



Downs Infant School

Travel Plan December 2018

Our School

Downs Infant School, DFE number 846/2010, is a 4 form entry school situated in the predominantly residential area of Ditchling Road. It is an infant school, catering for children aged 4 to 7. The school currently has 360 on roll.

School details

Address:

Downs Infant School,
Ditchling Road
BN1 6JA
01273 296868
Email: admin@downsinf.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Objectives

Our School Travel Plan is designed to support all members of the Downs Infant School community in helping to increase the number of children and families choosing 'active travel' instead of car journeys. We hope that this plan will provide families and staff with information that will allow our community to appreciate the benefits of active, sustainable transport.

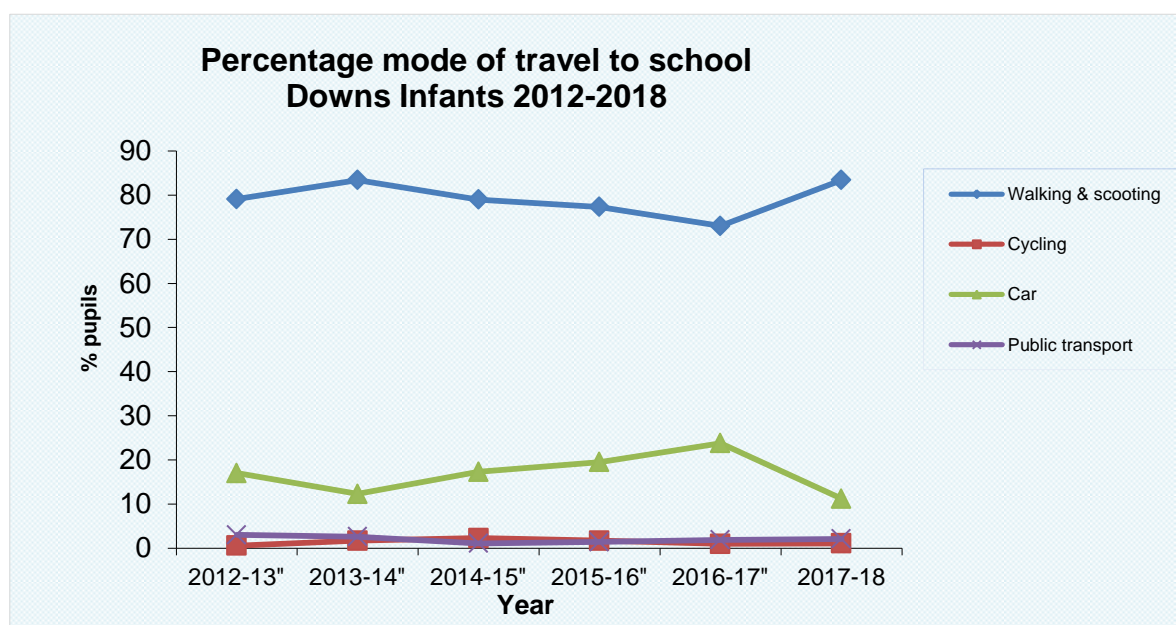
By promoting sustainable and safer travel for our whole school community, we hope to achieve:

- ✓ Less cars, traffic congestion and illegal parking around the school entrance
- ✓ Healthier, happier and more active pupils, families and staff
- ✓ Less pollution around our school
- ✓ Safer walking, scooting and cycling routes to school. All our children have a right to be safe
- ✓ A more accessible school site
- ✓ An increasingly healthy and positive learning community
- ✓ The reduction in the number of children arriving to school by car which will have a positive impact on the environment and carbon emissions.

How do children travel to school?

We participate in an annual travel survey. This is organised and supported by the BHCC, School Travel Team. Over the last few years children have travelled to school in the following ways:

| Mode of Travel 2012-2018 Downs Infants Primary | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Mode of travel % | 2012-13" | 2013-14" | 2014-15" | 2015-16" | 2016-17" | 2017-18" |
| Walking & scooting | 79.1 | 83.4 | 79.0 | 77.3 | 73.0 | 83.4 |
| Cycling | 0.6 | 1.7 | 2.3 | 1.7 | 1.0 | 1.1 |
| Car | 17.0 | 12.3 | 17.3 | 19.5 | 23.8 | 11.2 |
| Public transport | 3.0 | 2.6 | 1.1 | 1.4 | 1.9 | 2.1 |

