



# **Newtongrange Primary School**

## **School Travel Plan June 2019**



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## **Introduction**

This School Travel Plan documents the measures and initiatives that will be implemented by Newtongrange Primary School to increase safety for children getting to and from school, reduce unnecessary car use and encourage healthy and sustainable travel options. This is fully in accordance with the school ethos, which promotes the health and well-being of all learners, staff and families. The measures will include walking, cycling and public transport initiatives as well as engineering and educational programmes.

*If this School Travel Plan is to be successful it must be supported by the whole school community, i.e. parents, teachers, students, school board members, the active schools co-ordinator, and the local community. The development and implementation of this plan will be supported by the school travel co-ordinator in a variety of ways, including providing advice and data, and by reviewing it when it is completed. This ensures that the School Travel Plan will be an effective tool to help the school manage its travel issues.*

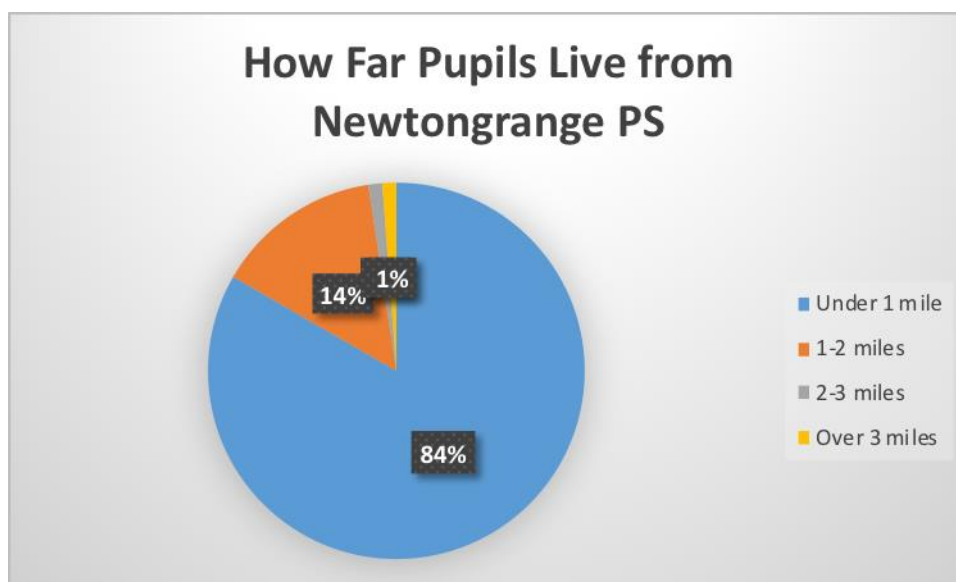
## **School Description**

Newtongrange Primary School is a non-denominational school for children living within the Newtongrange community. The school is built next to the park in the centre of village. There are currently 14 primary classes from P1-P7 including composite classes, with a current role of 359. There is also a Nursery which currently offers 40 full time places, 20 morning places and 20 afternoon places.

The main building, a single storey building of traditional design was built in 1925; an annexe was added in 1973. Administrative offices, a gym hall, classrooms, Learning Support base, staff room, resources rooms, music room, a computer suite, a technology suite and cloakroom areas are located within the main building. The nursery class had its own extension built in 2000. The building is tidy and effectively organised. Staff and learners co-operate well to achieve this. The high quality, stimulating display of learners' work greatly enhances the internal appearance of the school.

## **Current school travel situation**

A huge majority of learners' that attend Newtongrange Primary live less than 2 miles from school – 98%, within acceptable walking and cycling distance. Only 2% of our learners live over 2 miles from school.

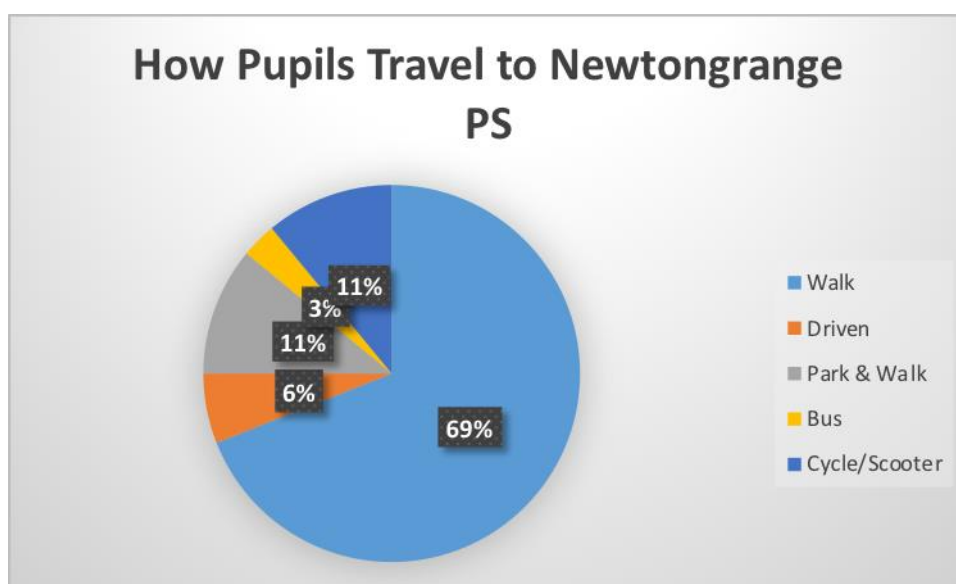


Almost all of our learners enter the school via the gates at the back of the school which looks onto Newtongrange Public Park. The main entrance to the school is on Sixth Street and this area can become very congested at the beginning/end of the school day as parents wait to collect their children.

A school travel survey was carried out in May 2019. Questionnaires were distributed to staff, parents and learners.

