

# Wallace High School

## Travel Plan

*(Revised May 2015)*



### School Context

Since April 2008 Wallace High School has been situated in a new building on Airthrey Road. We are a modern Scottish comprehensive situated at the heart of historic Stirling. Wallace High is a community of c. 920 pupils, with our catchment encompassing six main feeder Primary schools: Bridge of Allan, Castleview, Cornton, Fallin, Raploch and Riverside. We are immensely proud of our school and our wider community. On a daily basis we seek to promote the following qualities as essential to a vibrant, successful school community where everyone can achieve:

Attitude: *choosing* to adopt a positive attitude.

Effort: always working hard to achieve our potential.

Values and Relationships: promoting values such as mutual respect and altruism (caring for others above ourselves) in order to foster positive relationships.

Collective Ethos: the understanding that we are all stronger when we work together to foster a collective enjoyment of our learning day-to-day that, in turn, maximises achievement.



We also work very hard to provide a curriculum that is stimulating, relevant and rewarding for all of our young people as part of our Broad General Education (S1-3) and our Senior Phase (S4-6). Examples of this across the school are plentiful and we are particularly proud of partnerships we have formed to enrich the curriculum, including:

School of Sport: as a Scottish School of Sport our pupils from S1-3 can access an enhanced curriculum through specialist coaching due to our partnerships with SFA, SRU, Basketball Scotland, Scottish Swimming, Active Stirling and sportscotland.

Prudential Business Class: our pupils and staff work in partnership with Prudential throughout S3 and S4 to develop enterprise and employability skills.

Sistema Scotland: a number of our pupils work with the Big Noise project in the Raploch, which has seen their dedication to music gain national recognition.

Our motto, Fide Ut Rupe Fundatum, suggests the fundamental importance of 'building on a solid rock, or foundation'. Our belief is that pupils, parents, staff and partners, the people who comprise our community, provide an excellent collective foundation on which to build.

### Safe, Healthy & Environmentally Friendly

Encouraging all young people and adults to travel to school in as safe, healthy and environmentally friendly ways as possible is at the heart of our travel plan. We also encourage pupils to travel through, and interact with, the local community in a respectful and positive manner.

# Wallace High School, Airthrey Road: Travel Patterns & Issues

and bicycle racks are situated close to the main pupil entrance. There are designated disabled spaces at the front of the building. There is also 'over-spill' parking at the rear of the building for use during evening events etc.

## Safety

We continue to emphasise the safety of our pupils, staff and all visitors to the school. There is one entrance to the school from Airthrey Road but there is clearly segregated vehicle and pedestrian access. It is not necessary for pedestrians to be walking in the car parking areas. External areas, within the school grounds, are well-lit and covered by CCTV cameras. There is a school bus drop-off point and a separate point for taxis at the ASN entrance (outside Ochil House). There is only very limited 'drop-off' space for parents bringing their children to school by car. Our School-Based Police Officer supports with car park monitoring and keeping a flow of parental cars during busy times. SMT presence in the morning and evening also support with safe crossing and traffic flow. Our PTN are utilised to support with positive messages about sensible transport to school and use of the car park. Travel safety is continually addressed through the school's assembly programme, Tannoy and bulletin announcements and through our SBPO's inputs. Safe crossing using specified crossing points on Airthrey Road is also emphasised for morning, lunchtime and after school times, and community feedback regarding safety is always responded to.



## Health and Exercise

We are committed to promoting healthy living through participation in physical activities, with a particular focus on encouraging healthy eating and exercise. Healthy travel will be encouraged when appropriate and safe. Our mountain-bike track has made cycling a core part of our Physical Education programme and we aim to continue to promote use of healthy and environmentally friendly travel options. Our status as a Scottish School of Sport also supports this emphasis on safe, active travel.



Details on travel from each core catchment point are outlined in the sections ahead. By way of introduction, a brief overall summary is provided below.

At present, a majority of our young people walk to school. Only Fallin and Throsk pupils (c. 13-15%), and those accessing ASN transport (c. 3-4%), are provided with council funded transport services. We have three coaches bringing pupils from Fallin and Throsk and a number of ASN taxis and smaller mini-bus transport vehicles that drop pupils safely at the designated turning point at the rear of the school, beside our entrance to Ochil House. Fallin buses drop pupils in our designated bus parking bays at the front of the school.

A small, although growing, number of pupils use bicycles and utilise our cycle parking facility at the front of the school.

A number of pupils use service buses from Bridge of Allan, Cornton and Raploch. There is a variation in travel patterns morning and afternoon, and seasonally. For example, the number of pupils using a service bus to one of our catchment areas increases in the evening, during winter and when there is inclement weather.

The vast majority of staff travel to school by car and there are some car-sharing arrangements in place, especially with staff travelling some distance from the greater Glasgow area.

A small number of staff use bicycles, those very local walk to school and a small number of staff use public transport. Staff cite inclement weather, travelling distance or inadequate and expensive public transport from their home as barriers to using alternatives to car travel.

The majority of external visitors arrive by car.