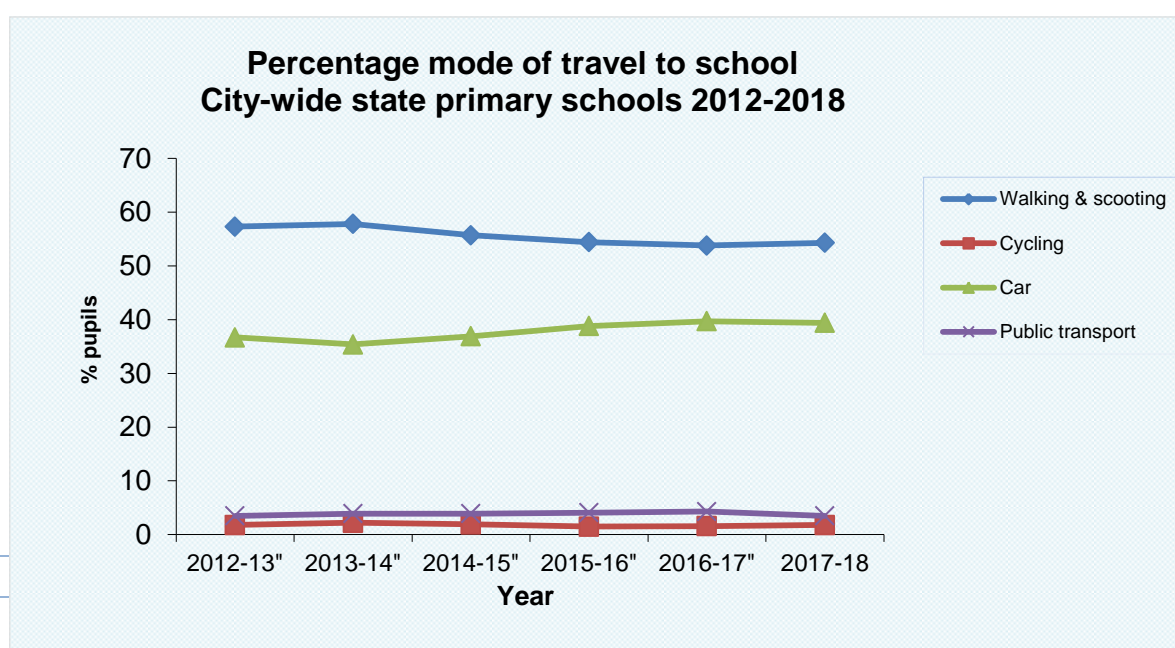


" Data collected from your school by BHCC's School Travel Team Sustainable Mode of Travel Survey
The 'car' figure includes cars, vans, car - sharing and park and stride.

2017-18 Figures may have been affected by snow

This compares favourably with the following which shows ways in which primary school children across Brighton and Hove travelled to school:

| Mode of Travel 2012-2018 City-wide state primary schools | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Mode of travel % | 2012-13" | 2013-14" | 2014-15" | 2015-16" | 2016-17" | 2017-18" |
| Walking & scooting | 57.3 | 57.8 | 55.7 | 54.4 | 53.8 | 54.4 |
| Cycling | 1.8 | 2.2 | 1.9 | 1.5 | 1.6 | 1.8 |
| Car | 36.7 | 35.4 | 36.9 | 38.8 | 39.7 | 39.2 |
| Public transport | 3.5 | 3.9 | 3.9 | 4.1 | 4.3 | 3.6 |



