



WHITELANDS
ACADEMY

SHARED AMBITION, SHARED SUCCESS

Travel Plan 2020-2021

Whitelands Academy

School Travel Plan

Prepared by:
Adrian Cush (Principal) / June 2020
Review date: January 2021

Key Facts about Our School

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DfE Number: 931/4017

Date of occupation: September 2020.

Opening times (excluding any extended schools activities):

Monday – Friday 8.35 – 3.15

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1.0 Ethos and Ambition

1.1 Aims of the school travel plan

The White Horse Federation (TWHF) is passionate about the well-being of its students at school and the community it serves. We are aware that the way children, staff, visitors and community users' travel can have an effect on their health, the environment and the quality of life for the residents or local businesses in the area of the school. All children and their parents, school staff, visitors and community users will be informed of the travel options available to them for their journeys to school, via information on our website, at induction sessions and other regular communications.

The Travel Plan will be updated on an annual basis. Monitoring and ownership of the Travel Plan is joint between the Whitelands Academy Travel Plan Co-ordinator (hereafter "School TPC"), and (hereafter Kingsmere " TPC").

1.2 Why we need a Travel Plan

We want to minimise the impact of vehicle traffic on the local and national environment by reducing the number of visitors, community users, students and staff who travel to the school by car.

Children who do not walk to School regularly are unlikely to have good road safety awareness or learn how to cross roads safely. They are also more dependent on their parents/ guardians and less likely to be fit and healthy.

If we aim for the greatest number of students, parents, staff and visitors walking and cycling to School; there will be benefits for the health of the School community and environment surrounding the School. The likelihood of congestion, risk of accidents and pollution will be reduced.

If travel issues are more closely linked to the curriculum, students, parents and staff are more likely to make more informed and safer travel choices on the journey to/from the School. The activity occurring at the beginning and end of the School day when students are being brought and collected from School will be safer and better managed and will not have an adverse impact on local residents.

The Government and Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) have policies, which seek to encourage use of sustainable forms of transport – walking, cycling, and public transport – and less use of the car, to address problems caused by traffic congestion. The School Travel Plan will ensure that the policies of the School fit with broader policy objectives.

1.3 Wider TWHF values

TWHF is unique and we are very proud of the achievements of all of our schools in providing seamless provision for the community. It is fully committed to the well-being of its students at school and welcomes this opportunity to continue this ethos to the school journey. We recognise that each of the schools in the Federation has its own specific challenges in terms of location, catchment and ability for each child to travel to school sustainably. We recognise that parents have the right to choose how their children travel to school but we also encourage parents and carers to embrace the fact that walking and cycling can have many benefits for their health, the environment and can help to alleviate traffic congestion at the school gates morning and afternoon.

Although the school is not responsible for children during the journey to and from school, we aim to do all that we can to support parents to ensure the children have a safe route to school during these times.

Our commitment to promoting more sustainable modes of travel to our communities is of high importance. We know that through promoting healthier choices of travel to students and staff, visitors and community users we will increase well-being.

