

Introduction

Our School and Preschool Travel Plan aims to reduce the use of cars for journeys to our school and preschool. Where possible, we will aim to replace car journeys with walking, cycling and bus travel. Where car journeys can't be avoided we will aim to car-share and park-and-walk. Key benefits of doing this will be:

- More exercise for pupils, leading to better health and fitness
- Improved road safety skills for our children
- Less congestion near the school
- Fewer cars on the road, improving road safety for all
- A reduction in our school's Carbon Footprint
- Cleaner air around the school and preschool

This updated plan records how we currently travel to our school, how this changed under our last School Travel Plan, the changes we will aim to achieve in the next couple of years, and specific actions we will undertake to get there.

Location and Catchment

The school is a Voluntary Controlled Primary School located on the corner of The Causeway and St Michael's Way in Steventon. The school opened in 1863, and operates from a partially listed site, enclosed by housing on all sides. The catchment area of the school is the village of Steventon and neighbouring villages. Children join our school at age 4, and leave at age 11.

Steventon preschool is an independently run preschool serving children aged 2-4 from Steventon and neighbouring villages.

Steventon is located 5 miles south of Abingdon, with excellent road links, being less than a mile from the A34. The village is bisected by a busy High Street that carries through traffic to the A34 from neighbouring towns and villages, and by the Great Western Railway, which has two level crossings in the village.

There are footpaths and cycle paths to the neighbouring villages of Drayton and Milton, but these are not lit at night.

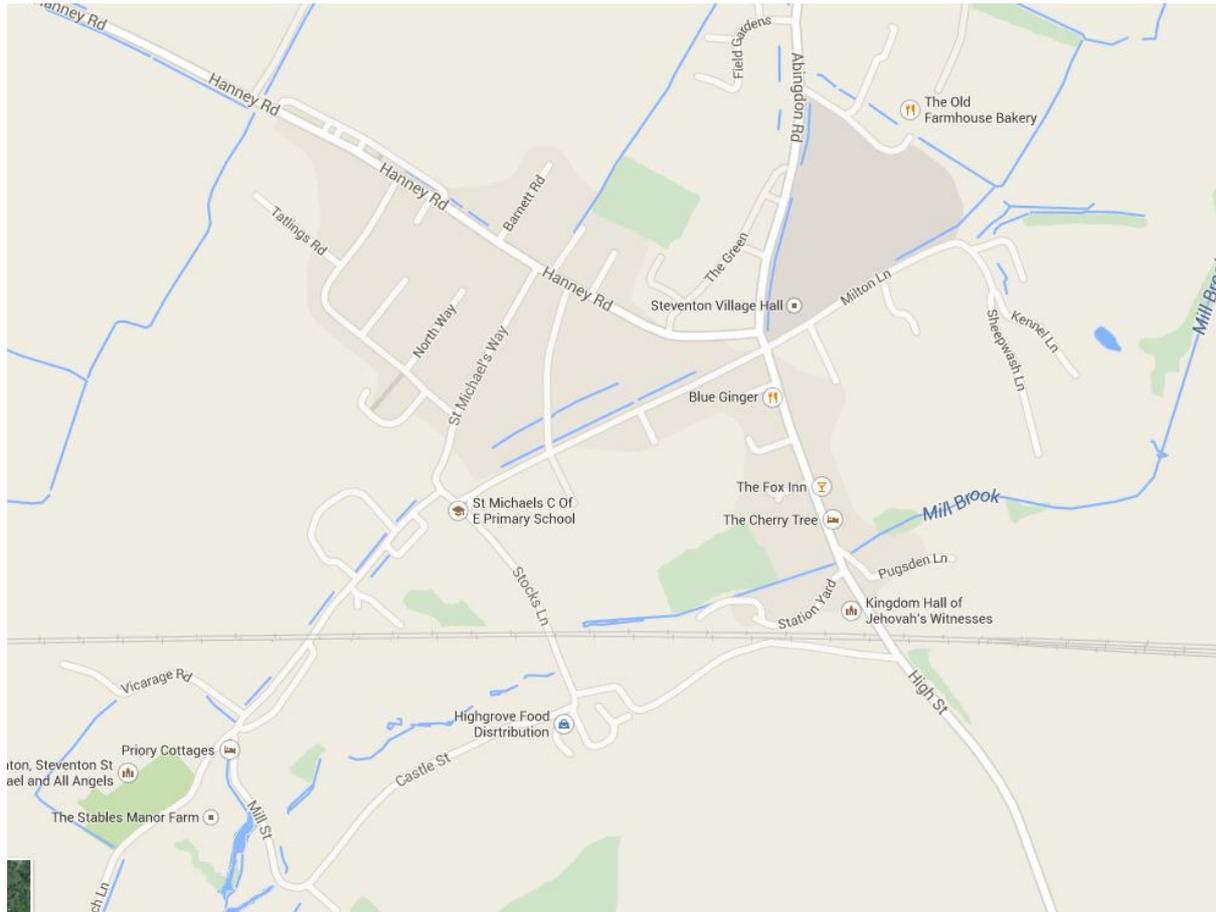
Steventon is served by the X1 and X2 routes between Oxford/Abingdon and Didcot. In the mornings, busses are scheduled to arrive from Abingdon via Drayton at 07.35, 08.32 and 10.01 and from Didcot via Milton Park at 08.21 and 09.31. In the afternoons, busses are scheduled to arrive from Abingdon

