

SUTTON ACADEMY

School Travel Plan

Compiled March 2022 by Stewart Morehead, Asset and Health & Safety Manager.
Contributions by Headteacher, teachers and office staff who circulated and collected the questionnaires.

Site Overview

The school site is located at the edge of the village of Sutton St. Nicholas. It has access from the main road through the village which has a 20mph speed limit at the beginning and end of the school day.

The school has 208 pupils on role. Only 40%, i.e. 84 pupils, reside within the catchment area. Thus 60% equating to 124 pupils live outside the catchment area. With such a significant number of children living outside the catchment area this has a relevance when considering suitable ways to travel to school. Most village schools have a high percentage of children from outside the village. Not every village in the County has a school, hence the need to travel to school.

At present there are approximately 135 families whose children aged between 4-11 years old attend the school. 59%, i.e. 80 families, live outside the catchment area.

The school employs full-time teachers, part-time teachers, lunch-time assistants and administration personnel. In addition to these members of staff there are a number of peripatetic music staff, supply teachers, local authority support staff, student teachers, parents and other visitors regularly visiting the site. Seedlings Pre-school is also situated on the site. The school also shares its premises with Sutton Community Centre which is often used during the school day. All use the car park.

The school operates from 8.45a.m, gates are open from 8.35 a.m. The school day finishes at 3.05p.m. Many pupils attend after school clubs and this eases congestion on the car park. The numbers attending and the times of collection vary not only from day-to-day but also from week to week.

Children travel by car, bicycle, walking, park and walk and by taxi. There are regular deliveries from the fruit delivery service and the groundsmen visit frequently especially outside the winter months.

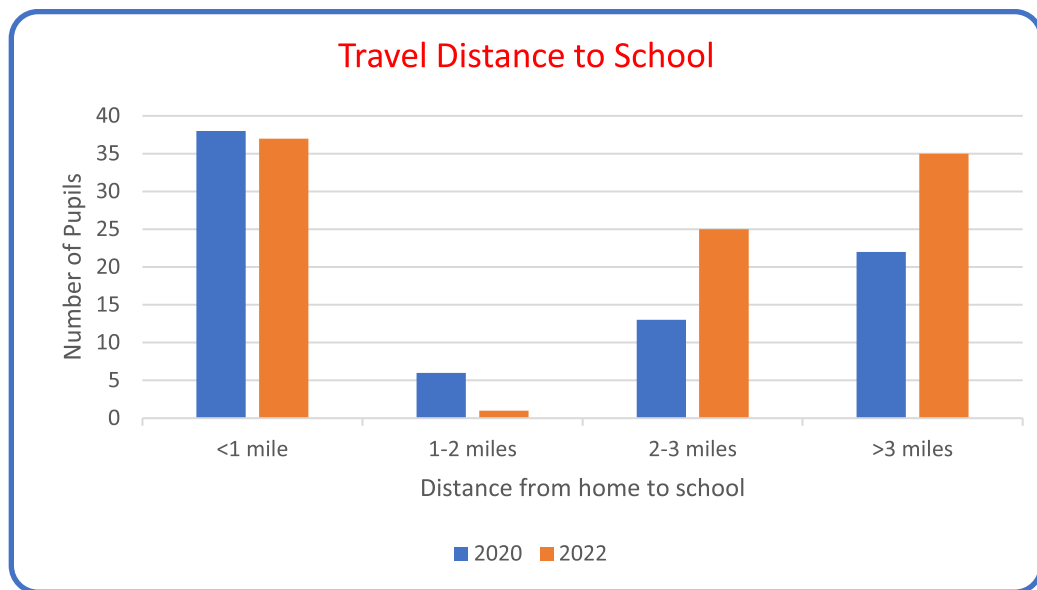
There is a turning system around a crescent for the school bus to turn. This bus collects the secondary school pupils from the car park. Pedestrians are encouraged to use the pavement.

There is good provision for walkers with pavements available. The road is quite busy at various times of the day. Visibility at the pedestrian crossing point is very good. The access to the car park is also the access to Lingen Field. In 2019 this access stretch of road was signed over to Hereford Council with the permission of the Secretary of State. This enabled Lingen Field to become an adopted road by Hereford Council. The Council are responsible for the maintenance of this access section of road.

