

Gilsland Church of England Primary School



“Together we achieve.”

School Travel Plan 2009



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I School details

DCSF school reference number	909/ 5216
Type of school	Foundation CE
Number on roll (including no. of SEN pupils with a brief description of subsequent impact on travel)	23 Including 1 SEN pupil
Number of staff (It is highly recommended that a supplementary Travel Plan for staff and other school users is developed)	1 Full Time Teacher, 2 P/T teachers 2 F/T Teaching Assistants and 1 P/T secretary
Age range of pupils	4-11
School contact details	
Head teacher	Mrs C Boucetla
Address	Gilsland Brampton Cumbria
Postcode	CA8 7AA
Telephone number	016977 47302
Fax	016977 47302
Email address	head@gilsland.cumbria.sch.uk
Website	www.gilslandschool.com
Working group contact	
Name	Mrs C Boucetla
Address	As above
Telephone number	As above
Email address	As above
School situation and use	
Description of school	<p>Gilsland is situated 2 miles away from Greenhead, 7 miles from Brampton and 5 miles from Spadeadam.</p> <p>The majority of pupils live in Gilsland, some travel from Upper Denton, Cumbria to the west and some from Longbyre, Northumbria to the east.</p> <p>The school day starts at 8.40am and finishes at 3.00pm. Lunchtime is between 12.00-1.00pm. There are three after-school clubs which operate on Monday between 3pm-4.15pm, Tuesday between 3.00pm-4.15pm and Friday between 3pm-4.15pm.</p> <p>The school is situated south west of the village and is the first building after crossing over the railway line on the Low Row to Gilsland road. This is an unmanned automated level crossing; it is the main Newcastle – Carlisle line. This line also crosses over a bridge in the centre of the village.</p>

Just before the school there is a bus lay-by and a short stay visitors car park the left hand side. Approximately 8-10 years ago the three parish councils, Thirlwell, Upper Denton and Waterhead, had the car park built to cope with the high number of visitors. The car park is signed 'Gilsland short stay car park'; there is no charge for parking. It is surrounded by trees to obscure it from visitors to the roman wall. Recently some of the trees were trimmed so that the car park could be seen from the school after the head teacher's car was broken into (front and back windows smashed) during the day and several items were stolen.

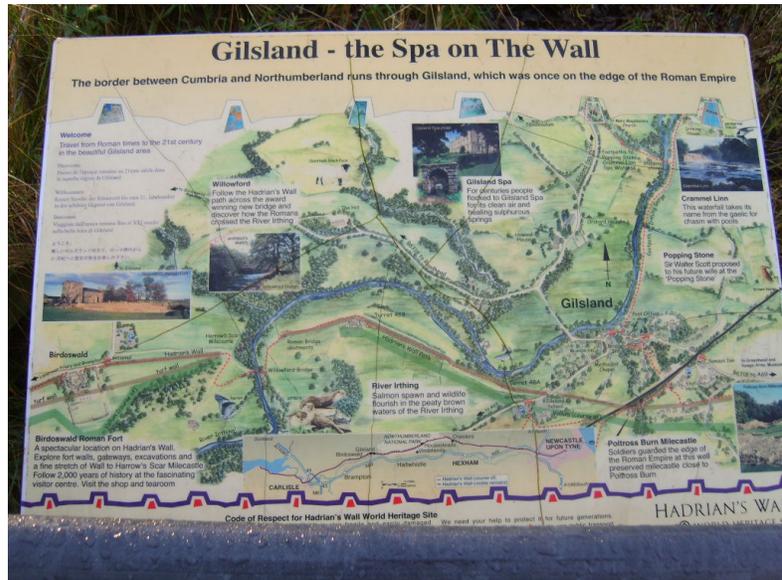


Gilsland is a surprisingly busy straggly village with windy, twisty, hilly roads and hardly any footways. The village is split along the line of the River Irthing between two counties, to the west in Cumbria and the east in Northumbria. It has a Methodist church, post office, coffee shop and public house.