St Michael's C of E Primary School, Steventon
Travel Plan 2015

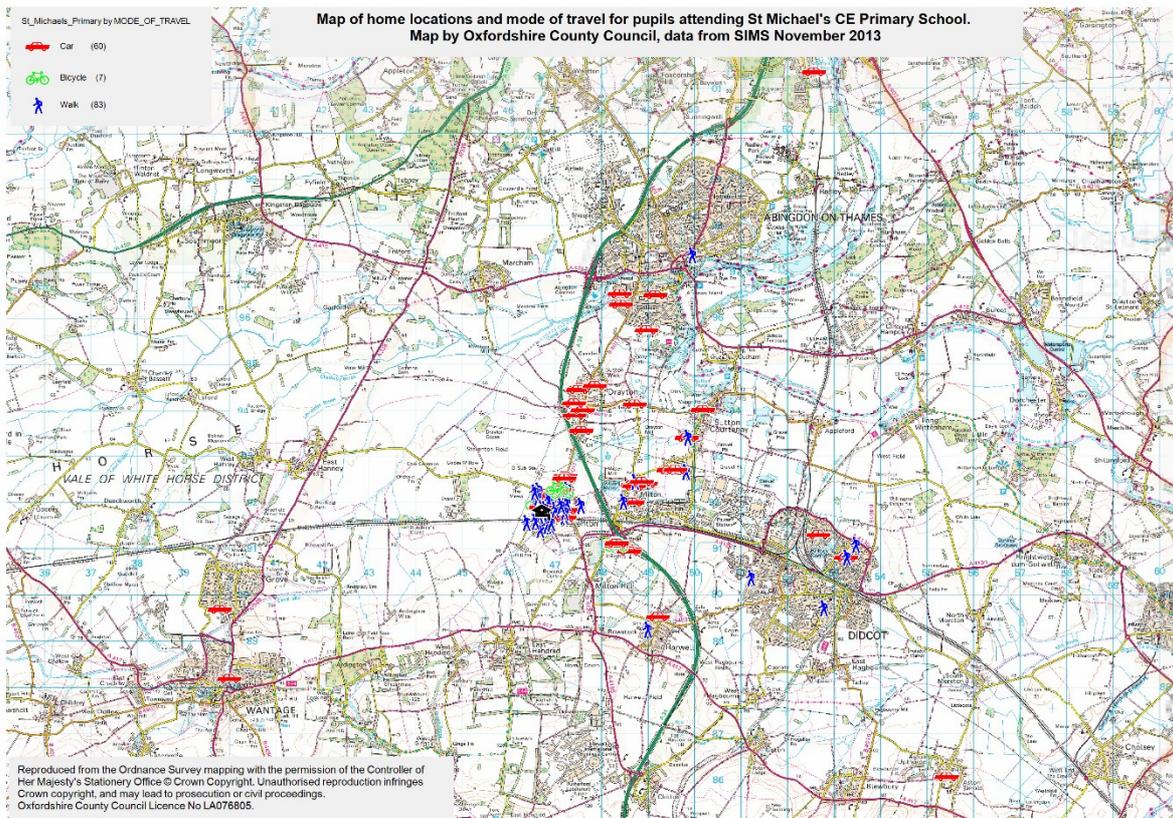
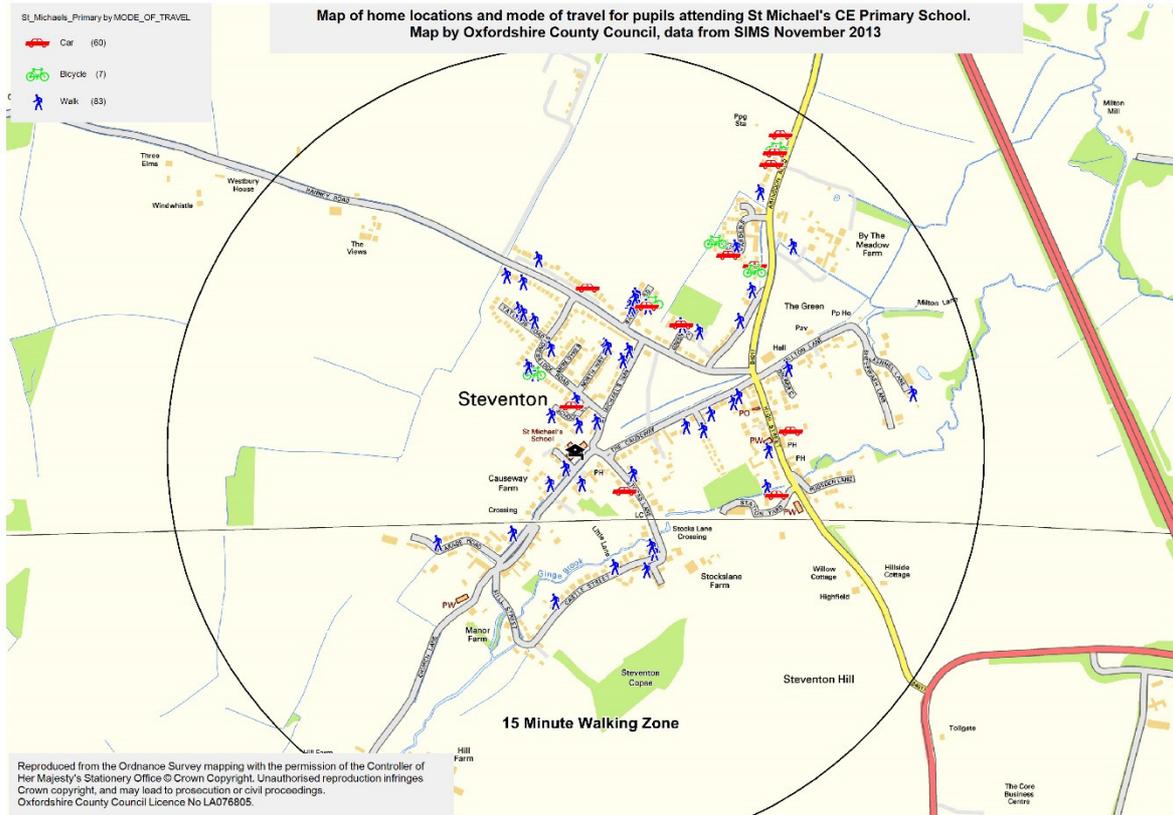
via Drayton at 14.01, 15.01, 16.07 and 17.13 and from Didcot via Milton Park at 14.28, 15.28 and 16.33. Times were correct at time of writing. The full timetable can be viewed or downloaded here:

<http://www.thames-travel.co.uk/timetables-fares/oxfordshire-and-reading/x2/>

Pupils travel to school and preschool from the village of Steventon, as well as neighbouring villages of Milton, Drayton, Sutton Courtenay, Harwell and Aston Tirrold, and the neighbouring towns of Abingdon and Didcot. There are currently no pupils at the school who have specific transport provision.



St Michael's C of E Primary School, Steventon
 Travel Plan 2015



Impact of nearby Schools and Organisations

Neighbouring villages such as Milton, Drayton, Sutton Courtenay and Harwell have primary schools. Although many children from these villages attend St Michael's, there are very few Steventon resident children that travel to school in neighbouring village primary schools.