Provisions for staff and visitor parking is very generous in comparison to the vast majority of schools in the county. In fact, many have no parking facilities other than staff parking.

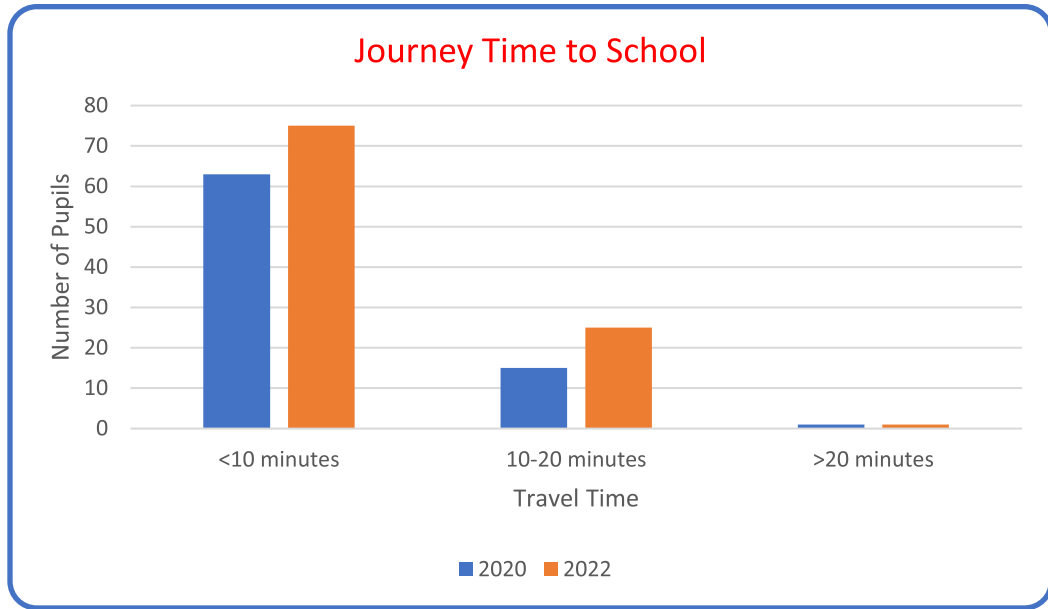
A travel questionnaire was distributed to 135 families in March 2022. 55 families returned questionnaire for their children attending Sutton Academy totalling 98 pupils. In terms of pupil numbers this is a return of 47%.

Numbers of children and the distance they travel from home to school. The second chart is the time of travel between home and school.