Spadeadam generates a lot of traffic through the village, both heavy and light. They are either working at, delivering or visiting GL's Spadeadam Test Site which test designs, products, processes and materials at large or full scale in a safe controlled manner. The Test Site is a world class centre where full scale destructive and non-destructive experiments of a hazardous nature are designed and conducted. It carries out research, investigative testing and technical project work for the energy sector, as well as specialist work for other industries and various Government agencies. RAF Spadeadam is the only facility in Europe where aircrews can practice manoeuvres and tactics against a variety of threats and targets that they face in contemporary warfare. This fascinating facility attracts aircraft from the RAF, Army, Navy and NATO Forces. The survival of aircrews over Iraq, Afghanistan or elsewhere, and the soldiers on the ground who depend on air support are affected by the training provided by RAF Spadeadam.



The surrounding area is steeped in roman history. Birdswald Roman Fort visitors centre is a few miles away. Lots of people do the Coast to Coast walk and there are many visitors to Hadrian's Wall which runs through the village.



Use

The school day starts at 8.40am and finishes at 3.00pm. Lunchtime is between 12.00-1.00pm. There are three after-school clubs which operate on Monday between 3pm-4.15pm, Tuesday between 3.00pm-4.15pm and Friday between 3pm-4.15pm.

Poppets under 5s Group meets every Thursday afternoon from 1.15 pm to 3pm in Gilsland School hall. We have a wide range of pre - school activities for young children

The original part of the school is old with a couple of extensions added to the front and side of it. The office and staff room are on the (small) first floor, the classroom, hall and toilets are on the ground floor. Adjoining the school is the old school house which is occupied by a family independent from the school. The house has a separate entrance (walkway) to it but the owner's park in the playground outside the house. There is a tarmac playground at the front of the school and a grassed area to the left and round the back of the school.