There is a privately run nursery in Steventon. This is located to the other side of the High Street and we do not consider that traffic arising from its activities has a material impact on the school.

Staff and Pupils

1) Current school size

There are currently (January 2015) 160 children on school roll, from 109 families. 98 of those children live in the village of Steventon and 62 travel from neighbouring towns and villages. There are 10 full time and 18 part time members of staff, of whom 11 live in the village of Steventon. 23 travel by car (for at least some journeys) and 5 arrive on foot or cycle.

We have a very high proportion of part time staff. We conducted a short survey with them to identify opportunities for reducing their car journeys to school. Barriers to walking included part time hours not coinciding, returning to school after a secondary school run, and amount of baggage transported between home and school, as well as transporting their own children and baggage home from the school after work.

The preschool has 32 pupils on roll, all of whom attend part time, in half day or full day sessions and of whom 20 live in Steventon. These numbers rise throughout the school year and are anticipated to reach 44 (28 Steventon) by July, before dropping back again in September 2015. The Preschool has 8 members of staff, of whom 4 live in the village. 4 drive, 2 walk, 1 cycles and 1 sometimes drives, sometimes cycles. Part time hours, and no two members of non Steventon resident staff living in the same village limit the opportunities for lift sharing.

Many families have children at both the school and preschool.

2) Development proposals

The school will be commencing a construction programme during 2015 to enable it to expand to become One Form Entry. This will result in an increase in our pupil numbers to a maximum of 210, and a proportionate increase in staffing levels.

We anticipate that, in the short term, we will see an increase in pupils travelling to our school from outside of Steventon as the school has additional places.

The school and Parish Council have been negotiating with housing developers in Steventon to secure a parcel of land for school and community use. We hope that this will include a new car park for staff use, located to the rear of School Close.

Related initiatives already taking place

We have a good relationship with our PCSO's who patrol the area regularly at the beginning and end of the school day. We use our newsletter to regularly remind parents to park safely and in accordance with the Highway Code.

The school installed a cycle shelter in 2010 and this is well used for both cycles and scooters. The school has also offered cycling proficiency training to pupils in year 6 although that did not happen in 2014 due to lack of volunteer helpers.



Preschool pupils who arrive by scooter or bicycle can leave them on site until the end of the day.
We display Living Streets' information leaflet on the benefits of walking to school on our website.

Current travel patterns

1) Journeys made to the site at the start and end of the school day

School hours are 8.50am until 3.15pm. After school clubs run on most days until 4.15.

Preschool hours are 8.45am until 3.00pm. Some children leave at 11.45am.

The main modes of transport to school are walking, cycling and by car.

There is a public house with car park across the road from the school. When the gate is left open by the owner or tenant, parents are able to park there although no formal permission has been granted by the current owner. The pub is currently being marketed for sale and therefore the future availability of this space is uncertain.



There is a car park with 11 vehicle spaces adjacent to the school and directly outside the access gate to preschool. This is not owned by either the school or preschool.

Preschool and school staff typically arrive before parents and park in this car park, in the car park access or on The Causeway and St Michael's Way when the car park is full.



Parents then park on neighbouring streets (The Causeway, Stocks Lane, St Michael's Way, School Close and Stonebridge Road), on pavements and occasionally in the pub car park. Some parents park at relatives' houses or along The Causeway towards the High Street and walk the final part of their journey with their children.



Feedback from School parents in our annual parent survey consistently expresses concern about the safety of pupils around the junction of The Causeway and St Michael's Way, due to traffic movements and restricted visibility due to parked vehicles. Some say it deters them from walking their children to School.

The majority of the children arriving by car do so from outside the village, however some Steventon children do arrive by car, usually dropped off by parents on the way to work. In particular, the potential for significant delays at the level crossings make it impractical for families to cross back and forth between dropping children at school and leaving for work.

A proportion of children walk, cycle or scoot to school, including the vast majority of those who live in the village. The provision of a Pedestrian Crossing on the High Street has made it safer for children to walk from the far side of the village.

The bus service to the village is infrequent and we are unaware of either staff or families making regular use of it for their journeys to and from school or preschool.

