South Gosforth First School

*'Roots to grow and wings to fly'*

# SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN November 2026



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# 1. Introduction

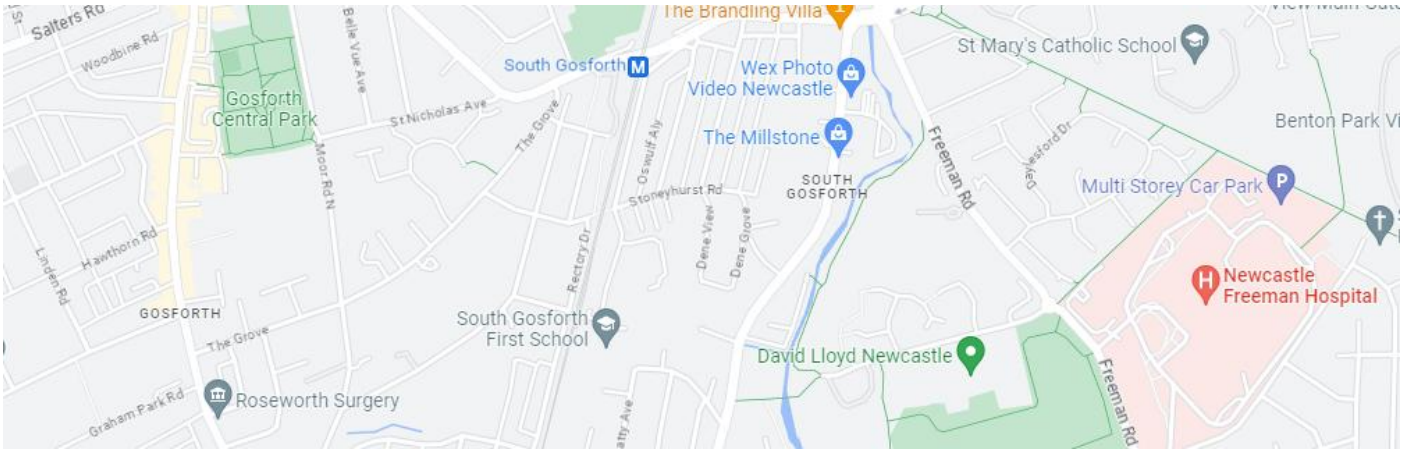
## 1.1 Background to South Gosforth First School

South Gosforth First School is located on Alnmouth Drive, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE3 1YF. It is located on the roadside at the end of a quiet residential cul-de-sac. There is some parking on the road and there are no permit restricted zones in the locality. The school is approximately 7 minutes walk from South Gosforth Metro Station which has access to both metro links.

The school has approximately 330 pupils aged 3-9 years, drawn from an increasingly local catchment area.

Parents are actively encouraged to bring their child to school by walking or on bike/scooter and we hold wheeled play days across the week for each year group to help encourage this.

There are 20 staff/visitor parking spaces in a carpark at the front of the school, this in not to be used by parents unless by prior arrangement. There are 2 designated disabled parking spaces.




## 1.2 Reasons for developing a School Travel Plan

South Gosforth First School has developed a School Travel Plan in order to:

- Ensure that pupils, parents, teachers and governors recognise the absolute need to ensure that the personal safety of children is maintained whilst making the daily journey to and from school
- Promote a more healthy lifestyle for our children
- Reduce the number of car journeys to and from school
- Promote South Gosforth First School as a responsible neighbour

## 1.3 Local Issues

The following list of traffic related issues has been identified as key factors affecting safety in the vicinity of the school.

- Danger of road traffic accident due to narrow street entrance to cul-de-sac and back entrance gate on Beatty Avenue due to parked cars
- Dangers from high flow of traffic on Station Road

# 2.0 Overview & Current Travel Patterns

## 2.1 Overview

South Gosforth First School takes part in transport surveys to establish the travel patterns of pupils attending the school.

In recent years we have worked with Mode Shift Stars at Newcastle City Council to ensure increasing numbers of children travel to school on foot or by cycle/scooter.

Over 30% of pupils regularly travel by bike or scooter and a further 32% walk to school. The rest of the children use transport to attend.

Previous surveys have been designed to:

- Measure levels of car usage linked to the school run
- Determine the preferred mode of school travel.

All parents accompany children travelling to school, even on the shortest journeys.

## 2.2 A comparison with current travel patterns

Comparisons can be obtained from ‘Schools Go Smarter’ and ‘Sustrans’

# 3.0 Objectives and targets

1. To work within the Gosforth Schools’ Trust to ensure we build a united travel policy working at ensuring all of our children are safe across all the schools in our cluster

2. To reduce car trips in favour of a shift towards walking, biking/scooting and public transport.

3. To ensure that pupils and parents are aware of the full range of travel options and the important health benefits to be gained from a more active lifestyle.

4. To forge closer links with local residents and maintain good community relations.

It is important that School Travel Plans are not perceived as a one-off treatment but rather as an ongoing investment in the local community requiring continual review and commitment to ensure the long term integrity of the plan.

# 4. Action Plan

The Action Plan sets out a list of proposed actions that will be taken to meet the objectives identified above. Each action has clear responsibilities, priorities and time scales. For any physical measures, an education action (something for pupils) and a promotional action (something for parents and carers) has been included where appropriate.