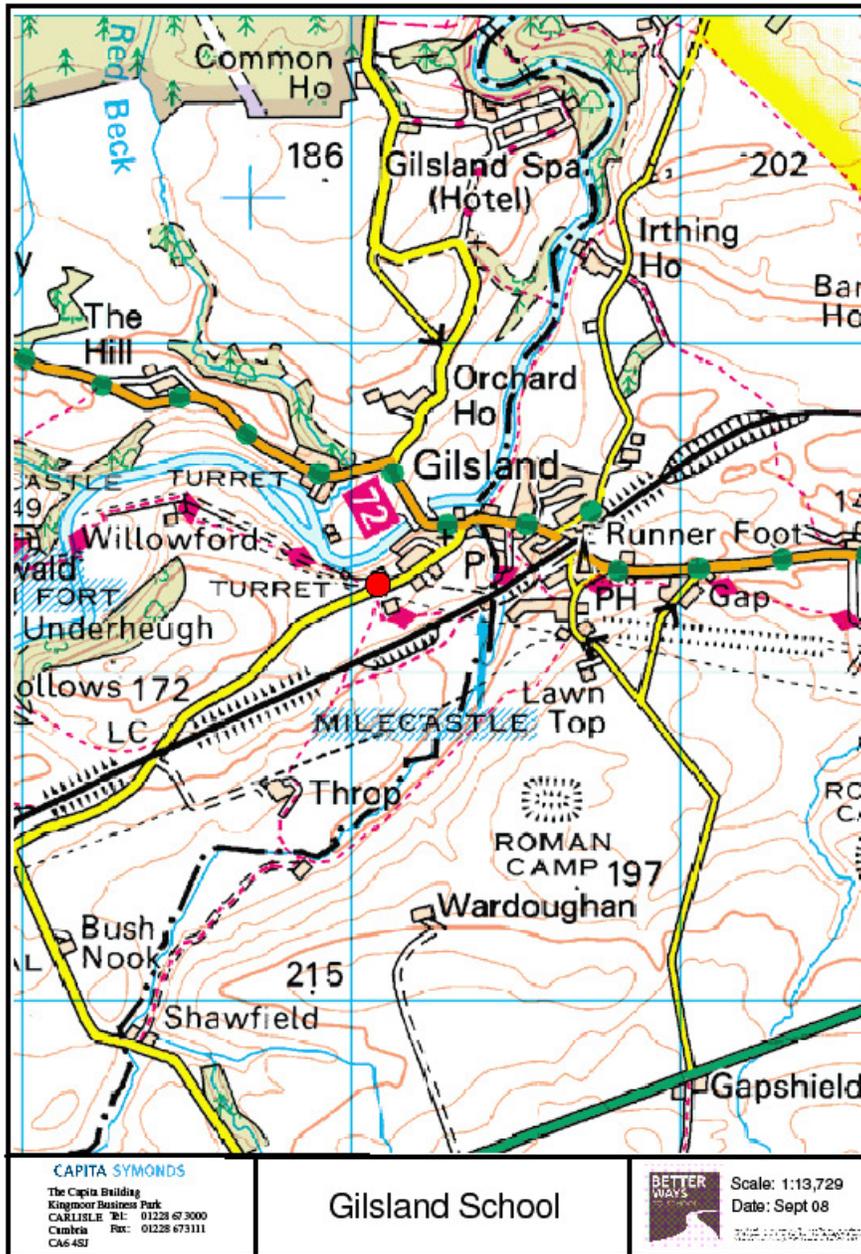


There are two entrances to the school, one set of large double gates for vehicular access and one kissing gate for pedestrians leading into the playground. There are two entrances into the building, the main entrance is in the centre and the second is to the right of it.



The parish councils have given permission for the school to use the visitors car park when dropping off/picking up children. 3 staff park there all day.

Location map of School



Transport Links

The majority of pupils travel to school by car, some travel from Upper Denton, to the west in Cumbria and some from the east Longbyre, Northumbria. Five pupils live too far away to cycle or walk and some of the children who live in the village would like to cycle but are reluctant because there is nowhere secure to store their bikes. Some need to cross over the unmanned level crossing. 1 child uses part of the Hadrian's wall footpath to get to school. Please see route plotting notes in Section 3.

2 members of staff walk and 3 drive to and from school. Those who drive say that they are not on a bus route and they live too far away (over 10 miles) to walk or cycle to school, they would be willing to car share but come from different directions so this is not possible.

Our Special Educational Needs and School Trips Policy are included in Appendix 4. No SEN pupils require special transport provision.

The roads in parts of the village are narrow in places and twisty, trafficked by a high volume of heavy goods vehicles travelling to and from Spadeadam, referred to above.



Rail - The Newcastle – Carlisle line crosses through the village, there is an old station house but the train no longer stops here. The nearest station is in Brampton which is 7 miles away.

Bus - Quite a few buses stop in the village but they are mainly for visitors, the times do not correspond with school start and finish times so staff and pupils are unable to use them. Bus service timetables can be found in Appendix 4 – Transport Links.

Footpath and Cycle Routes – As is the case with bus services, these routes cater for visitors and walkers to Hadrian’s Wall and are not used by pupils or staff as a way of getting to and from the school.

Aims

This Travel Plan specifically aims at reducing car journeys to and from school, and reducing/preventing casualties on these journeys.

To safely reduce the number of people who travel to the school by car in favour of using more sustainable modes of transport.

To reduce congestion, pollution and traffic danger around the school

To equip pupils with the knowledge and skills needed to walk and cycle safely

To improve road and personal safety awareness

To contribute to pupil’s health and personal development by encouraging increased levels of walking and cycling so that they can carry these habits into adulthood

Objectives (linked to Action Plan – Section 7)

1. Set up and sustain a school travel plan steering group (7.5)
2. Increase travel and health awareness (7.4)
3. Increase walking and cycling facilities (7.2)
4. Reduce traffic and pollution around the school (7.3)
5. Provide cycle training (7.1)
6. Provide pedestrian training (7.1)
7. Safer routes to school identified through consultation and with help from the councils highway engineer (7.3)
8. Support a walking bus and improve safety along the route (7.3)
9. Integrate sustainable and healthy travel issues into the curriculum e.g. safe route planning in geography (7.1)
10. Provide cycle storage (7.2)
11. Increase road safety awareness (7.1 & 7.2)
12. Link travel plan to healthy schools initiative (7.5)
13. Include travel plan in the school prospectus (7.4 & 7.5)

