

Abbey Primary School

Longford, Neath

School Travel Plan



Opened April 2022



Abbey Primary School Travel Plan

Statement of Commitment

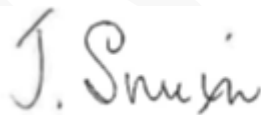
Abbey Primary School Travel Plan has been produced jointly by Neath Port Talbot Architectural Design & Project Management Department and Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council's Road Safety Unit.

Aims and Objectives

The aim of the Plan is to implement policies using a co-ordinated approach for the benefit of the environment around the School and the future of its pupils. With the support of the Road Safety Unit, the School undertakes to use its best endeavours to meet the objectives of the School Travel Plan.

Abbey Primary School's Travel Plan sets out to:

- **Improve road safety within the local community;**
- **Raise awareness about travel issues;**
- **Encourage walking, cycling and public transport where applicable for the school journey and within the wider community.**
- **Encourage independent travel where appropriate.**



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1.0 Introduction

Neath Port Talbot Council is committed to providing a safe environment for its pupils, and to educating them to becoming healthy adults.

Abbey Primary School Travel Plan has been developed in consultation with all our stakeholders with an overall aim to encourage sustainable travel wherever possible and in particular, address the needs of pedestrians and cyclists.

Abbey Primary School is a new build school for 3- 11 year olds on the site of the former Dwr Y Felin Lower School in Longford. The new school replaces three separate school sites one at Neath Abbey, one at Skewen and the early years unit based in Longford.

Abbey Primary School provides mainstream education for 375 Full Time pupils and 46 part time pupils. The school also has a specialist assessment unit with 11 full time pupils and 2 part time pupils

1.1 School Structure

Abbey Primary School has 14 full time class teachers, 27 part time teaching assistants, 3 administration staff, a Deputy Head and a Head Teacher.

The school operates a split year group start and end times

Year	Start	End
Years 3 - 6	8.40am	3.20pm
Reception, Year 1 and 2	8.45am	3.10pm
Nursery AM	9.00am	11.15am
Nursery PM	12.45pm	3.00pm

Breakfast club operates from 8.10am – 8.40am which has around 110 pupils attending daily.

After school clubs operate 4 days per week, Monday to Thursday finishing at 4.15pm

The school will have a child care facility that will be delivered by an outside company. The contract has not yet been awarded and its operating times are currently unknown.

1.2 Development Location and School Catchment Area

Neath Town Centre is located approximately 2.7km to the south east of the development site. The location of the site together with the local highway network is shown below.



Pupils attending Abbey Primary School predominantly live in walking distance of the school coming from Neath Abbey and Skewen.

2.0 Travel

The new Abbey Primary is situated within walking distance of all the pupils in the catchment area allowing a number of options to be available for travel to and from the school.

2.1 Walking

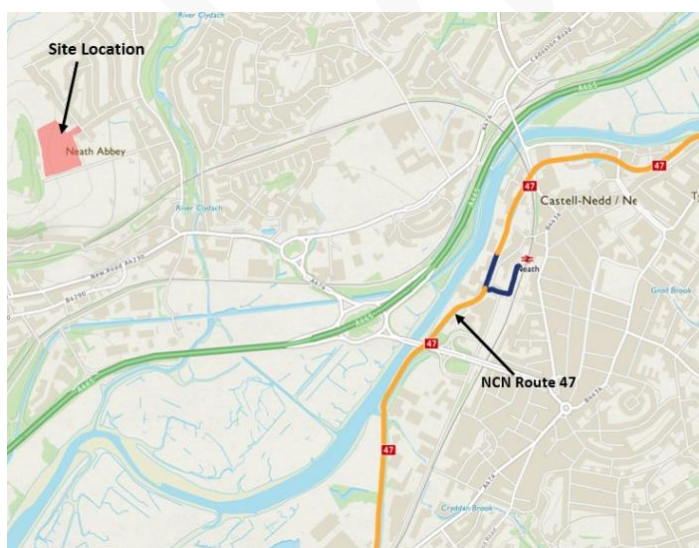
In line with the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 and Neath Port Talbot's School Transport Policy, pupils living 2 miles (3.2km) and under with an available walking route are not provided with school transport.

The walking routes to the new school have been assessed as being available. It has adequate continuous pavements up to the school with crossing points having dropped kerbs with tactile paving.

The council will be providing School Crossing Patrol Officers on Longford Road at the junction with New Road and just before the junction with Penyard Road.