2.0 Baseline Position

2.1 Existing Situation

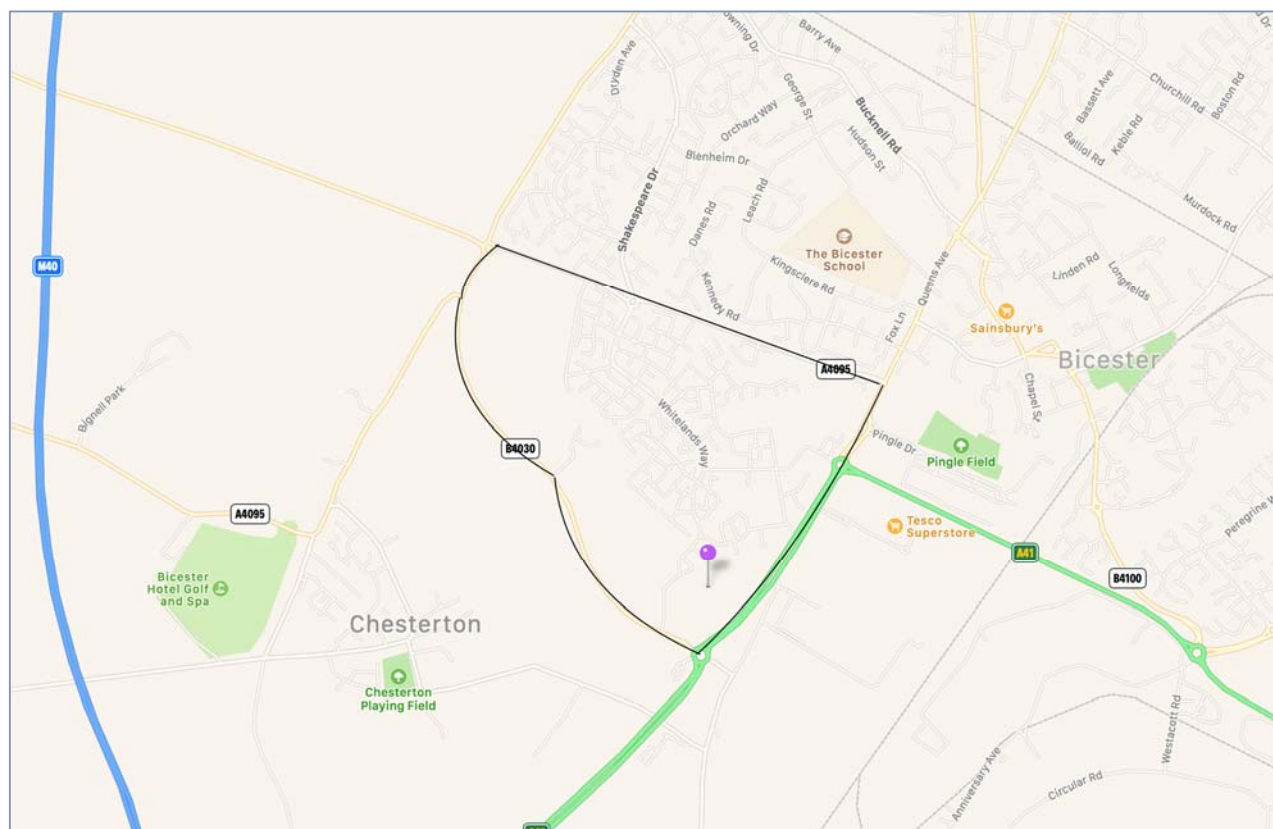
Whitelands Academy is to meet the pressing demand for secondary education places in Bicester and, in so doing, serve the local and wider community. The school is to be built on the same site as the Kingsmere development.

Whitelands Academy will be four forms of entry (120 students per year group). The intention is for the school to open in September 2020 for Year 7 students only. The school will then grow year on year with an eventual capacity of 600 students, Years 7 through to 11.

The catchment area for the school is shown in **Figure 1**. From September 2020, 7 teaching staff and a further 4 support staff will be based at the school.

The School has a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA), sports hall and sports pitches that will be available for clubs in the community.

Figure 1: designated Catchment Area for Whitelands Academy



2.2 Description of the School

Whitelands Academy is located within the Kingsmere housing development in the South West of Bicester. **Figure 1** shows the approximate location of the school (marked with a purple pin) within the context of Bicester.

The School has two main points of entry which will be used by parents, students, staff, visitors and community users. A shower is available for staff use.

Journeys made during the school day will be planned in advance for trips and visits for the students in the school involving coaches and minibus travel. Coaches and minibuses will use the pick-up and drop off bay opposite the main entrance.

The school will seek to establish and maintain good relationships with neighbours. We liaise with the Kingsmere TPC, local and district councillors and Kingsmere residents association to ensure that our plan tallies with the present and future plans for the development.

2.3 Staff Travel

Table 1 provides an overview of the origins of the initial intake of staff.

Table 2 shows staff Arrival and Departure times.

Table 1

Station	Origin	Most frequent mode	Typical Frequency (Monday to Friday)
Site Manager	Bicester	Walk	2 x daily
Teacher	Swindon	Car	1 x daily
Teacher	Bicester	Car	1 x daily
Teacher	Bicester	Car	1 x daily
Teacher	Towcester	Car	1 x daily
Teacher	Bicester	Car	1 x daily
Teacher	Cheltenham	Car	1 x daily
Teacher	Oxford	Car	1 x daily
Principal	Cheltenham	Car	1 x daily
IT technician	Swindon	Car	1 x week
TA	TBC	Car	1 x week
Office staff	Bicester	Car	1 x week
Office Staff	Bicester	Car	1 x week
Finance officer (P/T)	Bicester	Car	1 x week

Table 2

Site Manager	7:00am	9:30am	2:30pm	6:00pm
Teacher	7.30am	6:00pm		
IT Technician	9:00am	3.30pm		
EYFS Practitioner	8:45am	3:15pm		
TA	8:00am	4:00pm		
Office staff	8.00am	3.30pm		
Finance Officer	8.30am	4.30pm		
Principal	7:00am	6:15pm		

2.4 Parent/Pupil Travel (To be completed in term 1)

A detailed Survey of the actual Travel Arrangements of 30 Parents (for the 32 Children) will be undertaken during the first term of operation, as directed by District Council, in order to: (a) establish the true initial baseline from which to set targets, (b) predict the potential range of travel statistics and requirements in future years, as the school grows in size, and (c) determine any methods by which we might better enable Parent/Pupil travel to use sustainable modes of transport as their preferred option.