2 Working party – to develop and implement the plan

Name	Position	Responsibility within working party
Nancy Turnbull, Capita Symonds	BWTS Advisor	Travel plan advisor
Mrs Boucetla	Headteacher	Travel plan coordinator
Mrs Rooney	Governor	Governor link
Mrs V Gallagher	School Secretary	School link
Mrs E Fisher	Teacher	School link
Kevin Crawley	Capita Highway Engineer	Highway link
Mrs Clifford	Road Safety Officer	Road safety advisor

Consultation)			
Name/position	Subject/how the consultation took place	Date	Appendix no.
Parents	Questionnaire sent to parents	26 Jun 08	1
Staff, Pupils	On-line Surveys	26 June 08	1
Yrs 3 4 5 & 6	Route Plotting Exercise and discussion about journeys to school	March 09	8
Governors, Working Party, PTA	The group met to discuss what was needed to complete the plan and identify problems.	Various	2
Chris Boucetla, Nancy Turnbull	The schools coordinator and the BWTS Advisor met to discuss progress of the plan. Also communicated through e-mail on a regular basis. Evidence – notes of meetings	Various	2
Site visit by Capita Engineer and Nancy Turnbull	The Capita Highways Engineer and Nancy Turnbull visited Gilsland School to look round the area surrounding the school.	9 Jan 09	3
Pupils in the school	During lessons the children talked about road safety and then wrote poems and drew pictures on the subject	Spring term 09	6

First of all a survey was carried out amongst the children about their journeys to school. A working party was set up and the School travel plan began to take shape.

3 Survey and route plotting carried out

Baseline Data Survey

How do you travel to school?																
Year	Date of survey (dd/mm)	No. of pupils	Bus		Car/Van		Car Share		Cycling		Rail		Walk		Other	
			No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
2008	26/06	14			10	71	1	7					3	21		
How would you like to travel to school?																
Year	Date of Survey (dd/mm)	No. of pupils	Bus		Car/Van		Car Share		Cycling		Rail		Walk		Other	
			No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
2008	26/06	7			1	14			4	58	1	14	1	14		

Survey Notes

14 pupils completed the on-line surveys on 26 June 2008

3 (21%) walk

10 (71%) travel by car, incl 2 by taxi

1 (7%) car share

Very occasionally pupils travel to school by cycling.

However when children were asked how they would like to travel to school, results were as follows:

14% would like to travel by car.

14% would like to travel by train.

58% would like to cycle

14% would like to walk

5 staff completed the on-line surveys in June 2008.

2 (40%) walk

3 (60%) travel by car; they said it was unrealistic to walk or cycle as they live too far away. If it was practicable they would car share

Route Plotting

Year	Date of route plotting	Year Groups	No. of pupils
2009	9 March	3, 4, 5 & 6	13

Route Plotting Notes (e.g. comments made by pupils / any results found)

13 children took part in the route plotting exercise.

8 children said they would like to bring their bikes to school but do not do so because there is not a secure, sheltered place to keep them.

5 children cannot bring bikes or walk as they live too far outside school area.

Comments from children:

Edward. Walks and cycles to school. Cars often hit the narrow pavements when driving past. The pavements are narrow and broken, when he leaves home and returns at end of day – bus is parked in narrow road – he has to cycle around it to get past.

Ricky. Travels by taxi. Cars travel too fast on small country roads – the taxi has to swerve to miss cars, crosses three railway crossing points on route to school.

Joseph. Crosses busy railway crossing points in car when travelling to school.

Sam. Sometimes cycles to school. Cars pass too close to him on narrow road.

Ethan. Moving house soon. Wants to bring his BMX bike but no-where in school to safely store it. Wants a cycle shed so it is dry when he comes to go home at night.

Ben J. Wants to come on his bike – wants a cycle shed in school grounds.

Notes

7 pupils travel by car,
3 are travelling from Greenhead
1 is travelling from Longby
1 is travelling from Slack House, west of Gilsland
2 are travelling from the east part of Gilsland village

2 pupils travel by Taxi,
1 is travelling from near Haltwhistle
1 is travelling from Low Row
2 pupils Walk, they live in Gilsland
2 pupils Cycle, they live in Gilsland

4 Summary of transport and road safety problems

Consultation with parents, children and the community raised the following issues:-

Parents and children do not like walking past a property near the school as the footway is dirty.