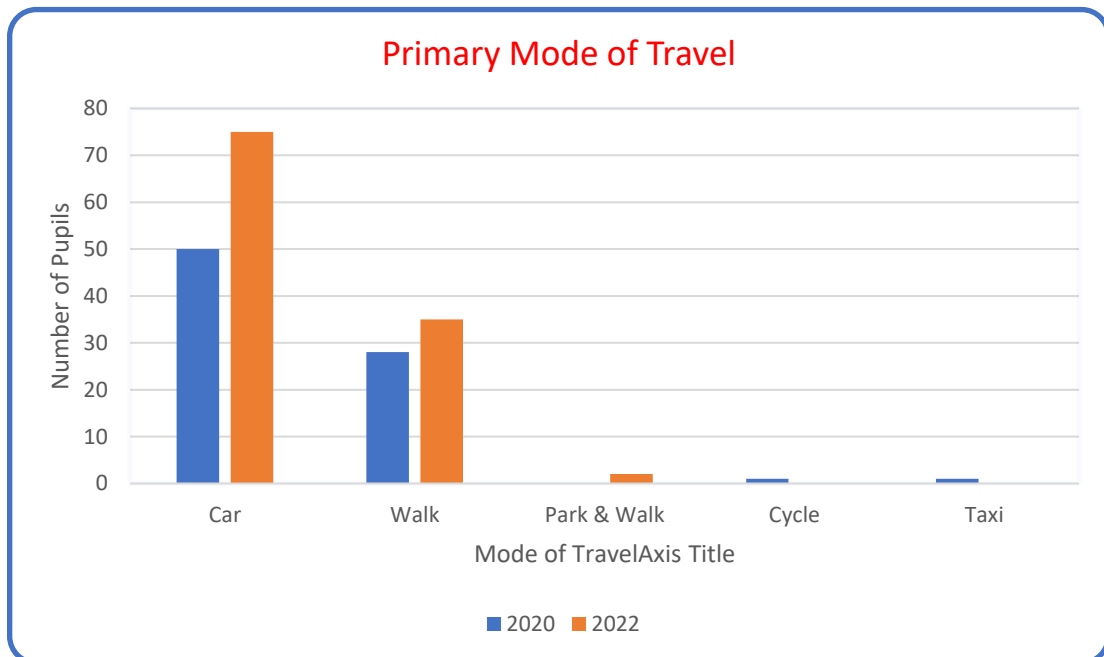


The chart indicates that since 2020 there has been an increase of families living over 2 or more miles away from the school.

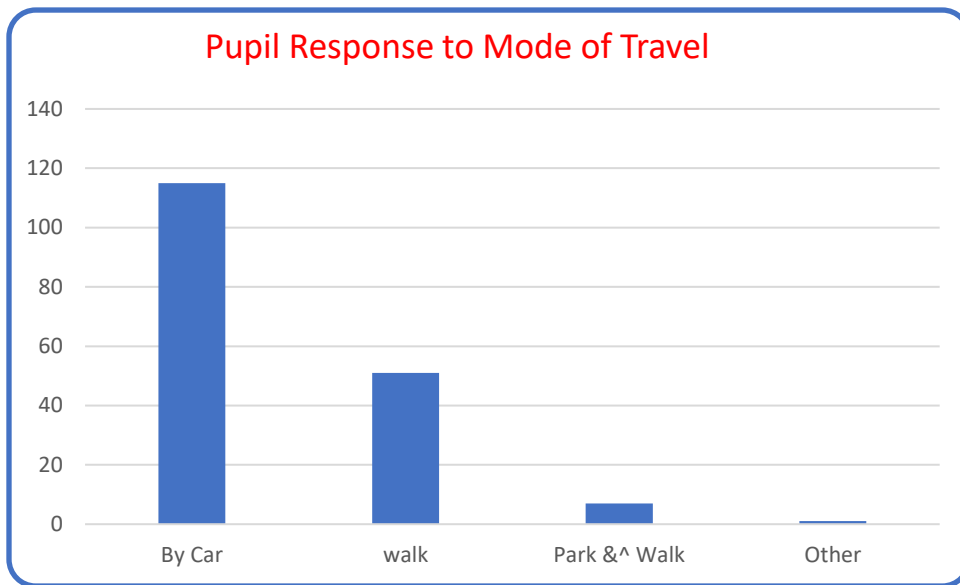
The next chart shows that there has also been an increase in the time of travel to school. This is to be expected as travel distance have increased.



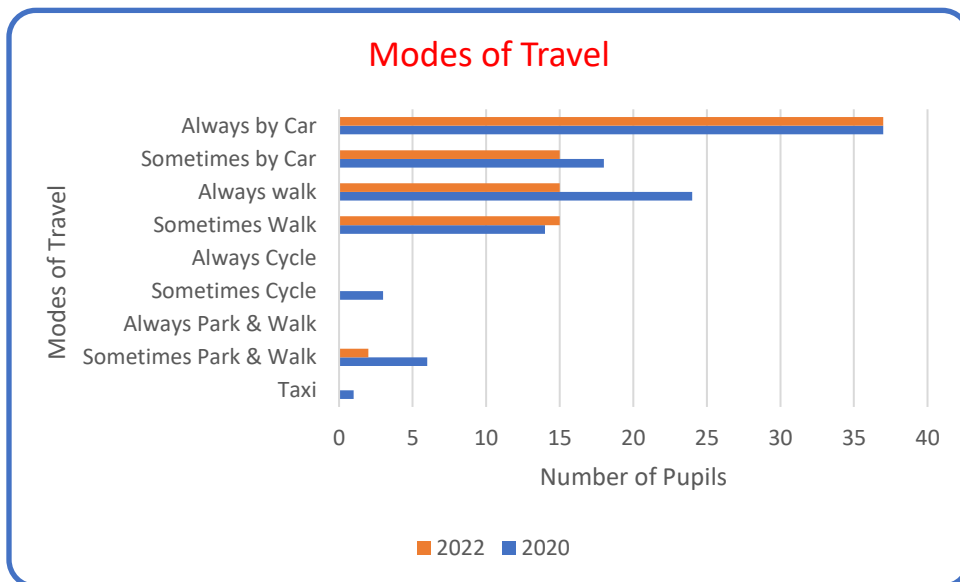
Number of children and their primary modes of transport to and from school as collected from the parent's questionnaire.



