

Blackpool Gateway Academy School Travel Plan

Travel Plan - January 2019

Blackpool Gateway Academy is a two-form entry primary school with a total of 345 children on roll plus 35 nursery children. We are located in an extremely busy and congested area close to the centre of Blackpool and surrounded mainly by residential property. Access to the school site for vehicles is extremely restricted, with no unrestricted parking on the surrounding roads. On-site parking for staff and visitors is very limited.

During 2018, we asked all parents to complete a questionnaire relating to method of travel to/from school, issues of access to the school at different times of day and causes for concern. **88** surveys were completed. These families have a total of **122** children in school which represents 47% of the school population.

Travel to School Survey Outcomes

A number of locations were giving cause for concern, including the school entrances and surrounding roads, various crossing points and the school car park.

Parents also gave a number of helpful suggestions to try to alleviate danger and congestion.

So what do we do to make Blackpool Gateway Academy a safer and healthier school?

At Blackpool Gateway Academy, we encourage all of our pupils to travel to school in a healthy and sustainable way. We hope to encourage well informed and life-long habits. We have a bike store at each end of the school, with racks where bikes and scooters can be secured.

We believe in inspiring our pupils to think differently about travel and its impact on their health, wellbeing and the environment.

What can you do to join in...?

We want to reduce car travel and increase active travel even further (more walking, cycling and scooting). If you travel by car please Park and Stride. This is an easy way to make a difference.

What is Park and Stride?

Park and Stride is a simple idea for families who live further away, to enjoy the benefits of walking to school.

Do you drive to school?

If so, park a five minute walk from school and complete the rest of the journey on foot.

Do you use public transport?

If so, get off a couple of stops earlier and walk the rest of the way.

Why?

- Healthier and happier children
- Less congestion on the roads to the school gates
- Safer for children to cross
- Help look after our environment

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Parking Reminder

A number of local residents have been in contact regarding the parking of parents around the school site. Some parents are double parking and blocking access for local residents, others are parking in restricted areas. We know that everyone is very busy and parking as close to school helps with time, but please be considerate of where you are parking and bear in mind the safety of our families and access for our neighbours and members of our local community.

Switch off when Stationary

If you are a parent who drives to school by car and waits, then please show some consideration to the parents and children in this area by switching your engine off.

Parking Outside School

The safety of all our children is paramount. Thank you to the vast majority of parents that drive safely on the adjoining roads. However, some people who are not driving safely can cause a big disruption to everyone else and, at worst, make things potentially dangerous.

IF YOU LIVE CLOSE TO THE SCHOOL AND ARE TROUBLED BY PEOPLE PARKING INAPPROPRIATELY, PLEASE CONTACT BLACKPOOL COUNCIL TO REGISTER YOUR CONCERNS

Road Safety

A few parents and carers have mentioned their concerns about dangerous driving by our parents and commuters on the approach to, and outside, the school. We remain very concerned about the near misses that are reported to us. We understand the frustrations felt by the school and neighbouring community, as vehicle access to the school site is so restricted. Dangerous incidents witnessed on neighbouring streets and roads - with details - should be reported to the police.

Throughout the year we hold a variety of events to celebrate sustainable travel including Walk to School week, Pedometer Challenge and this year we are running bikeability training.

Moving forward -

We will now be looking into how we can respond as a school and we have identified the following areas:

- Our ECO/School council will become involved in discussions with a Local Authority representative to find out what help we can obtain in relation to making the areas around school safer.
- We intend to organise Road Safety lessons and assemblies in school.
- More publicity for the Park and Stride facility.
- We are still considering the use of the Baron Road entrance to school as this gives a high cause for concern around the children's safety
- We will be exploring the possibility of starting a Walking Bus.

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