Children feel unsafe in the centre of the village because the footways are narrow and many large vehicles drive through the village.

Vehicles drive past the school too fast.

The school is in a dip and it is difficult to see traffic coming.

If a car is parked on the pavement you need to step into the road to get round it.

Parents park directly outside school even though they are often asked not to.

Narrow and twisty roads with few footways.

Children sometimes run into the road without looking when leaving school at home time.

There is no secure cycle storage.

Photos taken in October 2008 before the zigzags were done



From the school gate to the west
Visitor car park visible in the distance



Looking towards the school from the west



Double gates lead into the playground; they are used by buses when the school is going on a trip so that pupils can be picked up and dropped off away from the main road. The kissing gate on the right hand side is used as the main walkway into the school.

Photos taken after the zig-zags markings were done in April 2009, unfortunately these have been put in the wrong place but will be redone during the summer.



Another cause for concern to parents is the condition of the road outside a house which they have to pass in order to get to and from school. The house and adjoining land has been badly neglected and is in a poor state of repair. The footway adjacent to it is covered in straw, hay and soil and during inclement weather this becomes a sludgy goey mess which people will not walk on. Complaints have been made to the council, parish council and police who have been in contact with the owners but nothing has been done. See photographs in Appendix 3 – Investigation.

What we already do:

Gilsland School achieved Healthy Schools Accreditation in 2007, the Sport England Activemark and the School Achievement Award. The school is working closely with the Healthy schools team in Cumbria and hope to achieve the Healthy Schools Reaccreditation Award in 2010.

We regularly do pedestrian training in the playground. To do this we mark out junctions and roundabouts etc using chalks.

In June 2009 year groups 3, 4, 5 & 6 received cycle skills training (Bikeability level 1) and in May 2008 the whole school received pedestrian training. In June 2009 year groups 5 & 6 received cycle training, previously known as cycling proficiency.

The children took part in Walk to School Week in May 2008 and in May 2009.

We ran our own Walk on Wednesday scheme which was very successful and it raised children's awareness to the benefits of walking – See photographs in Appendix - 6 School Work. We have applied to join the countywide Walk on Wednesday scheme which will start in September this year.

If the school is going on a school trip the bus either reverses into the playground or stops outside the school with the door facing the school so that the children can board/alight it without stepping into the road.

Children and staff wear hi-visibility tabards when going on walks through the village.

We have an agreement with the local parish council that staff can park all day in the visitors car park, parents are also allowed to use this when dropping off and collecting their children.

5 Working party recommendations for action

- Education and promotional activities as part of curriculum to encourage children to walk and cycle to school safely e.g. cycle and pedestrian training. (Action 7.1)
- Highlight school zone to reduce speeding and improve awareness of school and children walking/cycling (Action 7.3)
- Erect cycle shelter (Action 7.2)
- Apply for discounted cycle helmets for those wanting to cycle to school via bwts website (Action 7.5)
- Revisit, monitor, review and update travel plan annually (Action 7.5)
- Promote a walking bus (Action 7.4)

6 Targets – specific % targets for modal shift by yearly review date

Year 2009		
Mode of Travel	Baseline Data i.e. original survey %	Target percentage for following year
Bus	0%	N/A
Car/Van	71%	Decrease to 51%
Car share	7%	Sustain at 7%
Cycle	0%	Increase to 14%
Taxi	0%	N/A
Walk	21%	Increase to 28%

Notes

Once the highway measures have been done, drivers will be more aware of the presence of the school, the children on the road and slow down when driving past the school. There will also be less congestion as parents will not be able to park directly outside the school. The children will have received their cycle and pedestrian training so will have more confidence to be able to cycle and walk safely.

Some parents are reluctant to walk past the house adjacent to the school but as the school has already consulted various organizations to try to force the owners to clean up the pavement outside this property to no avail, there is nothing the working party or travel plan can do alleviate this problem.