2) Journeys made for before and after school clubs

The preschool does not offer any before or after school clubs.

The school does not offer a before school club. The school does not currently offer an Extended Schools programme, however does offer a range of after school clubs for pupils which vary by day and by term.

We do not think that the means of transport used to get children home after clubs varies greatly from those used at the end of the school day.

3) Journeys made from the school site to other locations during the day

The overwhelming majority of journeys made by preschool during the day are made on foot to locations in the village (for example, nature walks or to visit a local farm).

Journeys made by pupils from the school are on foot (to village locations such as our playground, copse, or Church), by hired coach (for example to offsite swimming lessons, or curriculum enhancing visits) or by parent vehicles (for example to sports tournaments).

4) Deliveries

Regular deliveries are made to the school by the milkman, catering supplies companies and other commercial organisations.

Our 2008 Travel Plan

As part of our planning for our 2015 plan, we thought carefully about how we could improve our survey questions to get more meaningful answers. In particular, we considered whether parents lived in Steventon or not, as this would be a key determining factor in whether it is reasonable for them to drive to school or not. In addition, we included preschool parents for the first time in 2015. In 2008, there were 141 children on roll. We now have 160 children on roll. In addition, our 2015 plan includes 32 preschool children, giving 192 children, an increase of 36% in survey population. For these reasons, as well as considerably different questions, we cannot provide a direct comparison across the plans.

Key findings of our 2008 plan:

Of 137 children surveyed, 59 (43%) walked or scooted, 8 (6%) cycled, 70 (51%) came by car or car share.

Common barriers to walking to school identified by parents included unsafe road crossings, congested parking, and the time pressures of commuting.

2008 Objectives:

To ensure the whole school community is aware of our School Travel Plan and what it aims to achieve

- Difficult to assess due to change in Headteacher and Governors since 2008. In 2014/15, the profile of the 2008 document was not high.
- Parking and road safety reminders appear in most newsletters, and the PCSOs patrol regularly at the start and end of the school day.

To increase the number of pupils who walk to school and reduce the number of car journeys

- In 2008, 59 (43%) said they walked to school. In November 2014, 46 (80%) of Steventon parents said they walked to school and of the 11 Steventon resident drivers, only 3 drive 5 days a week. No non-Steventon parents walk to school.
- There is now a crossing on the High Street, although road safety concerns remain amongst the parents.

To increase the number of pupils who cycle to school from 8 (5%) to 21 (15%)

- Unfortunately our 2015 survey did not directly identify whether this objective has been met or not.
- A cycle shelter was constructed 2010 and is well used. Cycle storage is now more secure than in 2008 when we had no locking facilities. Cycling Proficiency Training has happened in most years since 2008.

2015 Travel Plan

Quantitative Survey Data

We surveyed our pupils, as well as the parents and staff of school and preschool in November 2014. All members of staff and 99 parents responded to our Travel Survey. 72 had children only at St Michael's, 8 had children only at preschool and 19 had children at both. They represented 135 school and 29 preschool children. 59 live in Steventon and 40 live elsewhere.

Questions for children

How do you come to school?

	FS	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Totals
Walk/ roller blade/scooter	7	3	15	11	8	5	3	52
Cycle	1	5	1		1	1	3	12
School bus								
Other bus								
Train								
Car (shared + nonshared)	14	10	10	18	13	10	15	90
Other								
Number coming by car that car-share	1	0	0	3	6	0	0	10
Total number of pupils surveyed	22	18	26	29	22	16	21	154

Not all parents answered all questions. We asked our parents the following questions (where answers given as % rounding errors may occur):

Questions for Steventon residents

How do you mostly travel to school and preschool?

2014

Walk	46 (80%)
Car	11 (20%)

How many days do you drive to school or preschool?

2014

0	33 (60%)
1	4 (7%)
2	8 (15%)
3	2 (4%)
4	4 (7%)
5	4 (7%)

How would you prefer to travel to school or preschool?

2014

Walk	51 (89%)
Cycle	2 (4%)
Car	4 (7%)

If your preferred method is different from your current method, what prevents you from choosing your preferred method?

15 parents responded to this question. One gave two reasons.