A. *Distance travelled to and from Whitelands Academy*

Table 3 Summary of parent origins

Estates travelled from:	No. of Parents	Percent	Mean Distance (km)	Mean Distance (miles)

Figure 2: Scatter plot of actual distances travelled by Whitelands students

B. Transport Method summary

Table 4 gives the percentage breakdown – over all journeys throughout the week – of different transport modes used for drop-off and collection:

Table 4 Existing Modal Shares

Car	
Walk	
Cycle	
Bus	

Comments received in the survey regarding the journey to school included:

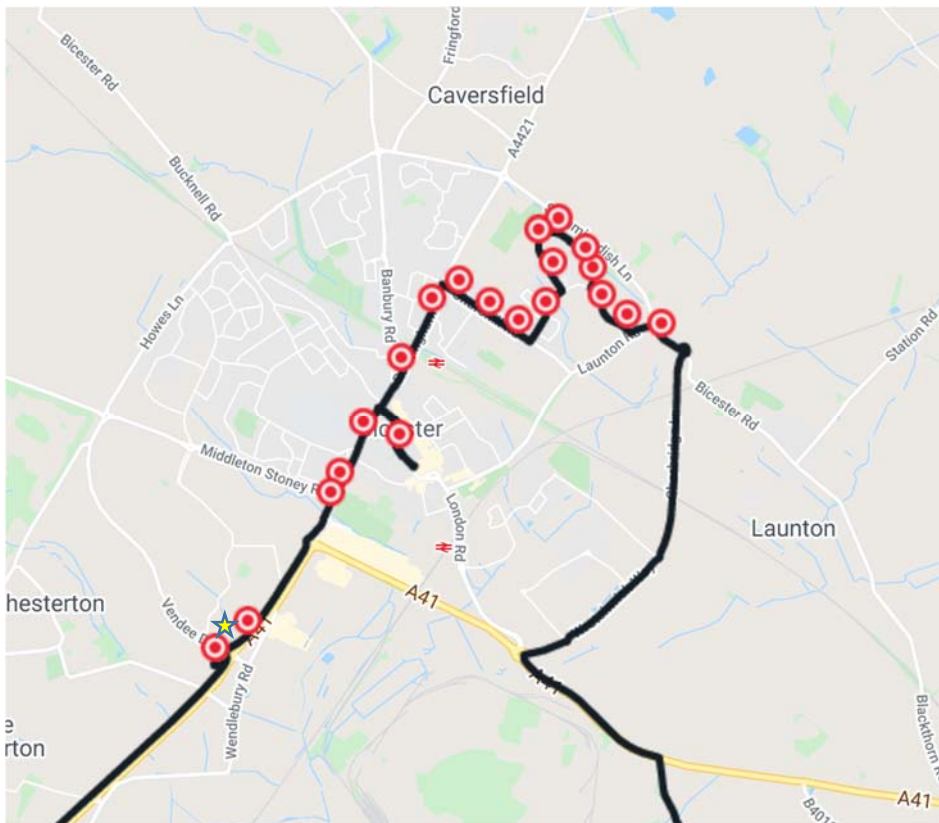
2.5 Parking Provision

There are 60 car parking spaces, 4 of which are allocated for disabled use only. These spaces are dedicated for staff and visitor use.

2.6 Bus Services

The S5 bus service operated by Stagecoach stops adjacent to the school site. The service links Whitelands with Bicester Town Centre and Bicester Town Station, routing via Banbury Road and Bicester North Station. The first bus arriving at Whitelands is at 0541. Full details of the route and timetable are attached as **Appendix B**. The star indicates the school's rough position.

Figure 3: X5 stops in Bicester



2.7 Rail Services

Bicester Town Station is 1.7 miles from the school. **Table 5** provides a summary of direct services and typical journey times and frequencies.

Table 5 Summary of direct rail services

Station	Typical Journey Time	Typical Frequency (Monday to Friday)
Oxford (Bicester Town)	24 minutes	Every 30 minutes
Oxford Parkway (Bicester Town)	8 minutes	Every 30 minutes
Islip (Bicester Town)	7 minutes	Hourly
Birmingham (Bicester North)	1 hour and 5 minutes	Hourly

Banbury (Bicester North)	12 minutes	2 per hour
King's Sutton (Bicester North)	10 minutes	Hourly

2.8 Walking and Cycling Routes

Within Kingsmere there are segregated cycle and pedestrian route connecting the estate.

There are sheltered bicycle parking (with bars to lock against) provided inside the school gates (300 cycles) and 10 for staff. Staff have access to showers.