The responses received from parents represented less than 50% of pupils. A 'hands up' response from 174 pupils produced the chart below. 117 pupils reported travelling in by car. Many families have more than one child attending the school so this does not equate to the number of cars being driven into the school.

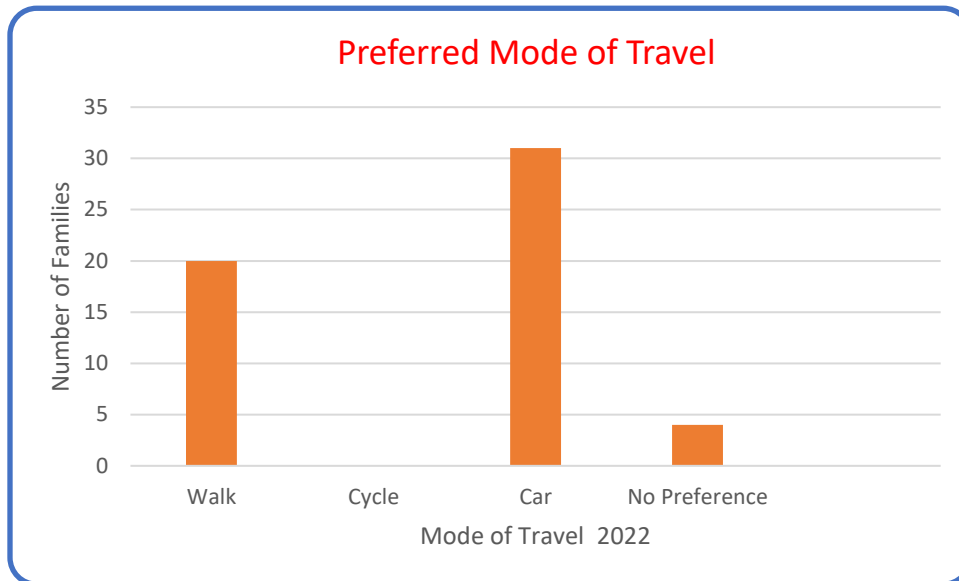


The chart below illustrates that a number of families do occasionally vary from their primary mode of travel.



The charts for the mode of travel shows that there is an increase of pupils walking to school.

Number of family responses on how they would preferably travel to school if conditions were favourable.



Although many parents stated a preference to walk the distances, excessive traffic on the roads, family and work commitments did not make it possible.

Parents were asked to make comments regarding their experience travelling to and from school. 36 parents made comments about their experiences travelling to school and accessing the school site. Although the school has no jurisdiction with regard to public highways parental concerns are acknowledge. Many of the issues have a commonality and are briefly as follows;

- **Parking problems compounded by parents socialising – often with their engines running**
 - *Reminders given regularly via newsletters and emails to pick up/drop off and leave.*
- **Erratic and inconsiderate parking, i.e. taking up too much space, double parking**
 - *We do not have the staffing funding or capacity to monitor the car park.*
- **Experiences of bad behaviour towards other parents using the parking facility**
 - *Reminders given for respectful behaviour. Issues will be taken up with the police. Parents who behave aggressively will be asked to leave the premises and risk a ban.*
- **Parking at school is a source of anxiety**
- **Is it possible for staff to park in a designated area so that parents know they can double park without inconveniencing anyone?**
 - *Staff currently park together in top row of bays nearest school – will inform parents of this.*
- **The drop off procedure is excellent but after school pick up is a nightmare**
- **Too many people who live in the village drive to school**
- **Disabled parking spaces are abused**
 - *The school encourages parents to respect these bays especially as there is a current need. Reminders given regularly via newsletters and emails to use correctly.*
- **Turning area should be kept free from obstruction**