2014

Work/commute	12 (80%)
Health	1 (6%)
Weather	1 (6%)
Parking	1 (6%)
Traffic	1 (6%)

The traffic response indicated that the parent was more likely to drive due to unsafe walking conditions.

Questions for non-Steventon residents

How do you mostly travel to school or preschool?

2014

Car	35 (92%)
Car share	3 (8%)

How would you prefer to travel to school or preschool?

2014

Car	23 (52%)
Cycle	8 (18%)
Car share	5 (11%)
Other	5 (11%)
Walk	3 (7%)

If your preferred method is different from your current method, what prevents you from choosing your preferred method?

2014

Unsafe cycle/walking route	6 (25%)
Distance	5 (20%)
Convenience/time	5 (20%)
No car share	3 (12%)
Weather	2 (8%)
Injury	1 (4%)
Park at relatives	1 (4%)
Small sibling	1 (4%)
Baggage	1 (4%)

Questions for all parents

Please tick 3 things that discourage you from WALKING your child to school or preschool (if you already walk, please select things that make it more difficult)

2014

Time	50 (20%)
Weather	40 (16%)
Distance	37 (15%)
Traffic	32 (13%)
Unsafe road crossing	32 (13%)
Too many cars outside school	24 (10%)
Narrow pavements	22 (9%)
Poor lighting	5 (2%)
Luggage	5 (2%)
Stranger danger	2 (0%)
No-one to walk with	1 (0%)
Disability	1 (0%)

Please tick 3 things that discourage you from CYCLING your child to school or preschool (if you already walk, please select things that make it more difficult)

	2014
Traffic	48 (19%)
Unsafe road crossing	36 (14%)
Weather	32 (13%)
Time	31 (13%)
Narrow pavements	26 (10%)
Too many cars outside school	22 (9%)
Distance	21 (8%)
Luggage	13 (5%)
Not confident on a bicycle	13 (5%)
Poor lighting	5 (2%)
No-one to cycle with	3 (1%)
Don't have a bicycle	2 (1%)
Disability	1 (0%)

If you currently drive your children to school, what would encourage you to walk or cycle?

	2014
Not possible – distance/time	15 (38%)
Better foot/cycle paths	12 (32%)
Weather	3 (8%)
Better road crossings	3 (8%)
Early drop off	2 (5%)
Parking enforcement around school	1 (3%)
Cycling lessons	1 (3%)
Not possible – 4 small children	1 (3%)

If you live too far away from school to walk or cycle, would you consider a car share? What would encourage you to do so?

	2014
Yes	10 (67%)
No	5 (33%)

Questions for school staff

How do you travel to school?

	2014
Car	25 (83%)
Walk	3 (10%)
Cycle	2 (7%)

60% (18) of school staff live do not live in Steventon. One teaching assistant who lives in Steventon drives as she brings a disabled child to school. 2 teachers who live in Steventon drive, or sometimes drive, due to the amount they have to carry. One of those is dropped at, and picked up from, school by her husband on the way to and from work. One teaching assistant drives her secondary school children to school and returns directly to school to start work. Of those staff who live outside the village, 94% feel there is no viable alternative to driving mainly due to distance and lack of reliable bus service.

Questions for preschool staff

2014

Car	5
Walk	2
Cycle	1

4 members of staff live in Steventon, 4 live elsewhere.

Qualitative Data – consultation with the school and preschool community

Some narrative responses given by parents are shown before. They are indicative of overall responses.

Existing opportunities and concerns

1) On the school site: opportunities and concerns / current provision

“Parking around the school is not ideal, it is very muddy in the winter months and parents park wherever they can”

“People who park dangerously should either be named and shamed or fined as there is a serious accident waiting to happen”

“The area around the school is unsafe for pedestrians”

2) On the way to school: opportunities for walking, cycling car share and bus travel

“Improved pedestrian crossing facilities on Hanney Road (near St Michael’s Way perhaps?)”

“Promote the health, social & environmental benefits of walking / cycling”

“I park at family members in the village when possible and walk.”

“Ability to drop children off from 8.30 or even 8.40 and leave them - would allow enough time to walk home to get car for commute instead of driving from school.”

[Re Park and Walk] “This would need to be within 3 minutes of school to be worthwhile”

[Re Park and Walk] “Yes, sounds like a good idea. I would be encouraged if the main High Street road had much better crossing facilities and then parking in the village hall could work.”