3.0 Objectives, Targets and Actions

3.1 Objectives

The objectives of the School Travel Plan are to encourage the Whitelands Community to:

1. Be healthy and sustainable; encourage more travel to/from Whitelands Academy healthier and more sustainable means, particularly by walking, cycling or scooters and less travel by car;
2. Be safe on the journey to and from Whitelands Academy; promote good road user behaviour on the routes to the School and ensure the best possible road safety conditions immediately outside the School gates;
3. Be more aware of transport and travel issues; promote the health and environmental benefits of using sustainable forms of transport and make the School Travel Plan part of the curriculum;
4. Actively manage parking demand and use to ensure safe access for children and adults.

3.2 Initial Targets

The Travel Plan for the Whitelands identifies the long term target for school for school journeys made to the site - **no more than 30% of students will arrive at school by car on a typical school day.**

This is based on the assumption that towards 70% of journeys will in the longer term be travelling from within the estate itself, i.e. by foot or cycling. In our first two years we will have a broader catchment area to increase number and mitigate the fact Kingsmere is still growing. We therefore expect as distance of travel to decrease over time.

Staff travel is likely to provide minimal contribution (see **Section 2.3**), although it is recognised that use of the school by other groups using the facilities may also contribute to peak hour travel demand and additional measures have been identified with respect to this wider use of the school building.

Summary of Initial Targets:

1. **No more than 50% of students will arrive at school by car on a typical school day (or on average across all journeys made).**
2. **Peak hour car mode shares not to exceed 30%.**

3.3 Actions – Year 1

Actions have been identified for the first year that the school is open, recognising that this initial intake of children within the youngest age groups presents a special case. These are shown in **Table 6**. Further travel plan initiatives will be developed in 2021 in advance of the intake of more children and a potentially wider age range.

In the school year beginning September 2020, the school intake comprises of children in year 7, and therefore a proportion will be accompanied on the journey to school by a parent or carer. Age-appropriate measures have therefore been identified for this first year at the school.

Table 6 First Year Action Plan

Target/Objective	Actions	Timescale	Persons Responsible
No more than 50% of students travelling to school by car	All parents to receive personalised Travel Planning Advice (see detail below)	Ongoing	School TPC
	Inclusion of travel information and policy within school prospectus	May 2019	School TPC
	School Travel Information displayed in the school	Ongoing	School TPC
	Travel awareness in the curriculum and assemblies	From September 2018	School TPC / Teaching staff
Peak hour car mode shares not to exceed 30%	All staff to receive Personalised Travel Planning Advice	August 2018 / Ongoing	School TPC
	External organisations using the school site to be provided with travel & parking information	October 2018 / ongoing	School TPC / Facilities Manager
	Sustainable travel information to be available via school website	November 2018 / ongoing	School TPC
	Engagement with user groups	August 2018 / ongoing	School TPC

3.4 Actions – Longer Term

Table 7 provides an overview of measures which may be implemented as the school roll becomes more complete.

Table 7 Longer Term Action Plan

Bikeability annual cohort Bikeability is 'cycling proficiency' for the 21st century, designed to give the next generation the skills and confidence to ride their bikes on today's roads.	Bikeability level 2 (year group 7)
Gradual reduction of Target 1 – Max. % by car While initially set to be high but realistic at 50%, this can be reduced from in line with increasing percentage Kingsmere resident attendance. The aim should be to reach 20%, if possible, by the time all Phases of the estate surrounding the school have been completed.	September 2022, and then annually
Road Safety Education	From 2020
Transition arrangements agreed with secondary school	For year 6s
Parking enforcement campaigns	Only as necessary

4.0 Monitoring and Review

The School TPC will review the travel plan objectives, targets and actions on a termly basis.

The School TPC will be responsible for undertaking an annual travel survey of students, staff and visitors providing modal share data. The data will be used to determine whether the mode share targets have been met. The survey may consider mode shares across the week acknowledging that mode of travel may not be consistent across the week (e.g. parents working from home part of the week may be better able to walk and cycle on those days).

The School TPC will prepare a short report summarising the results of the survey and actions taken for Oxfordshire County Council and Parents and Staff.

In the event that the School Travel Plan is shown to be underachieving on the indicators then remedial action will be taken to help to get it 'back on track' e.g. additional 'walk to school' weeks, an incentive scheme for staff car sharing, linking our community users into the Kingsmere TPC, etc.

5.0 Approval and Ownership

We will carry out a full pupil, staff, visitor and community travel survey in November 2020 and this will be the responsibility of Adrian Cush (Principal).

Table 7 Confirmation of approval of the Travel Plan

	Signature	Print name	Date
Principal & School TPC		Adrian Cush	September 2020
Kingsmere TPC			September 2020