#### Parent questionnaire data analysis

84 parent school travel questionnaires were returned. These results will be used as representative of the parent body.



91% of our learners walk, cycle or use a Park & Stride system to come to school. This is an 8% increase since our last School Travel Plan which we are pleased with. Our 'driven' figure has gone down to 6% from 17% in our last surveys; again we are very pleased to see this significant reduction in this figure.

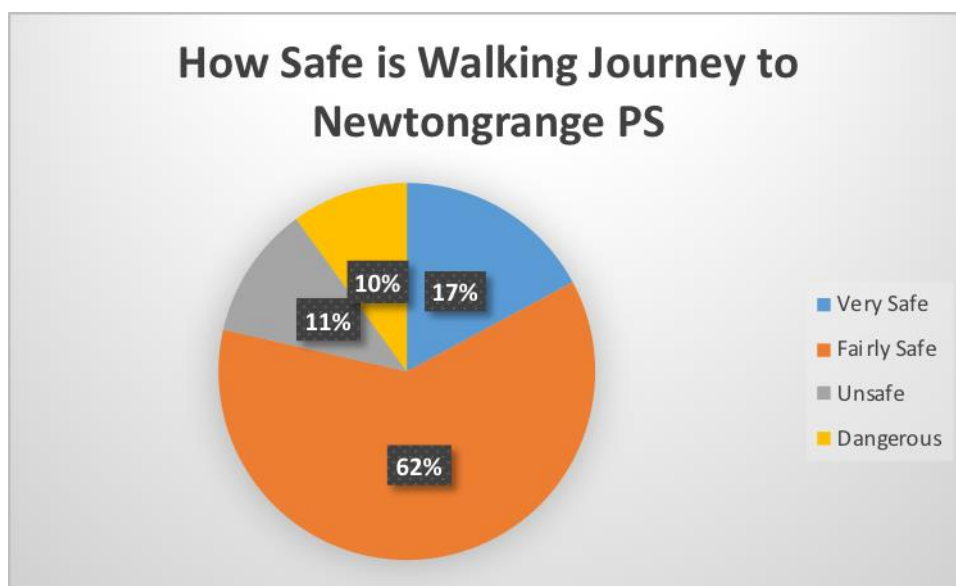
Results show that 92% of our learners live less than 20 minutes from school with 8% living more than 20 mins. walking time from school.

Parents were then asked if they could choose - how they would prefer their child to travel to and from school. The results are shown in the table below.

Mode of travel	Walk	Park/ Walk	Car	Taxi/ bus	Bike
Current	69	11	6	3	11
Preferred	70	13	6	0	19

This shows that there is considerable interest in travelling to school by bike.

Parents were also asked how safe they considered the walking school route to be. The results are shown below.



79% of respondents consider their child’s current route to school to be either fairly safe or very safe. However, 11% think there are unsafe elements to their child’s journey while 10% actually consider their route to be dangerous so there are areas that could be improved upon.

**Recommendations from Parents (noted when more than 1 respondent)**

- 9 suggestions were for the School Streets scheme to operate in Newtongrange, similar to King’s Park and Lasswade currently.
- 4 people felt further parking enforcement was required with Park Road being highlighted.
- 4 suggestions were for a School Crossing Guide over the A7 at the pedestrian crossing.
- 4 parents were interested in a Walking Bus from Orchard Grange Estate.
- 4 ideas were for a School Crossing Guide or zebra crossing on Sixth St.
- 3 recommendations were to completely ban parking on Sixth St.
- 2 people suggested a raised table or pedestrian crossing on St David’s.
- 2 concerns were raised regarding speeds on Park Rd.
- 2 people highlighted difficulties crossing Park Road.
- 2 parents highlighted an issue with dog fouling in the area.

## Aims and objectives

It is considered that the level of congestion caused by unnecessary car use presents a significant risk to the health and safety of our learners.

It is our aim to continue to increase the number of children using sustainable and healthy modes of transport and reduce the number of parents who park too close to the school gates.

We also want to see a reduction in parents parking immediately at the school gates (particularly over green crossing strip areas), preferring that they park away from the school and allow their children an opportunity to walk the remaining distance.

The school will continue to provide the Scottish Cycle training programme to P6 and P7 learners. This will equip learners with basic skills for cycling outside school and work closely on active travel initiatives with our I Bike Officer.

## Programme of events/initiatives selected

Solution	Target	Undertaken By	Timescale
Walking solutions	Walk to school week	School and School Travel Plan Co-ordinator (STPC)  School, STPC	Annually May & Oct.  Continue to expand/promote the service.
Cycling solutions	Cycle training for P6/7	School	Ongoing
Car solutions	Display of Smart Banner and start 'Park Smart' campaign	School, STPC	Ongoing
Education solutions	Road Safety Awareness  Health promotion  Citizenship	School, JRSO's and RSO (Steps to safety) <a href="http://www.rospa.com/road_safety/assemblies/">www.rospa.com /road safety/assemblies/</a> School (part of Health promoting project)	Ongoing  Ongoing  Ongoing
Traffic management		In association with Community Police Officer	Ongoing
Promotional	Travel plan review  Updating school information booklet to inform parents of travel plan  Update of travel plan every 2 years	School, RSO and STC  School  School Travel plan co-ordinator for the school (DHT), Learner Council, Parent Council, parents and STPC	   Next STP June 2021.

## **Monitoring and evaluation**

Mr McBride, DHT, assumes responsibility for the Travel Plan and associated initiatives. Mr McBride and Mrs Bonnar, Class Teacher will continue to progress with initiatives as detailed above, in partnership with our JRSO. During the next travel plan review, changes in module shift will again be monitored and results announced to parents, along with our aims, to encourage the whole school body to work together to achieve our aims.