

Hill of Banchory Primary School is located on Firbrae, on the east side of Banchory, with the catchment taking in pupils from the Hill of Banchory area. The school roll is currently sitting at about 370 pupils and 80 within the nursery. Hill Of Banchory have cycle/ scooter racks situated at the front of the school. There is also a cycle/ scooter rack at the nursery entrance. There are lots of fantastic walking and cycling routes to our school which we would like to encourage more people to use.

As a school with our Level 2 Rights Respecting School Award and our second Eco Green Flag, we want our community to feel safe when they are traveling to and from school, however they choose to do so, and to consider the healthiest options for travel. We have developed this plan to provide information to families about the safest routes to and from school. Please take some time to read this document carefully and consider your travel options.

## What is a Travel Plan?

A Travel Plan is a document which encourages people to travel to our school in a sustainable, active and safe way. The travel plan supports walking and cycling as the most sustainable forms of transport. Although walking and cycling are a good choice for the environment, and improves air quality at the school gates, there are lots of other benefits too -

- **Fitness.** Leaving the car at home and walking, or cycling to school will provide great health benefits for all family members.
- **Road safety skills.** Being able to make the journey on foot or bike will provide ideal opportunities to learn essential road safety skills that many young people who are driven by car are lacking.
- **Social skills.** Walking to or from school, provides a great opportunity to talk; either to friends or family members.
- **Safety.** More people walking and cycling means less cars on the road and at the school gate making a much safer environment for everyone.

This document has been created to make it clear the expectations Hill of Banchory School holds in relation to travel to their site. It is the responsibility of parents/ carers to read and understand this information. Anything that is not clear can be discussed with the school.

**Action Plan** - This document will be reviewed and updated annually.

**Overall Aim** - to create safer journeys for those travelling to Hill of Banchory Primary School

Action	How to achieve this	By whom
Encourage responsible parking	Communicate with parents over appropriate parking locations in order to create a safer school gate environment.	HT/PC
Encourage safe, sustainable and active travel to school	Tap into existing resources and events such as Walk to School Week, bike week, road safety week, WOW project. Provide maps to families and encourage them to plan their route to school.	Teaching staff/ Parent support
Monitor travel to school	Take part in annual Hands Up Survey and review travel patterns during the course of the year	HT/ Teaching staff

HOB Travel Plan published: March 2017 Review date: March 2018



### Tips to keep you safe when walking to school.

- Plan your route to school at home first. There are many path networks within the Hill of Banchory area with many crossing facilities - zebras, pelican and islands, try and make use of these and plan a safe route.
- Find a good place to cross, this should be away from parked cars and have good visibility in both directions.
- Avoid crossing at the widest part of Firbrae nearest the main road as there is a lot of traffic and congestion at this point. Follow the footprints on the pavement to show you where to cross.
- Be bright and be seen, the more you stand out the more drivers will see you and slow down.
- Be aware of possible future developments next to Hill of Banchory School, this may mean many heavy vehicles and building works ongoing.
- Be careful of driveways and narrow entrances - Stay alert and pay attention at all times.
- Crossing the street safely 1) Stop at the curb or edge of the street. 2) Look right, look left then right again. 3) Wait until no traffic is coming and begin crossing. 4) Keep looking for traffic until you have finished crossing. 5) Walk, don't run across the street.

### Tips to keep you safe when cycling and scooting to school.

Where children can do so safely, we actively encourage children to bike or scoot to school. Please feel free to bring your bike or scooter and make use of our storage facilities. However, the school cannot take any responsibility for any bikes or scooters left here so you will need to bring a lock.

- **Please** wear a helmet and wear something bright.
- Ride in a position you can see and be seen.
- **No cycling or scooting in the playground** and consider other pedestrians around the school gate
- Maintain your bike. Check your brakes and tyre pressure, some good guides can be found online by Cycling Scotland.
- Be considerate of others on the paths around the school, use your bell on your bike if necessary to warn pedestrians you are there.

### If you are taking the car, you can help by:

- Planning ahead and giving yourself plenty of time in order to account for any unexpected delays, please give yourself time to find a responsible place to park.
- Park and stride - parking 5 or 10 mins away from the school will hugely help in tackling congestion.
- Keeping your speeds low
- Do not park on yellow lines, in disabled bays, where there are other parking restrictions, in front of people's driveways or on grass verges.
- When parking at the school, please make use of car parking facilities. If none are available, please think carefully about where you are parking so your car is not causing a road safety concern for others by blocking crossing opportunities or reducing visibility of the road.
- Do not park in front of the drop kerbs on Firbrae, this is where pedestrians are encouraged to cross and it is difficult for them to do that if cars are parked in the way.
- Parking is discouraged directly outside the school entrance and in the bus bay.

Banchory has grown dramatically over recent years. We recognise that the school roll at Hill of Banchory has increased however the school was built with generous parking facilities. More parents and carers are accessing the school at pick up and drop off time. It is therefore vitally important that we realise the roads around our school are increasingly busy and we must all play a role in keeping everyone safe.

We know families have their own priorities; work, childcare, school, clubs and activities. The car can play an important role in society but as a school we do not accept safety to be put at risk to satisfy individual convenience. Safety will always come first. Please make safe travel decision.

Thank you for reading our travel plan, we hope it helps you think about how you travel to our school

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