Access to the school for both vehicle transport and pedestrians is through the main entrance on Airthrey Road. Staff and visitor car parking is at the front of the building

## Specific Travel Patterns by Area

### Fallin and Throsk

Pupils continue to travel by school bus. Bus timings allow pupils to arrive at school on time but not before the building is open for pupil access. Liaison with our coach provider facilitates managing any issues or concerns during travel. An after-school bus pass system allows pupils transport home on public transport use when participating in after school activities.

### Raploch

The majority of pupils continue to walk from Raploch. Some pupils are driven by parents, particularly in inclement weather. Similarly, some pupils access public transport during winter months and in times of inclement weather. Pupils who walk are aware of the need to be safe and sensible near busy roads.

Concerns have been expressed about:

- > the safety of the main road, particularly at the lower end of Causewayhead Road under the railway bridge.
- > the length of the walk, particularly in winter months and in inclement weather. The walk from the Fire Station takes at least 55 minutes, which necessitates leaving home at 0800 hours to arrive at school on time. This is repeated in the evenings.
- > the lack of specific, direct public transport from the 'deepest' parts of the Raploch. For some families, there is no direct bus route between Raploch and Wallace High School. Two buses are required and this can result in financial pressure on families some of whom are low income.
- > The impact on attendance, attainment, achievement and behaviour when pupils arrive at school cold, wet and uncomfortable.

### Riverside

The majority of pupils walk from Riverside with some pupils being driven by parents. Pupils who walk are aware of the need to be safe and sensible near busy roads.

Concerns have been expressed about:

- > the safety of the main road, particularly at the lower end of Causewayhead Road under the railway bridge and the lack of a path under the bridge on the Riverside side of the road.
- > the additional length of the walk, particularly in winter months and in inclement weather. The walk from Riverside Primary School takes approximately 35 – 40 minutes. This is repeated in the evenings.
- > the lack of suitable, direct public transport.

### Cornton and lower Bridge of Allan

The majority of pupils walk from Cornton and lower Bridge of Allan, with some pupils being driven by parents and some accessing a service bus.

Concerns have been expressed about:

- > the safety of the road, particularly over railway crossings.
- > the length of the walk, particularly in winter months and in inclement weather. The walk from Cornton Primary School takes approximately 25 minutes. This is repeated in the evenings.
- > the necessity of having only one entrance to the school, i.e. from Airthrey Road, when an entrance from Easter Cornton Road would shorten travelling time.
- > the service bus that runs after school only stopping at the bus stop beside Cornton Vale prison, despite continuing past other stops much closer to pupil homes. This results in a longer walk alongside a busy road after disembarking from the bus and crossing a busy road to access a path, which is not available on the bus stop side of the road.

### Bridge of Allan

Pupils from Bridge of Allan walk; are driven by parents; or use service buses. A service bus comes into the bus turning point at the end of the school day.

Concerns have been expressed about:

- > the safety of the route to the school, particularly the need to cross extremely busy roads at the university etc.
- > the length of the walk, particularly in winter months and in inclement weather. The walk from Fountain Road takes approximately 35 minutes.

### Causewayhead

The majority of pupils walk from Causewayhead and should be mindful of utilising controlled crossings.

We aim to ensure that pupils, parents, staff and partners enjoy safe and readily available access to our building at all times. This ensures that the excellent and full range of curricular and after school activities on offer can be accessed by *all*. This also ensures parents and community partners readily access our information evenings, shows, musical and sporting activities – events that define the life of our school and do so much to foster partnership and enjoyment of our young people’s achievements.

If any parent or partner has a suggestion about improving access and safe travel links to our school, we would welcome all feedback. This plan will remain a live document in a constantly evolving, and growing, school community.



### Community Concerns

The school’s SMT tries to maintain a high presence in the community during lunchtimes and at the beginning and end of the school day. Residents from Aboyne Avenue have expressed concerns historically that this is the main route into the school for the majority of pupils walking to school. Local community Police are also aware that there is a very high volume of pupils in Aboyne Avenue at the start and end of the school day and our SBPO and the SMT respond to the small number of community concerns that we receive regarding safe travel and responsible conduct.

### Action Points (continuous focus)

- > Investigate the on-going possibility of encouraging car sharing as our staff profile changes over time.
- > Promote procedures to protect the security of bicycles brought to school and encourage active, safe travel through use of bicycles.
- > Continue to investigate safe walking and cycling routes to school, taking into account distance and traffic and responding to community and transport route changes over time.
- > Continue to consult with the School Transportation team and transport providers to ensure the best and safest transport options are utilised.
- > Promote walking over driving to school to minimise car park volume and encourage environmentally friendly and healthy travel options. Promote through pupil education programmes, assemblies and parental liaison (PTN).
- > Promote safe crossing at lunchtimes (especially over Causewayhead Road and Airthrey Road when accessing local eateries and the local park). Support with SMT and SBPO community presence and through Tannoy and bulleting announcements.
- > Continue to liaise with, and respond to, specific community issues regarding transport in order to fully support safe and healthy travel to school for all pupils and staff.