3) On the way to school: walking, cycling and bus concerns

“Have more safe road crossings in the village. Traffic outside school at busy periods is very dangerous on the 4 way junction.”

"In an ideal world I would like to cycle to school, however time, distance, traffic and lack of a particularly safe route preclude this"

"I am a childminder who lives in Steventon and walks to school every day with up to 7 children with me. The route is fairly quick and easy, however the difficult bit is trying to cross the road at the corner by the North Star"

4) Other comments given

"I work 4 days a week in Oxford starting at 9.30 am. The journey takes between 20 and 30 minutes depending on traffic. I live a 10 minute walk from school. Thus the only way to get to work on time is to drive to school and then drive onto work"

"I currently have an injury which is stopping me from cycling, but when I am better, I intend to cycle part of the week when time permits. Unfortunately, with work constraints also in the mix, I would not be able to cycle all the time."

"We don't have a choice on the days we don't walk due to work"

[Re: car share] "Would not encourage me as I like to see my children into school not someone else I don't really know for the sake of maybe one less car. Also the faff of car seats and most people need bigger cars for this."

"I would consider a car share yes or even sharing the drop off and collection of children by taking turns"

"Yes I already do car share on occasions"

"The crossing outside the Co-op is unsafe, cars parked near it reduce view and cars do not stop"

"Think it's a really positive thing to try and get more people to walk/cycle to school - health/fitness and the environment"

Objectives, Targets and Actions

To make sure that the whole school and preschool community are aware that the School and Preschool have a Travel Plan and what the Travel Plan is trying to achieve

Target	Actions	Timescale	Responsible person
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80% (80) of parents surveyed are aware that Travel Plan has been drawn up in 2015	<p>Include appropriate question in annual parent survey</p> <p>Include road safety and travel to school information, including car share opportunities in the school newsletter</p>	Annually, in parent survey. First inclusion in survey spring 2015.	Headteacher
	Governor monitoring of plan		Premises committee, every six months
	Annual "hands up" survey of children		PSHCE co-ordinator

Work to increase number of pupils cycling to school to: improve pupils cycle skills, generate health benefits for pupils and reduce car movements around school

Target	Actions	Timescale	Responsible person
Increase the number of pupils who regularly cycle to school to 10 within 2 years.	Run cycling proficiency training to improve bike skills.	2 years, monitor after 12 months via parent survey	Headteacher
	Support Parish Council's efforts to secure a pedestrian or pelican crossing on the Hanney Road		Premises committee
	Develop a cycling policy	12 months	Premises committee
	Research the Big Pedal event	12 months	Premises committee

Work to reduce car movements around the school and preschool sites to: improve road safety around the school and preschool site; have a positive impact on the environment by reducing car journeys; increase the life and road safety skills of pupils

Target	Actions	Timescale	Responsible person
Reduce number of Steventon residents driving to school by 10% (10) within 2 years.	Work with PCSOs to reduce parking congestion around the school and preschool sites.	2 years, monitor after 12 months via parent survey	Headteacher
	Encourage staff to park in new staff car park.	ASAP when built	Headteacher
Double the number of non Steventon residents who car share from 3 to 6 within 4 years.	Focus on health and life skills of walking to school, as well as convenience of Village Hall car park, in newsletters and parent handbook.	At least once a term	Headteacher
	Promote car sharing amongst parents.	At least once per term	Premises committee
	Hold a walk to school week each year, investigate Walk on Wednesday opportunities.	Annually from 2015	Headteacher
	Approach pub owner for consent to park in pub car park	ASAP	Chair of Governors
	Promote Footsteps and Walk to school week in both school and preschool	ASAP	Preschool Supervisor, PSHCE co-ordinator

Maintaining the School & Preschool Travel Plan

Progress against this plan will be monitored by the Full Governing Body of St Michael's Church of England Primary School every 12 months, by the premises committee every six months and by Steventon Preschool Committee every 12 months.

Approval and ownership of the School & Preschool Travel Plan

This Travel Plan was approved by the following groups on the following dates:

OCC Travel Plans Team

Signature and Date

St Michael's Church of England Primary School
Governing Body

Steventon Preschool Playgroup Committee