**Objective:** To introduce a 'school safety zone' in the vicinity of South Gosforth First School

**Target:** Work with the Local Authority Transport Planning Team to complete redevelopment work around the school building and surrounding areas down Alnmouth Drive to ensure that pupils and families are safe on their journeys to and from school.
To implement a 'School Street' where cars are prohibited from travelling down Alnmouth Drive at specific times of the school day.

| Action | Person Responsible | How it is to be done | Long Term, Medium Term or Short Term | Date to be completed |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Implement 'Safety Zone' outside of the school building | School, City Council and parents / carers | New road markings introduced at the front of school to minimise dangers of children being hit by vehicles.<br><br>Work with the Newcastle Mayor and Local Councillor, Wendy Taylor, and the traffic team at Newcastle City Council, to gather data on traffic and safety down Alnmouth Drive at key times of the school day<br><br>Take community vote on the implemtation of a 'School Street' at specific times of the school day (drop off and collection times) which | Medium | Autumn Term 2027 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | would mean that parents could not drive down Alnmouth Drive at agreed times in order to keep the outside area of school car-free and safe for children and families<br><br>Alternative entrance for 'walking families' to be further publicised and used by more families - Extend opening times of this entrance<br><br>Repair the ground works at the KS1/KS2 entrance of school in order to ensure that this is safe for walking families | | |
| Promote effective use of the 'School Safety Zone' to pupils and the wider community, giving a clear rationale for why we are introducing this | School, City Council and parents / carers | Newsletters, signage, road markings and SLT presence outside at drop off and collection times<br><br>Prevent parents and carers and non-school staff from parking in the school car park | Medium | Ongoing |

**Objective:** To maintain the current split of walk, bus and car trips to the school and in the longer term seek to reduce car trips in favour of a shift towards walking, cycling and public transport.

**Target:** Maintain or increase current levels of walking and reduce car use. Promote use of cycling by providing additional safe storage for cycles and scooters for pupils and parents.

| Action | Person Responsible | How it is to be done | Long Term, Medium Term or Short Term | Date to be completed |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Survey families to establish the current mix of transport to get to and from school each day and use this information to inform subsequent areas of focus (eg, encourage more scooting, biking etc) | SLT | Through online surveys / google forms<br><br>Meetings and Events with Parents<br><br>Assemblies | Short Term – Summer Term 2027<br><br>Medium Term | Annually |
| Add additional bike and scooter storage to the playground to cater for more pupils to use this<br><br>Add additional bike storage for parents and carers to use at the front of school | FM4U (Buildings Maintenance Team)<br><br>School staff | Procuring works with FM4U (or other appropriate provider)<br><br>Communications with families | Medium Term– Spring Term 2028 | Spring Term 2028 |

**Objective:** To ensure that pupils and parents are aware of the full range of travel options and the important health benefits to be gained from a more active lifestyle.

**Target:** Promote healthy travel options as part of the school curriculum and through special events.

| Action | Person Responsible | How it is to be done | Long Term, Medium Term or Short Term | Date to be completed |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Range of School Events: Re-introduce ‘Bike-It Breakfast’ (twice per year) | All teaching staff | Schedule of events throughout the year | Long Term | Ongoing |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bling Your Bike<br>Stabilizer Free<br>Vive Le Velo<br>Big Pedal<br>Sponsored Bike Ride (PTFA)<br>Parents and Carers bike ride<br>Bikeability reintroduced annually for Y4 pupils and 'Balance Bikes' sessions for Reception pupils | | | | |
| Implement PSHE and Class / Family Group circle time sessions around road safety and the benefits of being active on the way to and from school | Teaching Staff | Through Class and Family Group Circle times | Ongoing | Ongoing |

# 5. Management, Monitoring and Evaluation

## 5.1 Management

The Plan will be initially prepared and agreed by the approved Working Group. Where appropriate group members to include:

- Head Teacher
- Facilitator
- Teachers
- Parent and School Governors
- Parents
- Pupils
- Caretaker
- Residents
- Ward Councilors
- Police
- Nexus
- Local Authority - Traffic and Road Safety Officers, Education Officers, Community Coordinator, School Crossing Patrols

The Group will be responsible for the ongoing support and development of the document with particular focus on the Action Plan. The School Travel Plan document will be reviewed in light of any new developments in the school or as part of new national educational initiatives

The group will pledge commitment to the principles and long term aims of the action plan and will:

- Set objectives
- Planning and implementation
- Monitor progress
- Act on results of monitoring
- Revise plans and objectives if necessary
- Agree a date for the next meeting (2 a year as a minimum)

The Group will also monitor pupil travel needs following any new developments with in the school and the Local Education Authority.

## 5.2 Monitoring

Time will be spent each term to monitor progress against the objectives. Progress will be reported to the school community each term in school newsletters. Additionally, the working group will be invited to attend the termly site visit and will have the opportunity to monitor the progress first hand.

Changes in pupils' mode of travel will be monitored using the annual School Census return and ongoing surveys.

# 6 Appendices

Newcastle City Council

School Travel Plans



## School Travel Plan Partnership Agreement

**Name of School:** ……

**Head Teacher:** ……

**Aim:** To address the problem of traffic congestion around the school gate and to provide a safer environment which would encourage children to travel to school other than by private car.

**Objectives:** To set up a working group of all interested parties and Local Authority representatives to identify the specific traffic related problems affecting the school.

Through discussion and debate via the working group, highlight the physical measures needed to address these problems.

To develop an Action Plan as a method of control to facilitate a successful School Travel Plan.

To work collaboratively at all times in an effort to make sure that customers experiences at least meet their expectations.

**Programme:**

- Introductory meeting between Head Teacher and STP staff
- Set up first working group meeting with key personnel
- Arrange further meetings to monitor and review progress
- To keep records of meetings and progress as part of the developing plan

**Signed** …… **Head Teacher**

…… **Chair of Governors**

**Date** ……..