7 Action plans

7.1 Education and training planned						
Measure	Year group	Number	Date (dd.mm.yy)	Action by	Completed? (month/year)	Notes/success criteria and risks, including links to objectives/targets and issues previously identified
Playground Cycle Skills Training	3/4/5/6	13	15.06.09	Cyclewise	June 2009	Highlight safety aspects of cycling eg helmets, safety checks, motivation to cycle. Basic cycle Skills improve. See objective 5.
Pedestrian Training	1-6	20	22.5.08 & 14.9.09	Moragh Clifford		Children are safer crossing the road and are able to select crossing points. See objective 6.
Road Safety Talk	Whole School	22	11.9.08 14.9.09	Moragh Clifford		Raise awareness of walking and cycling to school. . See objective 11
Cycle Training	Yr 5 & 6	9	15.06.09	Moragh Clifford	June 2009	Equip children with road safety skills for cycling. . See objective 5
BWTS links in curriculum – geography / local study	Whole School	22	summer term 2009	Teachers	July2009	Highlight local issues and incorporate BWTS in environmental and health issues. See objective 9

7.2 School based engineering targets

Measure	Cost	Date (dd.mm.yy)	Action by	Completed? (month/year)	Notes/success criteria and risks, including links to objectives/targets and issues previously identified
Cycle storage	£1,019 + fitting	Autumn 10	School		Erect small cycle shelter/pod in school grounds See objectives 3 & 10
Playground markings to show road junctions, roundabouts etc	£700	Autumn 10	School		This will enable play and learning about road safety See objective 11
Playground equipment - bikes, tractors, flashing lights, beacons etc	£500	Autumn 10	School		This will enable play and learning about road safety See objective 11

7.3 Long term Road engineering targets – approved and funded by the BWTS physical measures budget

Measure	Cost will be included if approved by Capita Engineer	Time scale	Action by e.g. traffic engineer	Date approved by CCC engineer	Completed? (month/year)	Notes/success criteria and risks, including links to objectives/targets and issues previously identified
Flashing lights	£3000	September 2010	Kevin Crawley			To make drivers aware of start and finish times and when children are going out/returning from school trips. See objectives 4, 7 & 8.
'Slow' marking on texture flex positioned next to school signs	£2500	September 2010	Kevin Crawley			Encourage drivers to reduce their speed. See objectives 4, 7 & 8.
Move school signs to correct position	£500	September 2010	Kevin Crawley			Will make drivers aware of the school. . See objectives 4, 7 & 8.

7.4 Promotional/Publicity Targets

Measure	Time scale	Action by	Notes
Make reference to the travel plan in the school brochure	Jan 2010	Head teacher	See objective 13.
Promote BWTS in newsletter	September 2009	Head teacher	Regularly update parents with changes/promotions etc regarding safe travel to school, promote a walking bus. See objective 13.
Take part in national walk to school week	May 2009	whole school	Show pupils that walking is fun and healthy. See objective 2.
Take part in national Walk on Wednesday 2009/10	2009/10	whole school	Those children who cannot walk to school will be walking round either the village or the playground instead at lunch time, depending on the weather. This will concentrate on health aspects to highlight good practice. See objective 2.

7.5 Additional Targets/Actions taken by the school

Measure	Time scale	Action by	Notes
Set up and maintain travel plan steering group	Jun 2009	Head teacher and steering group	For consistency and control of the plan. See objective 1
Review, revisit and update the travel plan annually	July 2010	Head teacher and steering group	To guard against inactivity. See objective 1
Link school travel plan to healthy schools initiative	September 2009		The school is being reaccredited in 2010. See objective 12
Include the travel plan in school policy and promotion	Jan 2010		See objective 13

8 Review of targets

This Travel Plan will be a working document and will be reviewed and updated annually by the working group. Any review shall be planned to commence before the action plan has run its course to guard against inactivity. The next review will be in June 2010.

The school will complete the survey annually to assess any modal shift which may have occurred.

Integration of the STP into the school development/improvement plan is the most effective way to ensure the plan is sustained (attach relevant section of SDP/SIP if applicable).

