



Kingswode Hoe School

School Travel Plan Policy

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AIMS:

- To reduce congestion in the road outside the school at the start and end of the school day.
- To improve pupil safety
- To improve safe accessibility to the school site.
- To encourage car sharing, and alternative means of transport to and from the school where possible.



Updated September 2016

Description of Kingswode Hoe School

Kingswode Hoe is a community day special school catering for pupils between the ages of 5 & 16 who have moderate learning difficulties. These may include autism, Downs syndrome, speech and language difficulties, Asperger's syndrome or other genetic or congenital disorders. The school is a converted Victorian house, with additional buildings set in beautiful grounds with a large playing field.

The catchment for the school is large and diverse and covers the following areas, Colchester, West Mersea, Rowhedge, Maldon, Kelvedon, Tiptree, Fingringhoe,

Halstead, Braintree, Witham, Jaywick & Clacton. We currently have 132 pupils on roll.

Existing facilities and policies:

Pedestrians:	Entrance immediately adjacent to vehicular access sharing same driveway. A separate pedestrian gate has been installed to enable access on foot. Pedestrians are then guided along a clearly marked safe footpath including a pedestrian crossing to keep pupils, staff and visitors away from vehicles entering the site.
Cyclists:	Cycle shed on site, lockers available for storage of equipment, water dispensers and shower available. School Policy encourages this form of transport for staff & pupils where possible.
Cars:	Parking on site for most staff cars, on-site vehicular movement is restricted at the start and end of the school day. The school endeavours to provide parking for staff but cannot guarantee provision. Residents parking restrictions are in force in the road immediately outside the school, so the school has purchased a number of reduced price parking permits for use by named part-time staff and the school minibuses.
Buses:	Bus stop available at the end of Sussex Road (5 minute walk), and some ‘travel trained’ older pupils have bus passes and a few staff travel by bus. School policy is keen to encourage this.

Description of our travel problems:

1. **On journeys made during the school day at normal start/finish times:**
We experience congestion outside the school gates at the start and finish of the school day caused by a combination of private cars and contract taxis. The situation is at its worst at 3pm when all the taxis and private cars arrive and try to park in a limited area immediately outside the school. They frequently park on double yellow lines, the zigzag lines and on the corners of a junction opposite the school entrance.
2. **On journeys to attend pre and after school events**
Events pre and after school do not normally cause a problem as ample parking is available on site. However, some of the local residents’ parking restrictions do not end until 6pm which can limit parking spaces for larger events.
3. **On journeys made during the school day to attend activities at other locations:**

Visitors and professionals arriving at the school during the day experience parking difficulties: Residents parking restrictions are in force in the road immediately outside the school and causes restricted parking for visitors to the school, parents and professionals alike.

As a result of the parking restrictions staff cannot park all day in the road without a permit and this has caused increased parking congestion on the school site.

Steps we have already taken to solve some of the above problems:

A senior member of staff and a number of support staff are on duty at 3.15pm to co-ordinate the dispersal of pupils to waiting taxis and cars. The school gates are open at this time and the pupils are supervised in taxi cohorts inside the school grounds until they are called to the gate to board their transport home. A staff member (wearing a high-viz jacket) escorts the pupils across the road if necessary.

Previously we distributed a questionnaire to all stakeholders (including parents, taxi driver, escorts, governors, local residents and the community policeman) to gauge public opinion regarding congestion outside the school at the start and end of the school day. As a result strategies have been put in place which minimise the risk to pupils, staff and local residents alike.

In addition, we have negotiated 5 free parking permits which the school is allowed to issue, on a daily basis, for visitors attending the premises during the normal working day.

To encourage staff to cycle to work, the school offers access to the HMRC approved Cycle Scheme which supports staff to purchase, at reduced cost, a bicycle and associated equipment via monthly salary sacrifice.

On days when our big events are held such as Sports Day and our Christmas productions, North East Essex Parking Partnership at Colchester Borough Council lift the parking restrictions for the time required, this has to be agreed in advance.

Mary Bruce from Essex County Council teaches our Year 10 and 11 students Road Safety and trains individual pupils to travel independently to and from school. They benefit hugely with her help and support and most are able to become successful independent travellers.

Objectives and Targets

Objective	Target	Short(S), Medium (M) or long (L) term.
Increase car sharing	We aim to encourage car sharing among staff and pupils	

	and should a new member of staff or pupil express an interest in car sharing we would endeavour to put them in touch with a suitable contact, if one existed.	M
Increase cycling to and from school	We aim to encourage more staff members to cycle to school if they live near enough - particularly in the summer months.	M

In the development of this travel plan we continue to consult with the following people that are on the Travel Plan working group.

Principal: Mrs Elizabeth Drake

Head of School: Mrs Alice Constantine

Deputy Heads of School: Mrs Anna Mears

Designated Gate duty staff: Mrs Aileen Robinson
Ms Karen McCourty
Mr Simon Key
Mrs Laura Baker