

Sandringham School

School Travel Plan 2021- 2024

Update: September 2023

DfE number: 4197

Headteacher: Alan Gray

NOR: 1792

Number of staff: 243

Sustainability Lead: Kate Mouncey

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Address:

The Ridgeway

St Albans

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School day times:

School starts: 8.30am

School day finishes: 3.05pm

Entrances shut to vehicles: 8.20 - 8.30am and 3.00 - 3.15pm

Introduction:

In 1988, the Government published its White Paper on Transport which highlighted the needs to address the use of cars for school journeys. School Travel Plans are seen as a key strategy in addressing school journey issues relating to safety for pupils, air quality around schools and, more recently, in addressing the climate crisis.

A School Travel Plan is a range of strategies which aim to reduce the number of school journeys made by private vehicles which will have a large number of positive impacts in increasing safety and reducing environmental impacts. Education plays a key role in this, along with practical measures and infrastructure improvements.

School location and context:

The school is situated in a residential area 1.5 miles from St Albans city centre. It is served by two bus routes which stop next to the school, one comes from the station. The school is oversubscribed and the catchment area is small, with most students residing from a 1 mile area, However, a minority of sixth form students travel a much longer distance as catchment area rules do not apply. There are also some students travelling in from Wheathampstead, with most travelling on a school bus which is provided. This number will now decline due to

the new school, Katherine Warrington, with only siblings of current students being admitted from Wheathampstead.

Aims of the Sandringham School Travel Plan

The Travel Plan aims to make journeys to school safer and more enjoyable, as well as to reduce congestion and air pollution in the area immediately around the school by:

- Reducing traffic in front of the school by reducing the total number of vehicles used for school journeys.
- Ensuring that congestion and parking does not impact on our neighbours.
- Increasing awareness of active travel and road safety for all stakeholders.
- Improving infrastructure within the school site, and outside, for sustainable options (bike storage, safe cycle routes and walking).
- Improving awareness and education about sustainability as we seek to reduce our carbon footprint on site, and in all activities undertaken within the school.

Current journey data (Nov 2023)

For the last few years, we have undertaken a travel survey of both pupils and staff to understand how our community travels to the site and to see if we are making progress towards more sustainable journeys. We work with Hertfordshire County Council through the Modeshift Stars scheme and currently hold the Bronze Award. The data for November 2023 is below:

Data on current travel by students to the school:

Mode	%
Car	28
Walk	61
Cycle	3
Public Bus	3
School bus	0.5
Train	0.5
Dropped off by car and walk	4
Other	

There is a slight change from 2022, with 5% more travelling by car. Walking and cycling figures are the same. The reduction has been in school bus, with the loss in intake from Wheathampstead, along with reduction in students travelling to school by the bus that previously operated this route.

How students would prefer to travel to the school:

Mode	%
Car	26
Walk	53
Cycle	12
Public Bus	1
School Bus	1
Car sharing	5
Another mode not mentioned	2
Other	

There is a continued feeling among a significant minority of students that they would like to cycle to school (12% is the same as 2022). However, we are not seeing an increase in actual travel by bike and so this needs to remain a focus for this year.

Data on current travel by staff to the school:

Mode	%
Car	81.5
Walk	14.6
Cycle	1.5
Bus	0
Train	0
Car share	1.5
Other	0.9

There has been a slight drop in travel by car since 2021 (83% in 2021) and an increase in walking (up to 14.6% from 8%). Cycling remains similar, only a small number of staff cycle.

Given the choice, staff would like to use these modes of transport:

Mode	%
Car	24
Walk	58
Cycle	15
Bus	0
Train	0
Car share	3
Other	

There is a clear continued desire amongst staff to use more sustainable modes of transport, but the distance travelled by most staff means that this is not possible. Electric cars continue to increase and the plans to install charging points continue.

Whilst the data in the latest surveys is encouraging, we would like to improve this further and have a list of current objectives to work towards.

Recent changes that have impacted on the travel plan:

- A new cycle storage facility has been installed in a much safer position, to encourage the safe storage of cycles.
- Gates were put in place in October 21 at the front entrances to improve security, this makes it impossible for vehicles to enter and exit the site at the start/end of the day, increasing safe access for pedestrians.
- The Personal Development curriculum has a 'Sustainability' topic in each year group which is enabling a more thorough and regular input on multiple issues, including sustainable choices and global responsibility.

Current Travel Plan objectives:

- Reduce the volume of vehicles driving past and dropping off students in the area around school.
- Encourage as many students as possible to walk or cycle to school.
- Where students live some distance away, encourage drop-off +1km from the school entrance.
- Increase the opportunities for education about sustainability within the curriculum so that students are empowered to make choices for themselves about sustainable travel as they become older and more independent.

Support from other organisations:

Kate Mouncey attends the Sustainable St Albans schools group which has a forum each term and offers advice and support for areas such as Travel Plans (Lead; Isobal Mitchell). They have enabled a link to be formed with Ali Insall (local resident interested in supporting sustainable travel in the immediate area) and Amanda Yorweth (Friends of the Earth, St Albans). Both are keen to support our plans. We have also been able to talk to a representative from Hertfordshire County Council through this link and have asked for further assistance to support developments in this area, no further contact or help from them at this stage. John Hale (Marshalswick Councillor) has expressed interest in supporting plans, but we have not met with him in the last 12 months. Modeshift Stars continue to support the school with sustainable travel developments.

Action Plan 2023-24:

Objective	Actions	When	Who	Status
Explore the reasons for students not being able to cycle to school	Carry out a focus group with students interested in cycling	Spr 24	KMO	
Review the PD SoL to further enhance the sustainability strand	Look at lesson content and sequencing to ensure that travel features	Autumn 23	KMO/ KWI	
Enhance awareness of travel in sustainability strategy	Add to assemblies and parent comms regularly	All year	KMO	
Work with Sustainable St Albans and Herts CC to explore further options around travel	Attend SSA meetings and pursue Herts CC contact to talk about the site and enhancing sustainability in surrounding area	From Sept 23	KMO	
Look into costs and practicalities of installing electric car charging point at school	Investigate providers, costs, and possible grants	Ongoing	ALG/ KMO	