

TRAVELLING TO SCHOOL POLICY AND PLAN

DECEMBER 2017

1. Aims of the Policy

- a) To ensure all pupils and members of staff arrive at the Academy and return home each day safely and on time;
- b) To reduce car use by staff and parents;
- c) To encourage parents and pupils to use the journey to and from school as an opportunity for exercise;
- d) To encourage environmentally sustainable methods of transport to and from the Academy;
- e) To discourage car use amongst visitors to the Academy
- f) If car use is unavoidable to ensure that parents do not use Aberdeen Road to drop off or pick up their child(ren); and
- g) To educate members of the Academy community about safe and sustainable travel.

2. The Academy Site

The site will be served by three vehicular access points. The main vehicular access is located off Aberdeen Road and the others via Spices Yard Car Park and South End Road which is located to the west of the site. See Appendix A for a site map and Appendix B for access routes into the site.

- a) Our site presents a number of challenges in meeting the aims of the policy:
 - (i) Aberdeen Road is a residential street, a bus route and has restricted parking on both sides; and
 - (ii) There is a strong 'school run' culture amongst local parents with heavy road use, particularly in the mornings.
- b) However, there are also a number of mitigating opportunities:
 - (i) Nearby main roads (South End Road, A235 Brighton Road and Coombe Road) have frequent local bus services;
 - (ii) There is a rail station within half a mile (South Croydon) and another (East Croydon) within 1 mile;
 - (iii) There is a public car park situated at the rear of the Academy site (Spices Yard Car Park);
 - (iv) In the event that we observe congestion in Spices Yard Car Park at peak drop off times, our caretaker will act as a traffic marshal to reduce the impact on the car park and neighbouring South End Road; and
 - (v) Over 85% of the current pupils of the Academy so far live within 1 mile of the site, and the remainder within 3 miles of the site.

3. Site Accessibility

a) *Walking*

- (i) Pedestrians can access the site via footways on Aberdeen Road, South End Road, Heathfield Road, St Peter's Road and Spices Yard Car Park (at start and end of day only). All these roads are flanked by footways and provide a series of streetlights; and
- (ii) A pedestrian refuge island is provided on South End Road and St Peter's Road. This would provide a pedestrian crossing facility used by pupils alighting the bus on these respective carriageways.

b) *Cycling*

Although there are approximately 45 miles of cycle routes implemented in the borough since the inception of the London and National Cycle Networks (incorporating mandatory lanes, advisory lanes and advisory routes), there aren't many cycle lanes near the Academy. More cycle routes will be introduced as Croydon Council work towards sustainable transport systems. However, our parents will primarily walk with their children on scooters.

c) *Rail*

South Croydon Rail Station is located approximately half a mile to the south east of the site and is situated on the Southern Railway Main Line with services to London Victoria and London Bridge, and also to Caterham and other destinations. It is in Travelcard Zone 5.

East Croydon Rail Station is located approximately one mile to the north east of the site and would be accessed on foot or by bus. The station is situated on the Southern Railway Main Line with services to London Victoria, and also Caterham and Tattenham Corner, and by services to Oxted, East Grinstead and Uckfield. It is in Travelcard Zone 5.

d) *Tram*

Coombe Road tram stop is located within half a mile from the site. It runs from Waddon Marsh to New Addington. The tram network stretches between Beckenham Junction and Wimbledon and allows rail connections at East Croydon, West Croydon, Mitcham Junction and Wimbledon.

e) *Bus*

The site is well connected by local bus services, i.e.:

- Route 403 on South End Road which runs between Warlingham and West Croydon;

- Route 412 on South End Road which runs between Purley and West Croydon;
- Route 199 on South End Road which runs between Bromley North and Croydon Airport;
- Route 312 on South End Road which runs between South Croydon and Norwood Junction;
- Route 466 on South End Road which runs between Addington Village and Caterham;
- Route 60 on South End Road which runs between Old Coulsdon and Streatham;
- Route 405 on South End Road which runs between Redhill and West Croydon;
- Route 407 on South End Road which runs between Sutton and Caterham Valley;
- Route 468 on South End Road which runs between Coombe Road and Lambeth; and
- Route 455 on St Peter's Road which runs between Canons Hill and Wallington.

4. Facilities to support the Policy

The Academy provides a number of features and resources which support the aims of this policy. These include:

- a) 36 secure spaces for cycles in two locations, for both pupils and staff. One situated for children in reception and KS2 and one provided for KS1; both situated on site near the rear of the school. Changing facilities are provided adjacent to the changing rooms within the building;
- b) Scooter parking will be available in various playground areas. Scooter parking mushrooms have been applied for through STARS as well as scooter training for the children;
- c) Locker provision, for staff, means ample space for the storage of cycle helmets and other equipment;
- d) Facility to share car parking provided in the adjacent Spices Yard Car Park for drop- off and collection only;
- e) The admissions policy of the Heathfield Academy demonstrates that distance will be used as an admissions criteria and thus it is expected that the area from which pupils are drawn from will be from the areas immediately surrounding the Academy site;
- f) Our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) will reduce the use of paper and minimise the amount of resources which need to be carried between home and school;

- g) The nearest primary school is Howard Primary School. This school opens at 9.00am and finishes at 3.30pm. Heathfield Academy has a staggered start; opening at 8.40am for reception and 8.45am for KS1. Heathfield also has a staggered closing time of 3.00pm for reception and 3.10pm for KS1. The difference of the 15 minutes in the morning and 20 minutes in the afternoon has a positive impact on reducing the amount of traffic in the local area at a given time;
- h) Wrap around care and after school enrichment activities extend the Academy day and stagger the arrival and departure of pupils from the Academy;
- i) The Academy actively promotes walking to school through their website. All stakeholders are encouraged to consider their travel options to the Academy. A map detailing travel options is included;
- j) Parents are encouraged to join the Children's Traffic Club that promotes walking to school and provides information on road safety through interactive games.

5. Encouraging Positive Attitudes

We will support the aims of the policy by:

- a) The Travel Plan forming part of our parent/child induction process, including discussions during home visits and at new parents' meetings in the summer term encouraging alternatives to driving;
- b) Ensuring that ALL parents are aware that they **must not** use Aberdeen Road to drop off or pick up their children by car.
- c) Using lessons to explore the importance of environmentally sustainable travel;
- d) Encouraging sustainable travel through assemblies and tutorial time;
- e) Engaging with parents to discuss alternatives to car use for travel to school;
- f) Discussing incentives to encourage staff to walk, cycle and take public transport to work; and
- g) Linking this policy to our Behaviour and Reward policy, in a similar way that we do for attendance and punctuality (Note: Our children recently entered the 'Brighten your bag' competition through STARS with the first prize being a monetary value).

6. Potential Travel Plan Initiatives

- a) There are a number of challenges in drafting this document prior to the Academy moving into the permanent site. Primary amongst these are:
 - (i) Between September 2015 and July 2017 (whilst based at a temporary sites) more than 75% of pupils were transported by coach from Aberdeen Road to the temporary sites. A small minority of parents drove their children to school as the temporary sites were situated closer to their place of work.
 - (ii) Now that we are based at the academy's permanent address at Aberdeen Road we constantly analyse their current means of travel to

school and specifically address issues of how to make travel more sustainable.

- b) However, despite these uncertainties, we anticipate that some combination of the following initiatives will form the basis of our provision and be enacted during the first 12 months of the Academy's life in Aberdeen Road.
- (i) Establish a Travel Plan Working Group. This will be organised as a function of the Academy Pupil Council; The School Business Manager leads on this initiative and the academy has joined TfL's STARS accreditation scheme. The STARS scheme provides opportunities to apply for funding that is available for scooter parking, scooter training for the children, funding to purchase materials for the 'Walking Bears' scheme that encourages children to walk to school, a road safety pack that supplies parents with a login to the Children's Traffic Club. Competitions that promote Road Safety. Questionnaires that identify how children currently travel to school and how they would like to travel to school; this information will assist in initiating future events regarding travelling to school;
 - (ii) To carry out a survey annually and report back to Croydon Council. The first survey to be completed during the first term of pupils arriving;
 - (iii) To set up a travel notice board and make travel to school an on-going item in Academy newsletters and on the website. These features will be used to target parents as well as pupils, raising awareness of the travel plan and encouraging walking and cycling to school;
 - (iv) To identify and publish, in a user-friendly format, the quietest cycle routes to the Academy from a range of directions;
 - (v) Ensure parents are clear that they should not drive into Aberdeen Road and that pupils travelling by car should be dropped off in Spices Yard Car Park;
 - (vi) Investigate the possibility of setting up a 'Parent Car Share Club';
 - (vii) Investigate participation in annual National Cycle to School days and look into the possibility of working with other local schools during Bike Week;
 - (viii) Investigate setting up links with local bike shops which may offer discounts for new bikes in future for staff or pupils;
 - (ix) Raise awareness of safe travel behaviour for all pupils;
 - (x) Provide the opportunity for pupils to obtain the National Standard for Cycle Training; and
 - (xi) All known visitors to the site to be issued with a map and instructions detailing travel options and encouraging walking, cycling and the use of public transport.

7. Anticipated mode of travel during 2017/18

The following table shows the anticipated mode of travel to school during 2017/18 based on a parental survey conducted in June 2017.

Mode of transport	Reception pupils (30 in total)	Year 1 pupils (30 in total)	Year 2 pupils (38 in total)
Walk	Unknown	23	30
Cycle	Unknown	0	0
Bus	Unknown	3	2
Taxi	Unknown	0	1
Car	Unknown	4	5

A large number of parents (78%) plan to walk to school with their children on a daily basis. 7% of parents are unable to walk due to distance and therefore plan to travel by bus. 13% of parents plan to travel by car; we will discourage this. However, some parents insist on travelling by car so that they may continue their journey to work. A very small number of children (1%) are eligible for transport by taxi due to parental medical conditions.

8. Curriculum Links

To ensure pupils understand and are involved in the Travel Plan, awareness will be developed through the National Curriculum. A range of resources to assist teachers can be found at:

www.databases.dft.gov.uk/wholeschool/sd/curriculum

www.teachernet.gov.uk

www.sustrans.org.uk

www.youngtransnet.org.uk

9. Targets, Monitoring and Review

- a) A Travel Action Plan, including targets, will be drawn up during the academic year 2017-18 when staff, pupils and parents can be involved;
- b) A 'travel' category will be added to the Academy's Development Plan, as well as within its 3 year aims, to ensure focus;
- c) Monitoring, review and amendment of the plan will be on the basis of annual travel surveys. The academy will use the format provided on the STARS accredited website;
- d) A full school consultation will also be conducted every three years, which will include a parent and governor survey and a variety of other activities; and
- e) Governors will be updated annually on the ongoing progress of the Travel Plan.

Appendix A



Appendix B