2.2 Cycling

Although there are no National Cycle Network (NCN) Routes within the immediate vicinity of the site, NCN Route 47 is accessible approximately 2.2km to the south west of the development site, providing a link to NCN Route 4 to the south. NCN 4 provides access locally to Neath and Swansea.



Cycle Storage & Facilities

Cycle storage is provided within the school grounds which are overlooked by the school offering protection from theft and damage and partly covered offering protection from the elements.

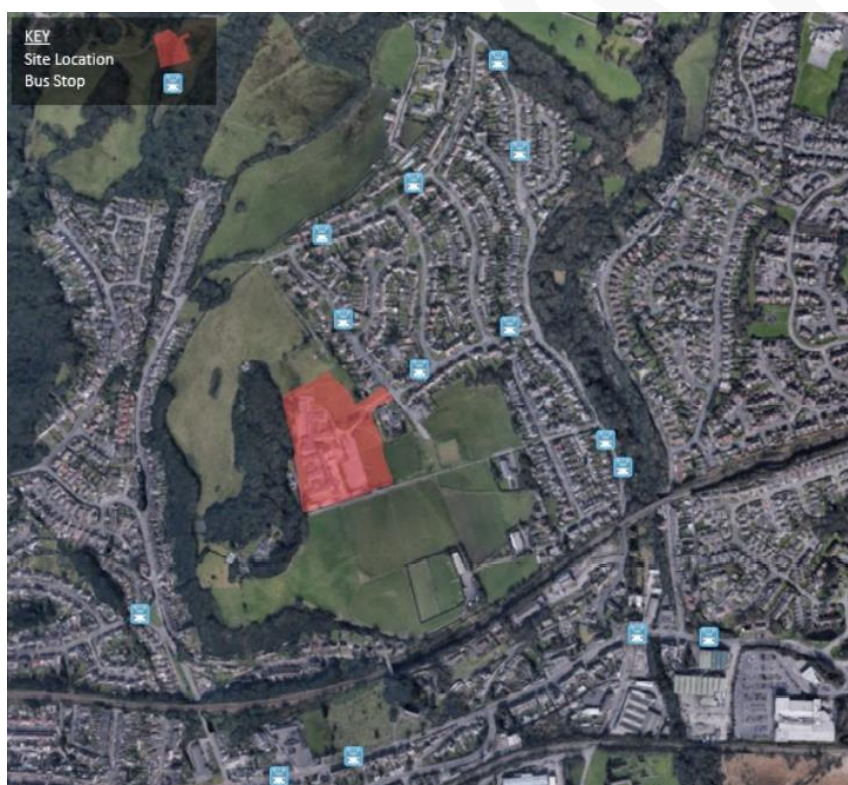
2.3 School Transport

If required School Transport will be provided in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy for those pupils living beyond the 2 mile walking distance threshold and are attending their designated or nearest suitable provision.

Minibuses and taxis will be used to bring in pupils to the specialist assessment unit.

2.4 Public Bus Services

Abbey Primary School is well situated to access local bus services making this a viable travel option for staff, visitors as well as pupils and parents.



Service	Route	Days	First Service	Last Service	Approximate Frequency
4	Skewen - Skewen	Mon-Sat	08:34	16:34	1 service per hour
34	Neath - Swansea	Mon-Sat	07:04	17:35	2 services per hour
	Swansea – Neath	Mon-Sat	07:15	19:00	3 services per hour
38	Neath – Swansea	Mon-Sat	06:25	18:15	1 service per hour
	Swansea – Neath	Mon- Sat	08:25	17:55	1 service per hour
204	Neath - Caewathan	Mon-Sat	09:21	17:54	2 services per hour
	Caewethan - Neath	Mon-Fri	08:20	17:28	2 services per hour

2.5 Rail Services

Skewen Railway Station is the nearest rail station to the site and is located approximately 2.25km to the south west of the proposed site. The station is served by Transport for Wales (TfW) which operate services to destinations such as Swansea, Port Talbot, Bridgend, Cardiff and Newport to name but a few. Services run approximately every 2 hours.

Neath Railway Station is located approximately 2.5km to the south east of the proposed site and is served by TfW and First Great Western Railway and provides more frequent rail services than Skewen Station. Approximately 5 trains per hour run east and west bound from Neath during the week.

3 Vehicle Access, Drop Off & Parking

3.1 Staff & Visitors

The parking areas are situated within the confines of the school and are of adequate size to accommodate the school staff and visitors. Access to this parking area will be restricted to staff and visitors. Staff are permitted to park in the top car park in the clearly marked bays. Access into the school is managed by the school, detail of which can be found in the school Traffic Management Policy. Visitors are allowed access via an intercom system linked to the school office. Visitors will be made aware of the traffic management policy to ensure they are aware of the restricted times of entry.

