

BEWCASTLE SCHOOL

School Travel Plan

2010



Our School Mission/Vision Statement

We pride ourselves on producing enthusiastic, confident pupils who can cope with moving from such a small school to a much larger one. The small numbers of pupils allow teachers to monitor and evaluate their individual needs and rectify any problems.

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I School details

| | |
|---|---|
| DCSF school reference number | 909/ 2008 |
| Type of school | Primary |
| Number on roll (including no. of SEN pupils with a brief description of subsequent impact on travel) | 40 Including 2 SEN pupils, one of which has motor difficulties and is brought to school by his mum. |
| Number of staff (It is highly recommended that a supplementary Travel Plan for staff and other school users is developed) | 2.4 teachers, 1 full time TA, and 1 P/T secretary |
| Age range of pupils | 4 - 11 |
| School contact details | |
| Head teacher | Mr J Roberts |
| Address | Bewcastle School, Roadhead, Carlisle, Cumbria, |
| Postcode | CA6 6PF |
| Telephone number | 016977 48662 |
| Fax | 016977 48662 |
| Email address | admin@bewcastle.cumbria.sch.uk |
| Website | www.bewcastle.cumbria.sch.uk |
| Working group contact | |
| Name | John Roberts |
| Address | Bewcastle School |
| Telephone number | 016977 48662 |
| Email address | admin@bewcastle.cumbria.sch.uk |
| School situation and use | |
| Bewcastle school is tucked away in a hidden valley, known locally as Bailey Valley, in northern Cumbria. Our school has served the local community for more than 120 years and remains an important feature for everyone in the parish. | |
| Our school is in a very rural location, it has two houses and two farms close by and is between 1 – 2 miles away from the small villages of Sleetbeck to the west and Roadhead to the south. The majority of roads are C roads which are not treated during the winter. They are narrow, winding and hilly roads which are not heavily trafficked. There are many farms surrounding the school (vehicles associated with farms), with Kershope Forest (forestry workers and vehicles) to the north, and Spadeadam (GL's Spadeadam Test Site and RAF Spadeadam - this is the only facility in Europe where aircrews can practice maneuvers and tactics against a variety of threats and targets that they face in contemporary warfare) to the East. | |
| The school is approximately 26 miles north-east of Carlisle, 13 miles north of Brampton. | |
| The pupils travel from as far north as Kershopefoot, west as Rowanburn, south as Smithfield and east as Bewcastle. A number of children live in Roadhead which is approximately 2 miles away. Some travel from here by bus and others by car. A catchment area map is included in Appendix 7 – Maps, which clearly shows where children travel from. | |

Use:- The school day starts at 9.00 am and finishes at 3.15. Lunchtime is between 12.00-1.00pm.

Periodically we have after school clubs, but transport is always an issue where this is concerned, so we need to plan these well in advance. However we have an outdoor swimming pool which is essentially a community swimming pool and it is well used by families in the parish. The pool opens in the first half of the summer term and stays open till October. Families purchase a ticket which allows them access out of school hours.

Brief description of the school – 2 classrooms, staff room, head teachers room, library, hall, kitchen. Tarmac playground, good sized field (about 1½ acres) at the back of the school, swimming pool (now covered). One roadside entrance, which children use. One side road entrance which visitors use. 4 external doors – one of which is to the playground.

There are 4 entrances into the school. We also have a car park with space for 15 cars.



There are 2 doors into the school from the front, 1 from the office/quiet room and 1 from the conservatory, they lead out into an enclosed play/garden area

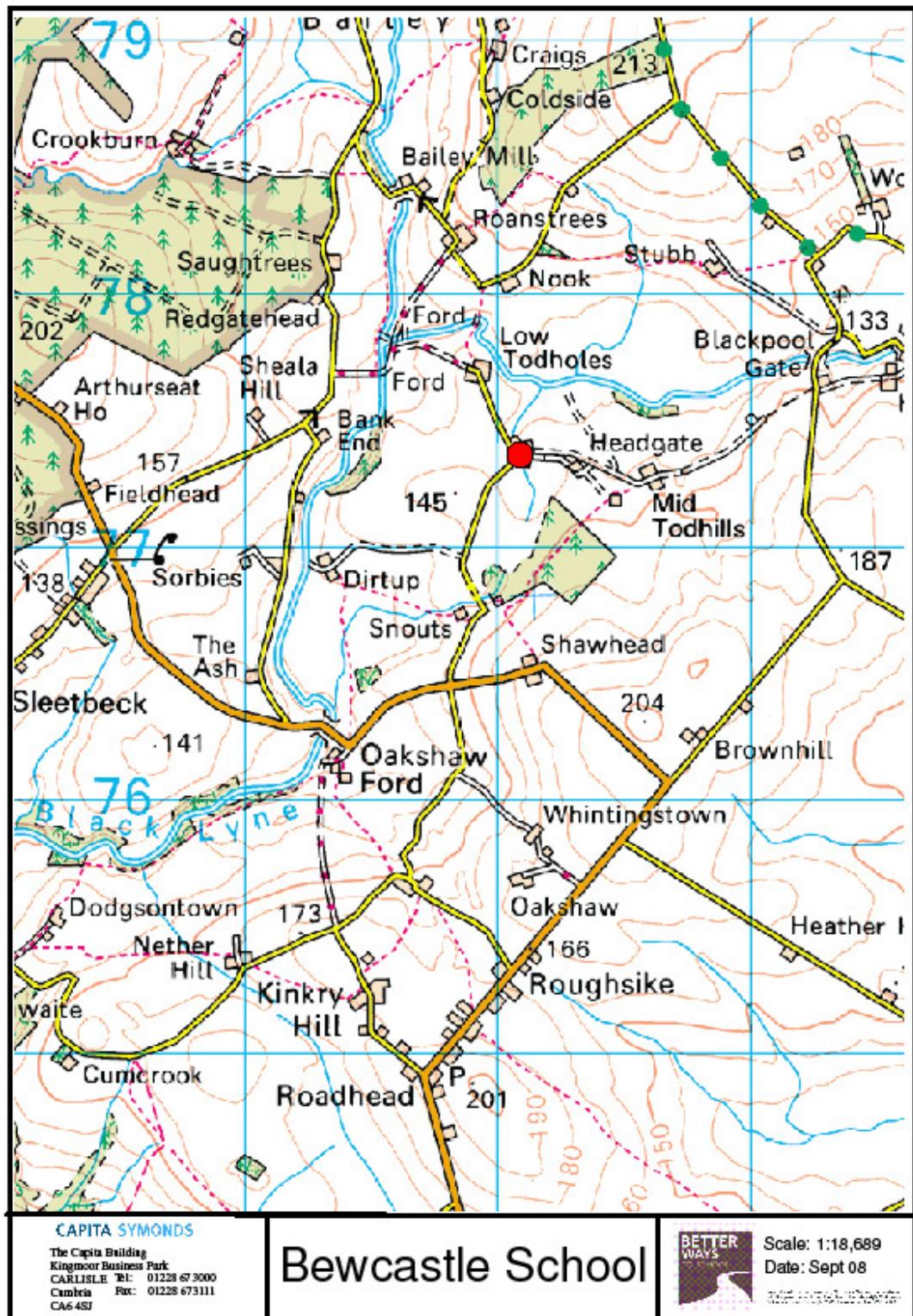


The main entrance is at the side of the building. This leads to a passageway, an office, a cloakroom and toilets. There is another entrance from the playground.

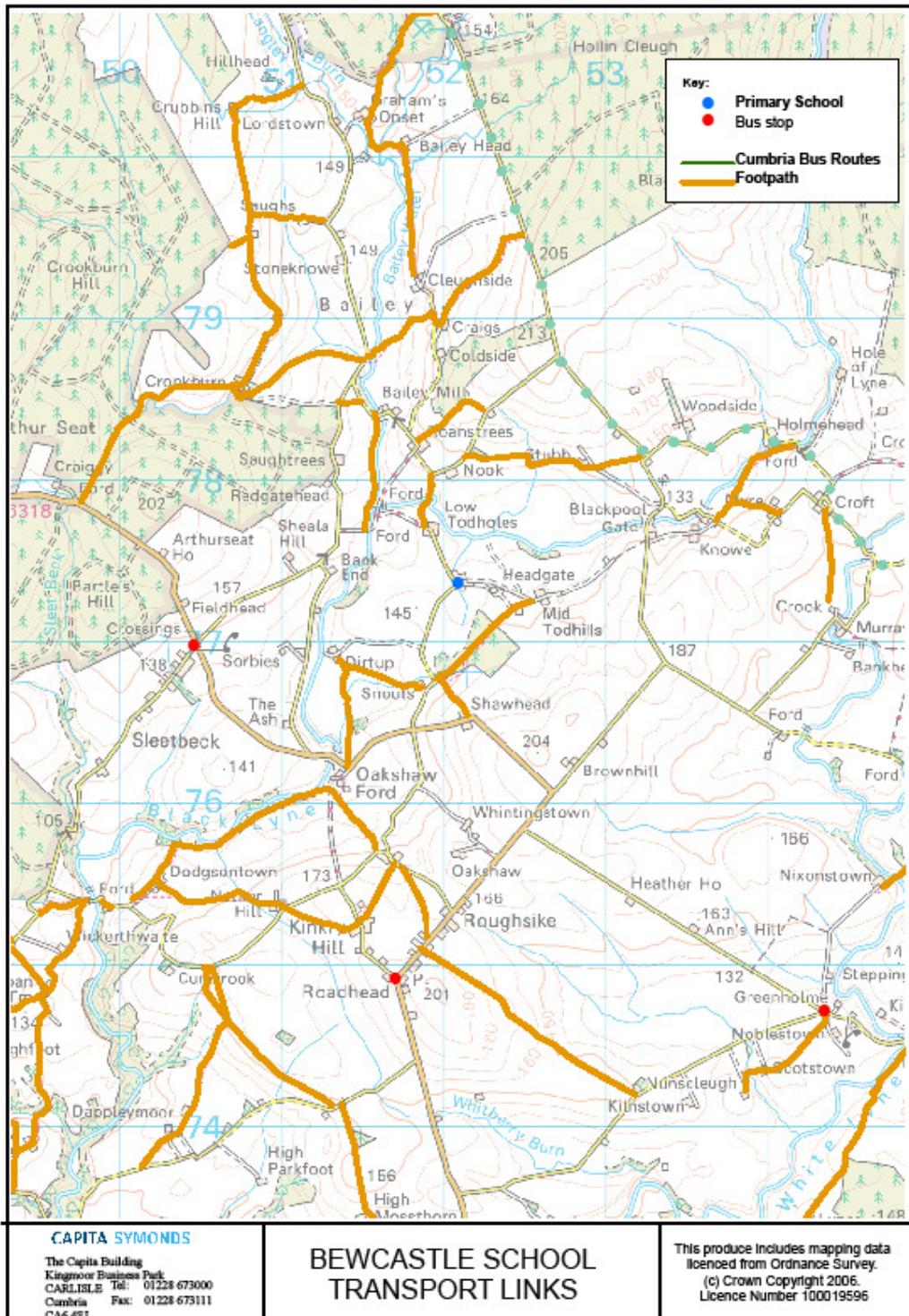


The car park adjacent to the school with space for approximately 15 cars has two accesses. The surface is rough gravel and slopes slightly towards the school, it is bounded by a wooden fence. Teachers park here and the school buses pull in here to drop off/collect the children.

Location map of School



Transport Links



It is obvious from this map that although there are several footpaths in the area none of them link up with the school.

There are no bus routes in the vicinity and all roads are B or C routes. Therefore none of them are given high priority for gritting etc during inclement weather.

Our school transport policy is inextricably linked to our healthy school policy which encourages healthy alternatives to the norm, so we encourage cycle provision (which includes the bikeability course) and we would aim to promote shared car rides where possible as well as part drive/park walk initiatives.

Our residential this year to York and our city visits expand children's knowledge and appreciation of alternative forms of transport.

Risk assessments are undertaken for all off-site activities run by the school as part of our Educational Visits Policy.

Educational visits within the school day as part of a large group – In such instances the school uses a reputable firm to provide coach transportation for the children. Such firms have either been used before by the school or have been highly recommended by other local schools. Necessary checks are carried out by the school to ensure the companies used in these instances provide transportation in line with relevant national safety guidance (ensuring the operator has the appropriate Public Service Vehicle (PSV) Operators Licence. The teacher in charge during these trips carries a mobile phone, first aid kit and a list of children/adults including medical details for use in emergencies.

Attendance at sporting or other small group events - When on school visits prior permission of the parents will be requested. Games teams will compete with children from other schools at home and away. Occasionally parents/carers will be required to organize and provide transport for their own children to and from an event. Children will remain under the supervision of a group leader until they are picked up by the designated adult indicated on the parental permission slip. If children are to be brought back to Bewcastle School the leader of the event will ensure adequate supervision until the parents/carers collect their child (unless the parent has completed a permission slip allowing their child to travel with another parent).

Aims

This Travel Plan specifically aims to

- 1 Encourage more car share.
- 2 Provide pupils with experience of different forms of transport, particularly in towns and cities.
- 3 Improve road and personal safety awareness
- 4 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
- 5 Equip pupils with the knowledge and skills needed to walk and cycle safely

Objectives (linked to Action Plan – Section 7)

1. Integrate sustainable and healthy travel issues into the curriculum e.g. safe route planning in geography (7.1)
2. Provide cycle and pedestrian training (7.1)
3. Increase road safety awareness (7.1 & 7.2)
4. Provide cycle storage (7.2)
5. Give experience of different forms of transport, particularly in towns and cities. (7.2)
6. Encourage car share wherever practicable (7.4)
7. Increase travel and health awareness (7.4)
8. Include travel plan in the school prospectus (7.4)
9. Set up and sustain a school travel plan steering group (7.5)
10. Link travel plan to healthy schools initiative (7.5)
11. Review and revisit the travel plan annually to guard against inactivity (7.5)
12. Improve the safety on the route to and from school (7.3a)

2 Working party – to develop and implement the plan

| Name | Position | Responsibility within working party |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Nancy Turnbull, Capita Symonds | BWTS Advisor | Travel Plan Advisor |
| Mr John Roberts | Head teacher | Travel plan coordinator |
| Mrs Ann Armstrong | Governor | Governor link |
| Mrs Clare Duggan | Parent | Parent link |
| Kevin Crawley | Capita Highway Engineer | Highway link |
| Moragh Clifford | Road Safety Officer | Road safety advisor |

| How were people consulted? (e.g. working party meetings, surveys of pupils and staff, newsletters) | | | |
|--|---|---------|--------------|
| Name/position | Subject/how the consultation took place | Date | Appendix no. |
| Parents | Questionnaire | 4.11.09 | 1 |
| Staff, Pupils | On-line Surveys | 4.11.09 | 1 |
| Yrs 5 & 6 | Route Plotting Exercise and discussion about journeys to school | 4.11.09 | 1 |
| Governors, Working Party, PTA | Discussions at Meetings. | various | 2 |

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 | | Taxi | |
| | | | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| 2009 | 04/11 | 39 | 20 | 51 | 13 | 33 | 4 | 10 | | | | | 2 | 5 | | |
| 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. | % |
| 2009 | 04/11 | 15 | 3 | 20 | 3 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 53.3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 6.7 |

Survey Notes

For the full results for the infant and junior pupils please refer to Appendix I – Surveys.

51% travel to school by school bus
33% of pupils travel to school by car.
10% travel to school by car sharing.
2% of pupils travel to school by walking.

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

20% would like to travel by car.
20% would like to travel by bus
53.3% would like to cycle
6.7% chose another form of travel

25% of pupils had been involved in a near miss on their journey to school, 50% while cycling, 25% on the bus and 25% in the car.

25% of pupils said they had been injured in an accident on their journey to school, 50% while cycling (they were wearing helmets and did not hurt their head) and 50% on the bus.

87.5% (14) of junior pupils answered this question,

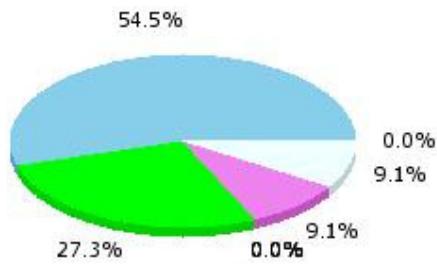
What would encourage you to walk to school?



| | |
|--|---|
| Walking with other young people and adults | ■ |
| Special walking days | ■ |
| Special no car days | ■ |
| More safer crossing places | ■ |
| Slower traffic | ■ |
| Lockers to leave coats/hang wet clothes | ■ |
| Nothing - my parents won't let me | ■ |

68.8% (11) of junior pupils answered this question,

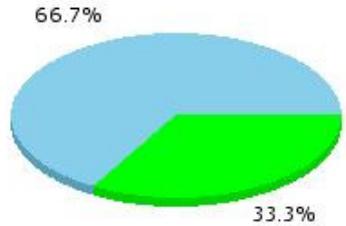
What would encourage you to cycle to school?



| | |
|--|---|
| Cycling with other young people and adults | ■ |
| Special cycling days | ■ |
| Secure cycle storage | ■ |
| Getting my bike checked | ■ |
| More cycle training | ■ |
| Lockers for helmet and clothes | ■ |
| A safe cycle route | ■ |
| More safe crossing places | ■ |
| Nothing - my parents won't let me | ■ |

37.5% (6) answered this question,

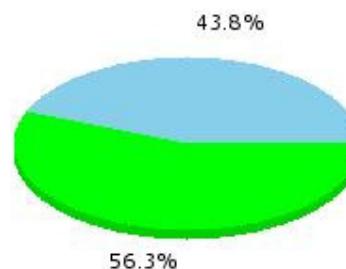
Is the person driving you to school, dropping you off on their way to work or another destination?



Yes
No

100% (16) of juniors answered this question,

Would you like more cycle training?



Yes
No

Route Plotting

| Year | Date of route plotting | Year Groups | No. of pupils |
|------|------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| 2009 | Wednesday 4 th November | 3, 4, 5 & 6 | 16 |

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

All of the junior school children plotted their routes to school. They really enjoyed looking at the maps, plotting their routes to school, discussing their journeys to and from school, mentioning the problem of cows on the road blocking the way and the school, the bus getting a wheel stuck in a pothole and then having to be rescued by a farmer.

The children travel from as far north as Kershopfoot, west as Rowanburn, south as Smithfield and east as Bewcastle. A number of children live in Roadhead which is approximately 2 miles away. Some travel from here by bus and others by car. A catchment area map is included in Appendix 7 - Maps which clearly shows where children travel from.

Most of the children said they travel by bus most of the time but sometimes travel by car. Only a few said they cycled and this was only when it was dry and sunny. They said that the roads were twisty and hilly. Many of them would love to cycle but it is hard work because the roads are bumpy and there are some steep hills. There are lots of pot holes along the last section of the route which make cycling difficult too.

Notes

Parent Survey – (Please see Appendix I for full survey results)

11 families are not entitled to free school transport. 9 of these families live over 3 miles away and are driven to school and 2 families live less than 1 mile away from school and the children do walk when the weather is good.

13 families out of 24 said that their children were entitled to free (school bus) transport. 4 families out of those 13 do not use this and the following were the reasons given.

2 mothers work at the school so the children travel with them, 1 mother feels that her daughter is too young at the moment to travel on the bus on her own, the last family get picked up by their granddad as he enjoys going to the school.

4 Summary of transport and road safety problems

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

The majority of roads in the catchment area of the school are narrow, winding and very hilly. Around Sleetbeck the roads are particularly steep. The grassed verges along the roads are narrow and in places there is nowhere for pedestrians to step onto to avoid the traffic. Because of the nature of the roads cars generally do not speed it is only on the straight stretches where this happens. The road leading up to the school has a lot of potholes which cause problems for pupils when cycling to school.



Photos taken near the school give show how twisty and narrow the roads are.



What we already do

Daily use of the swimming pool throughout May, June and July as well as September. All children learn to swim competently and safely before leaving school in year 6.

Our city experiences, see page 4, encourage children to appreciate pedestrian awareness and safety as well as different forms of transport eg, trains, buses, boats.

In geography and history we study transport in all its forms throughout the ages and across continents. We use the local area as a geography resource and we walk down the lane (1 km) to the river in one direction and then 1 km in the opposite direction to the wood.

Children have in the past opted to do a personal study on transport. For example, one child brought in a quad bike to demonstrate gear change, braking etc and another child brought in her pony.

We regularly take the children to sporting events where they take part against other primary schools in the area, Lees Hill, Shankhill and Gilsland.

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)
- Erect cycle shelter (Action 7.2)
- Re-trace one of the first school trips Bailey School (now known as Bewcastle) did in 1912. The original journey travelled from the school by horse and cart to Brampton, by train to Newcastle and then by tram to Whitley Bay (7.2)
- Increase travel and health awareness through publicity and curriculum work (7.1/7.4)
- Improve the surface of the road leading up to the school (7.3a)
- Promote sustainable travel choices outside school as well as on the school journey amongst parents, children and staff (7.4)
- Revisit, monitor, review and update travel plan annually (Action 7.5)

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 | 51% | Increase to 53% |
| Car/Van | 33% | Decrease to 27% |
| Car share | 10% | Sustain |
| Cycle | 0% | Increase to 5% |
| Taxi | n/a | n/a |
| Walk | 5% | Sustain |

Notes

It might be possible to increase the percentage of car share slightly as 8 parents said they would certainly consider it and 4 said they might. The percentage of pupils using the bus may increase slightly when some of the younger children are old enough to travel on it. Otherwise not a lot can be done to improve modal shift as the majority of children entitled to free transport use it and those children driven in to school are not entitled to transport as they live too far away (over 3 miles) from the school.

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 | 8 | 22.2.10 | Cyclewise | 22.2.10 | Improve basic cycle skills - highlight safety aspects of cycling eg helmets, safety checks, motivation to cycle. See objective 2 |
| Pedestrian Training | 3/4 | 8 | tba | Moragh Clifford, Road Safety Officer | | With role play equip children with the knowledge to play near and cross the road safely. See objective 2. |
| Road Safety Talk | Whole School | 40 | tba | Moragh Slee, Road Safety Officer | | Raise awareness of dangers when walking and cycling to school. See objective 3. |
| Cycle Proficiency | Yr 5 & 6 | 8 | 22-25.2.10 | Cyclewise | 25.2.10 | Equip children with road safety skills for cycling. See objective 2 |
| BWTS links in curriculum – geography / local study | Whole school | 40 | | | | Highlight local issues and incorporate BWTS in environmental and health issues. See objectives 1, 5 & 7 |

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 | £1,500 | September 2010 | Head Teacher | | See objective 4. |
| Provide pupils with experience of different forms of transport, particularly in towns and cities. | 2 coaches @ £350/coach + train tickets £1,000 | July 2010 | Governors | | We would like to replicate the 1912 'first outing' to the coast in the north east when the whole school and the community went on horse and cart to Gilsland to get the train to Newcastle and then a further train to Whitley Bay. If we want to take the children and their families would need 2 coaches. See objective 5 |
| Playground road markings | £250 | September 2010 | Head Teacher | | Playground markings will enable road safety training. See objective 3 |
| Playground equipment | £250 | September 2010 | Head Teacher | | The provision of playground equipment will make road safety and pedestrian training more enjoyable. See objective 3 |

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 |
|---------|--|------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| None | | | | | | |

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

| Measure | Time scale | Action by | Date approved by CCC engineer | Completed? (month/year) | Notes/success criteria and risks, including links to objectives/targets and issues previously identified |
|--|------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Repair potholes on the road leading directly to the school | £5,000 | Local Capital Schemes Budget | | | This will make the road less hazardous for pupils cycling to school and vehicles travelling along the road. See Objective 12 |

7.4 Promotional/Publicity Targets

| Measure | Time scale | Action by | Notes |
|---|------------|-----------|---|
| Make reference to the travel plan in the school brochure | | | See objective 8. |
| Promote BWTS, encourage car share in newsletters, assemblies and at parents evenings. | | | Regularly update parents with changes/promotions etc regarding safe travel to school. See objective 6 and 7. |
| | | | |
| | | | |

7.5 Additional Targets/Actions taken by the school

| Measure | Time scale | Action by | Notes |
|---|------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Set up and maintain travel plan steering group | July 2009 | Head teacher and steering group | For consistency and control of the plan. See objective 9 |
| Review, revisit and update the travel plan annually | JULY 2010 | Head teacher and steering group | To guard against inactivity. See objective 11. |
| Link school travel plan to healthy schools initiative | 2010 | | See objective 10. |

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 July 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:2009 | 04/11/09 | 39 | 20 | 51 | 13 | 33 | 4 | 10 | - | - | | | 2 | 5 |
| Yearly Target % | | | 21 | 53 | 10 | 27 | 4 | 10 | 2 | 5 | | | 2 | 5 |
| Baseline:2010 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yearly Target % | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Baseline:2011 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yearly Target % | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Comments

Not a great shift in mode of travel can be achieved but a reduction in the number of journeys by car could be achieved by making the cycling route safer and encouraging more pupils to use the bus or car share.

As a direct result of the governors meetings – John to find out details concerning transport of children who are traditionally ‘out of the parish’ and to ascertain, on mileage alone, if they are eligible for a place on a taxi. This was brought forward by a parent governor who was encouraged to do so as a result of the travel plan under discussion by the children and their families. The idea of providing a taxi/minibus for the 6 families out of the parish would minimize traffic on the road and be a form of car share.

9 Cycle count -

The school is to take a cycle count before and after any improvements to cycle facilities are made. It is also recommended that a cycle count is taken before and after provision of any other measures such as training to show effects.

| Cycle Count | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Date of count before | Cycle count | Measure Implemented | Date of count after | Cycle count |
| 4/11/09 | 0 | | | |

On 22 February 2010 13 out of 16 cycles were brought to school for the cycle training with Cyclewise.

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 | 2010 | | 2011 | | 2012 | | 2013 | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|------------|--------|------------|--------|------------|--------|------------|
| | Activity | Year Group | Number | Year Group | Number | Year Group | Number | Year Group |
| Cycling Proficiency | 5/6 | 8 | | | | | | |
| Playground Cycle Skills Training | 3/4 | | | | | | | |
| Pedestrian Training | Whole school | 40 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |

11 Comments and notes

Bewcastle School is working closely with the Healthy schools team in Cumbria and hope to achieve the Healthy Schools award in 2010.

Sports coaching is well attended at school

Documents included in the plan are:-

Appendix 1 – Surveys

Pupil on line survey results

Parent Survey Analysis and Summary of key points

Appendix 2 – Consultation

Minutes of meetings, notes

Parent survey letter

Appendix 3 – Quotes

Cycle storage

Playground equipment

Playground markings

Appendix 4 – Pupil Activities/School Work

Photographs of activity

Children's work

Appendix 5 – Maps

Location map

Catchment map

Route plotting maps

12 Signed agreement

Bewcastle 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 July.

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: John Roberts Signed: <i>John Roberts</i> Date: 12/2/10 |
| Chair of Governors | Name: Billy Nelson Signed: <i>Billy Nelson</i> Date: 12/2/10 |
| Area Engineer Cumbria County Council | Name: Richard Hayward Signed: Date: April 2010 |
| BWTS Coordinator | Name: Nancy Turnbull Signed: <i>Nancy Turnbull</i> Date: 8/3/10 |

Thank you for completing this School Travel Plan

Please give details of the nominated person who will be responsible for the annual review of the School Travel Plan: *John Roberts*