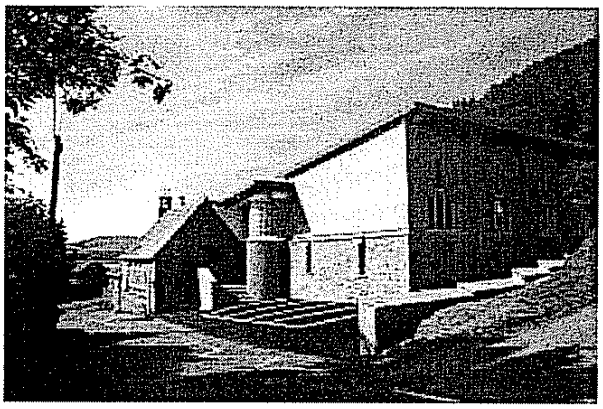
Better Ways to School



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Aims

The school travel plan has been prepared by the school with the guidance of Cumbria County Council's better ways to School initiative. This aims to restore countrywide levels of walking, cycling and bus use for the school journey in the mid 1980's by the year 2010.

It sets out measures to:

- Reduce number of car trips made by parents, staff and pupils
- Improve safety on the school journey
- Improve social inclusion of the local community
- School Crossing Patrol – review to make as safe as possible
- Reduce the number of car trips made by parents by encouraging walking/car sharing

School Setting

Ireleth St Peter's School has been part of the local community for nearly 400 years. Today, the school remains the focal point of local life and retains a distinct "small village school" identity. The school has a catchment area that includes the villages of Ireleth, Askam and further afield to Kirkby, Lindal and Marton.

Current Travel and Road Safety Problems

Ireleth St Peter's is a traditional village school which occupies a position alongside an extremely busy trunk road (the A595). The road serves both local traffic and a high volume of commuter and freight traffic accessing the West Coast of Cumbria. The road was not designed for this volume and type of traffic and little has been done to improve the physical nature or safety of this route for the community through which it passes. The safety of pedestrians walking to and from school along this road has been a real concern for many years. Many parents, who would otherwise allow their children to walk to school, prefer to drive them, thereby increasing the volume of traffic and the hazard that this causes to those children who have no alternative other than to walk to school. In Ireleth, there is a further problem caused by the total disregard that much of the traffic has for the 30mph speed limit, and recent "traffic calming" measures designed to limit vehicle speed have proven to be ineffective.

- Pavements along Ireleth Road are narrow or non-existent, in places, and children are forced to walk perilously close to fast moving traffic at several points along the route to and from school.

- The school retains a School Crossing Patrol, the existence of which is essential for the safety of children crossing Ireleth Road directly outside the school. There are serious safety concerns with several reported "near misses" and in one recent case a vehicle failing to stop at the Crossing Patrol Officer standing in the middle of the road.

- A relief School Crossing Patrol Officer to cover for periods of absence has not yet been found.

Consultation

- Following meetings between the Cumbria co-ordinator of Better ways to school, the local Road Safety Officer, Principal Traffic Engineer and representative from Ireleth St Peters School a whole school questionnaire was conducted by the pupils and their parents.

Survey outcome: Main Points:-

- 41of the 83 children completed the survey and this represents a fair spread across the age range of the school.

- 29 parents completed and returned the survey.

How children travel to school at present:-

- - 51% Children use car
- - 49% Children walk to school
- - Nil Children cycle to school
- -61% Children live less than 1 mile from school

How children would like to travel to/from school

- The analysis identified that 54% of pupils wished to walk to/from school

Reasons for not walking to/from school

- The analysis identified that 44% of pupils felt that there was too much traffic and 29% felt that it travelled too fast.

INITIATIVES

ENGINEERING MEASURES

- To present a case to Cumbria County Council demonstrating that significant and immediate investment is required to improve the physical nature of the road and to install effective and lasting traffic speed reduction measures – with the ultimate aim of improving the safety of children walking to and from school.

- With these measures in place and proven to effective – to persuade more children to walk to school, thereby reducing traffic.

- To introduce a 20mph zone to replace the existing 30mph limit along Ireleth Road

- Speed limit reminder signs on the "entrances" to the village

- "Flashing" Speed Signs at both "entrances" to the village

- To introduce further effective traffic calming measures:-
  - Speed Cameras/Guns

- Widening/creation of pavements along route
- Railings to pavement edge in "vulnerable" stretches
- Railings outside school entrance to prevent children running on to road outside school
- Sleeping Policeman throughout route
- Traffic Islands/Road Narrowing/"Priority" lane for traffic going uphill towards school
- Improved safety for crossing patrol – traffic lights/pelican crossing/pavement widening

School Based Measures

The school will encourage parents to run 'walking buses' to school and then notify all parents that buses are available.

- Children using walking buses to receive yellow fluorescent jackets.
- School will aim to train Year 6 in cycling proficiency in September each year and year 5 in June.
- To promote social awareness in the "wider community" - those who use the road daily to business or pleasure trips.
- The School will maintain road safety as a primary component of its PSHE curricula activities.
- The Headteacher will continue to regularly advise parents (who drive to/from) school 6.both verbally and in writing of the potential hazards and the duty of care owed to those children walking to school
- Produce a leaflet for children identifying the objectives of the Better Ways to School Plan in conjunction with the School Council
- Promotion of safety issues in wider community – perhaps a poster/leaflet campaign to local residents and businesses - highlighting safety issues and their social responsibility to "drive carefully" through the village, particularly when they see children walking.
- School to consider ways of improving car parking on Moor Road and safer dropping off and collecting of children.
- Road markings to indicate children crossing (possible white line).

Implementation

A working party has been established and will meet termly to promote the plan. The Group consists of Headteacher, Crossing Patrol, Local Councillor, Chair of Governors and Parent Governor

- Prepare costing for curriculum materials, new signs, adverts
- Arrange for funding of new materials
- BWTS to be included in future school prospectus, website and at all open evenings. Wider poster/leaflet campaign also planned – perhaps involving

children in design. Estimates for the cost of undertaking such a campaign will follow.

- Parents to complete questionnaire re: travel to school
- Road Safety Training to continue
- CCC to include a schedule of ongoing traffic calming measures in bids for future years programmes

Monitoring and Review

- The travel plan will be reviewed termly at a Full Governors Meeting.
- The working party will monitor the implementation and ongoing effectiveness of plan.
- Survey children/new intake each year as part of curricular activities. Ongoing consultation with School Council
- Annual Survey of parents to encourage feedback on effectiveness of travel plan and improvements made if necessary