3.2 Parents

There's are two small drop off bays located within the school for parents, segregated from staff parking.

3.3 Commercial and Service Vehicles

Commercial and Service Vehicles must adhere to the traffic management policy and avoid arrival and departure times. At other times, access will be given via the intercom system at the main gate linked to the school office.

3.4 Coaches

Where coaches are required for school excursions they will park on Heol Penlan.

3.5 Disabled Parking and Access

The car parking requirements including disability spaces have been provided in accordance with SPG Parking Standards (Approved October 2016). With reference to accessing the building, the site is flat and so access to the site is very good.

4.0. Learner Travel

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council is committed to reducing child road casualties and improving' health by increasing the numbers of children who walk or cycle to school, which in turn will lead to a reduction in traffic congestion and pollution. In pursuit of these objectives, we will:

- Work collaboratively with schools and the wider community in the development of School Travel Plans,
- Involve pupils, teachers, parents and school governors to address their needs and safety concerns.
- Publish routes to school assessed by our Learner Travel Officer.
- Develop practical on-road cycle training courses for young people and adults;
- Provide relevant road safety education and training for pupils.

4.1 Pupil Consultation and Travel Survey

An essential element of producing a School Travel Plan is to gather up-to-date data on travel behaviour of pupils. During October 2021, a survey of pupils travel patterns were obtained to monitor the pupils travel behaviour to and from school via a hands up survey with all pupils.

This baseline data determines the action plans to be agreed, based on priorities for encouraging active modes of transport. Collecting this data every 12 months will ensure that the data is consistent and can be readily compared to surveys from previous years.

The results of the baseline survey conducted during October 2021 are as follows:

Mode of Transport	Pupils using mode of transport	% Mode of Transport
Walking	70	23
Cycling	2	<0.7
Scooter	3	<1
Car	221	72
Taxi	9	3
Bus	2	<0.7
TOTAL *	307	

It is encouraging to see the use of active travel, specifically walking, as a mode of transport to school. The car use is proportionally high however and this will be a target for the forthcoming year. An action plan aiming to improve active travel is detailed in point 7.

5.0 Monitoring and Review

The School Travel Plan will be a 'living' document and the monitoring of travel to and from school will be repeated annually. To ensure that pedestrian safety remains a fundamental focus of the travel plan and to reduce the use of the car, full monitoring shall take place in the 1st, 3rd and 5th year with an interim report in the 2nd and 4th year.

It is paramount that the school and Neath Port Talbot Council's Road Safety Team work together to ensure that their School Travel Plan is accurate and effective.

The following sets out the method for monitoring:

- Annual Travel Surveys
- Cycle and Car Park usage
- Participation in initiatives and events

6.0 Encouragement of Sustainable Transport / Education

It is envisaged that specifically tailored individual road safety education will be delivered to all pupils attending Abbey Primary School, in order to enable them to reach their full potential in terms of independent travel. Encouraging pupils and staff to travel by sustainable modes wherever possible forms the basis of the Action Plan.

7.0 Action Plan

Outline of possible initiatives in order to encourage pupils and staff to travel by more sustainable modes.

Action	Responsible	Target Date
Participate in Walk to School Week / Month	Road Safety Unit/ School	Annually
Cycle Training Programme: Year 6 – Level 1, Level 2 & Level 3 Year 4-5 – Cycle Awareness Year 1-3 – Basic Cycle Awareness Nursery & Reception – Balance Bikes	Road Safety Unit/ School	Annually
Road Safety Education Programme offered to: Nursery to Year 6 – Road Safety Education	Road Safety Unit/ School	Annually

Investigate interest in Walking Bus	Road Safety Unit/ School	On-going
Increase awareness of travel issues and policies using school website.	School	On-going
Make School Travel Plan available to parents, staff and pupils, also make available up-to-date information regarding Public Transport and Car Sharing	School	On-going
Include information on sustainable travel in school prospectus and website by liaising with Learner Travel Officer.	School	Annually
Investigate opportunities for children to identify the consequences of travel decisions.	School	On-going
Encouragement of car sharing by staff where appropriate should be encouraged	School	On-going

8.0 Conclusion

In order to take into the account on-going changes that take place at Abbey Primary School the Travel Plan will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis.

Throughout the development of the School Travel Plan we will endeavour to gather opinions and suggestions from the school community that will help us to tackle any issues and meet the challenges that everyday school travel brings.

School Travel Plan modes of travel will be surveyed closely and if necessary, targets will be set for increasing the number of pupils that walk and cycle to school.