- Reminders given regularly via newsletters and emails to pick up/drop off and leave.
- **Could the playground be available to avoid pavement congestion?**
 - This is not feasible due to safeguarding risks.
- **The difference in times for Seedlings and school does not help**
 - Some parents are asking for times to be the same, some are asking for staggered. By staggering, we are easing congestion.
- **It would be helpful if the staff operating the morning drop off wore hi-vis vests**
- **Why not have staggered school times, i.e. staggered times for KS1 and KS2?**
 - Families have children in different year groups. Hence this is not feasible.
- **Could some of the grassed area be converted into more parking spaces?**
 - The high costs are prohibitive.

In fairness many of those making these comments also stated how fortunate Sutton is to have such a car park as many schools do not. There were many positive comments about the morning 'drop off' supervised by staff working. This allows parents to drive in and straight out after dropping their child/children with the designated member of staff. Some parents requested that the member of staff operating the drop off service should wear hi-vis so they are easily recognised.

Our Policy Statement

- Will encourage all members of the school community to walk or cycle to school whenever possible
- Will encourage schemes such as car sharing or utilisation of the school transport in preference to single passenger occupancy if suitable booster seats are available.
- Is keen to ensure that the travel movement caused by the school does not endanger its own pupils or other road users and causes minimal nuisance to the local residents.
- Will inform the school community of the health and environmental benefits of walking and cycling and how these modes of transport contribute to the pupils' personal development.
- Will strive to provide its pupils with the knowledge and skills needed to travel safely and responsibly.
- Will strive to ensure the pupils understand the environmental advantages of supporting sustainable transport practices.

Objectives of the School Travel Plan

1. To equip pupils with the knowledge and skills needed to walk and cycle safely.
2. To improve access to the school site for pedestrians and cyclists.
3. To reduce traffic congestion and perceived danger in the school car park.
4. To contribute to pupils' health and personal development by encouraging walking and cycling for school and other journeys as a habit this is maintained beyond childhood.

5. To foster a conscientious attitude towards the safety of themselves and others in all traffic situations.
6. To aim to reduce the negative impacts of school travel.

Action Plan

ACTION	DATE	REVIEW DATE	NOTES	ACTIONS
Pupil road cycle training – Bike Ability	Summer term	2021	Unable to complete due to Covid restrictions	Re-commence Bike Ability sessions.
Provide pedestrian or car safety training sessions	Spring term	2021	Sessions taught in KS1	Continue with initiative (link to drop-offs).
To encourage children to consider the benefits of walking and cycling through “Walk to School Week”, information from Junior Road Safety Officers and curriculum work.	Summer term	2021	Walk to school week will need to be re-considered as so many children do not have the option to walk.	Continue with initiative but encourage a park and walk scheme as so many children are from out of catchment and therefore this is beyond our control.
To educate pupils and parents on the benefits of cycling and walking to school	Annually	2021	Discussed and encouraged.	Continue to share information with children and parents periodically.
To contact Pre-School to ensure the parents using the school car park are aware of the parking protocol	Spring term	2021	Parents are aware. They also start later and finish earlier.	Include as part of Pre-School welcome package.
Encourage parents and pupils to ‘buddy up’ and collectively park and walk in.	Spring term	2021	These ideas were shared after the last review.	Continue with this initiative with reminders on news letters to keep as ongoing practice.

Targets for the next five years

Target	January 2020- start of the Travel Plan	2021	Review 2022	2024
% of pupils walking to school	35	40	44	45
% of pupils cycling to school	1	1	1	0
% of pupils travelling on school transport	1	1	0	0
% of pupils travelling by individual car	63	55	55	50
% of pupils who park and walk	0	3	1	5

Targets for our pupils are difficult to assess as many of our pupils live outside our catchment area or move outside it but remain at our school. 55% of our present pupils live outside the catchment area. Many have little choice of travelling to school other than by car.

Monitoring and Review

The Travel Plan will be reviewed 2024 and then presented to the Governing Body for approval.

Signed.....Headteacher

Date.....

Signed.....Chairman of Governors

Date.....