Survey Results

How do you travel to and from school?														
	Date of survey	Total no. of pupils	Bus		Car/Van		Car Share		Cycling		Taxi		Walk	
			No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Baseline:2008	26 June 08	14			10	71	1	7					3	21
Yearly Target %					51		7		14					28
Baseline:2010														
Yearly Target %														
Baseline:2011														
Yearly Target %														

Comments

Several pupils need to travel through the centre of the village where they feel at risk and where some road users are not aware of children travelling to school and back. Educating pupils with regard to road safety and encouraging parents to car share or to park further away from the school and walk will go some way towards achieving this. The installation of flashing lights will highlight the school to other road users. Because the school is so small the percentage change makes the projected modal shift look much better than it actually is.

9 Cycle count -

Cycle Count				
Date of count before	Cycle count	Measure Implemented	Date of count after	Cycle count
15.6.09	0	Cycle training	29.6.09	2

10 Monitoring training

All activities/training/improvements will be recorded and monitored and notes will be added to the Travel Plan each time something is done.

Year	2008		2009		2010		2011		2012	
Activity	Year Group	Number	Year Group	Number	Year Group	Number	Year Group	Number	Year Group	Number
Cycle Training			5/6	9						
Playground Cycle Skills Training	3-6	13	3-6	13						
Pedestrian Training 1 - 6	1 - 6	20								
Road Safety Talk			Whole school	22						

I I Comments and notes

Mrs Lesley Whittle was the head teacher up to the end of the 2007/08 school year; she was very keen to get started on the school travel plan. At that time there were 17 pupils attending the school. In September 2008 Mrs Christine Boucetla took over as head teacher, she requested that the plan be deferred until she became familiar with the school, its surroundings and local environment. The number of pupils attending the school has risen to 23.

Gilsland School achieved Healthy Schools Accreditation in 2007, the Sport England Activemark and the School Achievement Award. The school is working closely with the Healthy schools team in Cumbria and hope to achieve the Healthy Schools Reaccreditation Award in 2010.

Documents included in the plan are:-

Appendix 1 – Surveys

On line survey results – staff & children

Copy of parent/community questionnaire and summary of key points

Appendix 2 – Consultation

Minutes of meetings

Appendix 3 – Investigation

Notes on school visits

Signage Map, Accident Map and details

Photographs of the school and surrounding area

Site visit by Capita Highway Engineer

Gilsland Village Plan and Action Plan 2006

Appendix 4 – Transport Link

Hadrian's Wall Day Rover

Bus timetables AD122/185 for Carlisle – Hadrian's Wall – Hexham – Newcastle

Arriva – traveline

Bus timetable 685 for Carlisle – Haltwhistle – Hexham – Newcastle

Bus timetable for 95 Greenhead – Brampton – Carlisle

Transport link map

School Trips Policy

Special Educational Needs Policy

Appendix 5 – Quotes

Cycle shelters

Playground markings

Playground equipment

Appendix 6 – Pupil Activities/School Work

Photographs of activity

.... Walk on Wednesdays

.... Cycle Training

.... Pedestrian Training

Children's work, artwork and poems on road safety

Appendix 7 – Maps

Location

Catchment Area

Appendix 8 – Route Plotting

Route plotting maps

Route plotting notes

12 Signed agreement

Gilsland School

Agrees to this School Travel Plan, to undertake its objectives, and to review the Travel Plan on an annual basis. Any review shall be planned to commence before the action plan has run its course to guard against inactivity in June 2010.

This review will also consider pupil travel needs arising from new developments in education and transport provision, and the STP will be revised as necessary to take these in to account.

Signatures	
Head - teacher	Name: Christine Boucetla
	Signed:
	Date: 20 th November 2009
Chair of Governors	Name: David Murray
	Signed:
	Date: 20 th November 2009
Area Engineer Cumbria County Council	Name:
	Signed:
	Date:
BWTS Coordinator	Name: Nancy Turnbull
	Signed:
	Date: 25 th November 2009

Thank you for completing this School Travel Plan

Mrs Boucetla is the nominated person who will be responsible for the annual review of the School Travel Plan: