

# **St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Tilbury**

## **Travel Plan**

### **Introduction**

The safety of our children is very important to us and that includes what happens in school as well as in our local environment.

We encourage safe travel and the social responsibility we all have in our local community to keep us all safe.

### **About our School**

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School in Tilbury is part of the Christus Catholic Trust. The school was originally under the trust of the Sisters of Mercy and was founded in 1887. There are Mercy Sisters living adjacent to the school and the Catholic Church of Our Lady Star of the Sea lies behind the school in Dock Road.

St Mary's is situated close to Tilbury Docks and is in an area of high social and economic deprivation. We are a school of choice. We admit pupils aged 3 to 11 years from Catholic families as well as from other denominations and faiths. 67% of our children speak English as an Additional Language.

As our school is not a catchment school, our families travel from quite a wide area as well as from the locality.

### **Our site**

St Mary's lies between Dock Road and Calcutta Road with Malta Road lying to the side. The site is small and confined with no green space.

There are several entrances to the school, with two gates lying on Calcutta Road and two lying on Dock Road- one is an entrance for the school Nursery and a double set of gates lead onto the large playground.

### **Covid**

Due to the current Covid restrictions, entrance and exit times are staggered with children being admitted and released in their class bubbles.

The staggered times are currently:

Reception class - Arrive between 8.45 am and 8.55 am, using the Nursery gate. Children to be collected at 3.10 pm through the Nursery gate.

Year 6 - enter through the green gate on Calcutta Road at 8.30 am and leave at 3 pm.

Year 5 - enter through the green gate on Calcutta Road at 8.40 am and leave at 3.10pm.

Year 4 - enter through the green gate on Calcutta Road at 8.50 am and leave at 3.20pm.

Year 3 - enter through the main school (black) gates at 8.30 am and leave at 3 pm.

Year 2 - enter through the main school (black) gates to arrive at 8.40 am and leave at 3.10 pm.

Year 1 - enter through the main school (black) gates to arrive at 8.50 am and leave at 3. 20 pm.

### **Why we need a Travel Plan**

A School Travel Plan is an opportunity for schools to promote practical initiatives. As a school, we must raise the awareness of both pupils and parents about the impact their chosen mode of daily transport has on the environment and to encourage more sustainable travel to school.

We want to encourage everyone to consider walking and cycling as their preferred method of transport; and to consider using the car less frequently.

Many parents are driving to school who could possibly be walking or cycling. This could be due to:

- Concerns about traffic danger
- An increase in households with a second vehicle
- The journey forming part of the journey to work
- Convenience

We realise that growing dependence on the car has a number of damaging side effects including:

- Increased peak traffic congestion
- Increased pollution around schools
- Fewer opportunities for children to develop road and personal safety skills

It is true that for some parents there is no alternative to the car, with long distances to travel and no suitable public transport available. However, many are driving their children to school over short distances, where walking and cycling are real options.

### **The Benefits of a successful Travel Plan**

#### **To the school community:**

- Improved safety and reduced pollution around the school
- Reduced traffic around the school
- Improved relationships with the local neighbours and community
- Safer cycling routes

#### **To the children:**

- Improved road safety skills
- Improved fitness levels
- Improved concentration in school
- Increase knowledge and awareness of the local community

#### **To the parents and staff:**

- Stronger home-school links
- Greater safety when children are arriving at or leaving school.

As a school, our focus is to raise the awareness of both pupils and parents about the impact their chosen mode of daily transport has on the environment. We want to encourage everyone to consider walking and cycling as their preferred method of transport; and to consider using the car less frequently.

## **How our pupils' come to school**

Pupils come to school through a variety of means but due to the distance some of our families live from the school, many families drive.

A recent consultation with all stakeholders was held – please refer to questionnaires and surveys on the school website for results.

## **What are the travel issues affecting the safety of our pupils?**

### **Problems Identified**

- Cars parked directly outside school preventing a clear view and access for children crossing the main road.
- Narrow pavement outside green gate on Calcutta Road - not enough space for pupils to enter through the green gate, pedestrians to pass.
- Bicycles being ridden on the pavement by adult members of the local community.
- Picking up and dropping off for school trips is dangerous and difficult, resulting in trips, having to be timed to avoid the beginning and end of the school day.
- Parents and other road users parking on the pavements.
- Parents and other road users mounting the pavement when dropping off and collecting thereby putting children at risk of being hit by a vehicle.
- Lack of parking wardens to enforce parking restrictions.

### **Aims and Objectives**

The prioritised aims and objectives of our School Travel Plan are:

- To reduce congestion outside school through a reduction in traffic attending the school;
- To increase the number of pupils and parents either walking or cycling to school by a further 10% in the next year;
- To increase road safety awareness week to once termly, rather than yearly;
- To continue to facilitate Thurrock Road Safety Campaign;
- To increase awareness of healthy lifestyle and the benefits of walking/cycling, to school;
- To increase fitness levels.

### **Actions Implemented so far**

**Please note that due to Covid restrictions, many of these actions have not been possible but will be resumed once Lockdown restrictions are eased by Government**

- Road safety walks (Year 2);
- Parent and children road safety walks (Year Reception)
- Cycling proficiency
- Raising the profile of road safety.
- Provided secure cycle storage facilities inside school premises;
- Purchased bikes and accompaniments to support Disadvantaged pupils

### **Actions Identified that need to be Implemented**

- To increase road safety awareness week to once termly rather than yearly;

Updated March 2021 on school return from Lockdown – M Jones

- To lobby for a pedestrian crossing nearer to school;
- To lobby for longer barriers outside the front gates on Calcutta Road
- To publicise to parents that older children will be allowed to cycle to school providing;
- They have passed the cycling proficiency course and wear cycling helmets;
- They have permission from parents/guardian.

**What is our action plan at this time?**

*(please note this plan is dynamic and will be subject to change)*

<b>Actions to be taken</b>	<b>By whom?</b>	<b>When?</b>	<b>How will the impact be assessed?</b>
To organise "Walk to School" weeks regularly to sustain awareness amongst pupils and parents and develop into walk to school bus.	School	annually	Feedback from Children
Carry out further surveys of pupil's method of travel to and from school.	School	Annually	Monitor increases and decreases (termly)
Continue Cycle Proficiency Training Programme for Years 4 and 6	Thurrock Council/ School	Termly	Keep data on number of passes (annually)
Introduce healthy school issues including travel plan as standard agenda items at Governor's meeting.	LGC/School	In place	Collect data on absence and ill-health (termly)
Purchase more Bikes for those children considered as Disadvantaged and for those who do not know how to ride a bike.	School	By Summer half term	More children from starting numbers will be able to ride a bike.
Request metal barrier outside green gate in Calcutta Road to prevent cars mounting the pavement	Thurrock Council/ School	March 2021	Children will feel safer when on the pavement outside the gates (pupil survey)