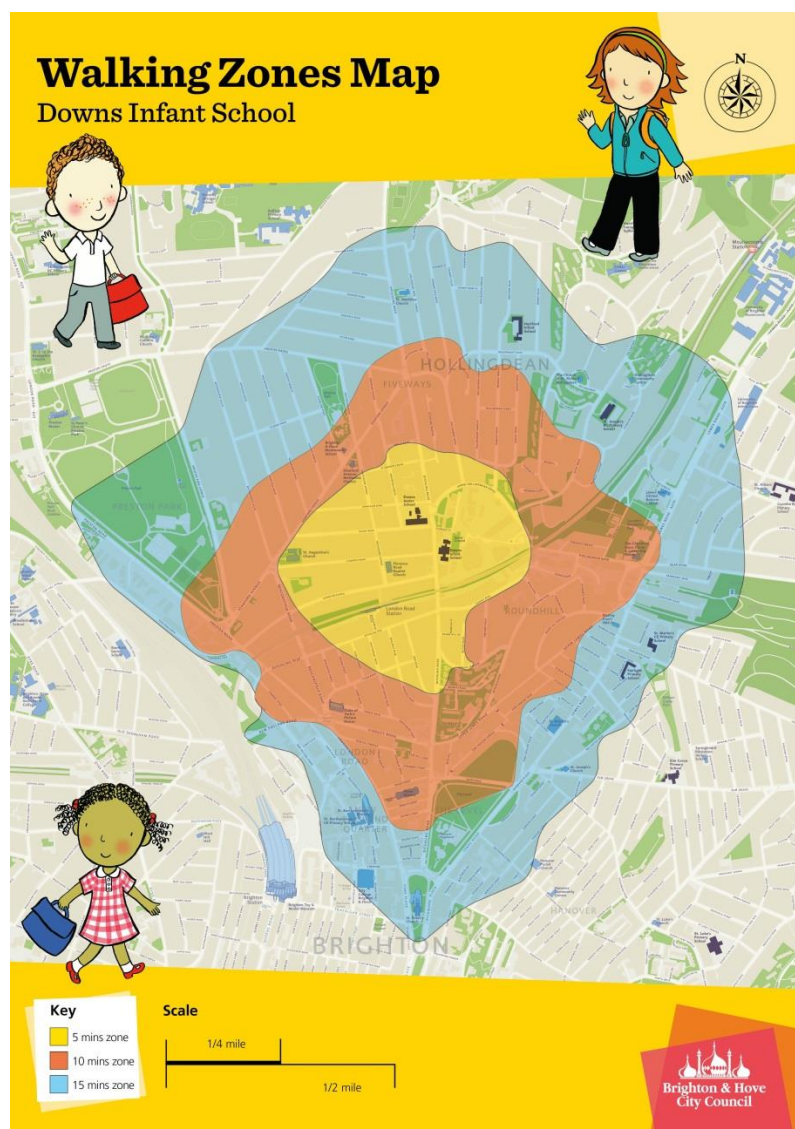
2017-18 Figures may have been affected by snow

Unlike elsewhere in the City, our children have been increasingly travelling to school by walking and scooting. We saw a slight decline in the numbers travelling by public transport between 2013 and 2016, possibly due to the shrinkage of our catchment area during this time. We have a low percentage of pupils travelling by car, however, like many schools, we still have problems caused by cars around the school site.

School Context

Ditchling road is a major road into the centre of Brighton. There are two other schools sited on Ditchling Road itself (Downs Junior School and Varndean Secondary School) as well as Balfour Primary and Dorothy Stringer Secondary nearby. As a result, there is heavy traffic during school drop off and pick up times with a significant amount of pedestrian traffic in the form of pupils walking with parents and carers as well as secondary age pupils walking unaccompanied. It is a major bus route, and is mainly residential with the local shopping centre of Fiveways approximately 800m north of the school site. The school sits across a corner with Florence Place, a cul-de-sac leading to a Jewish Cemetery (disused) and a block of flats as well as the Connected Hub, an educational provision for Secondary children who are not able to be in mainstream education due to their social, emotional and mental health challenges.

There is a covered cycle park to the front of the school for visitors, staff and pupils and a small carpark for deliveries and a small number of staff places. There is an additional scooter storage facility on the upper playground for use by children.



Issues with cars around the school

There is no parent parking on site. There is short-term paid for parking in the streets around the school, however, due to the proximity of Downs Junior School, spaces at drop off and pick up are at a premium. There are residents parking places. There is a pedestrian crossing between the sites of the Junior and Infant schools.

The majority of parents park safely including away from the school site and with consideration of our neighbours, however, we do periodically have complaints from neighbours about poor or illegal parking or abuse. Unfortunately we do have a few anti-social drivers who do not consider the whole community and continue to park illegally on yellow lines, near to junctions or in front of nearby businesses such as the garage next door. Our aim is to make this completely unacceptable as well as to reduce the number of parents' cars near to the school to improve air quality.

What we have done so far this year (at time of review December 2018)

- Signed up for the 'Bike it' project to improve children's and parents' confidence with cycling and develop an interest in cycling as a leisure activity and mode of transport.
- Introduce 'Bike Champions' (children and staff) to encourage cycling and raise the profile of cycling and other healthy ways to travel to school.
- A 'Bike Breakfast'.
- 'Learn to Ride' days in key stage one and the purchase of balance bikes for Reception.
- Put road safety on the School Council agenda.
- Made senior leadership visible on the school gates.
- Held a 'SMILE' event to promote the benefits of walking to school.
- Supported 'Walk to School Week' displaying a banner outside school.
- Publicised ways to report illegal and dangerous driving and parking.
- Sent texts and included reports on parking in the newsletter.
- Taken part in the Brighton and Hove Hands Up Travel Survey.

Downs Infant School Travel Action Plan 2018-19

| Objective 1: Develop, publicise and review school travel plan. Target: All staff and governors, and 60% of the parents questioned are aware of the travel plan. | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| Actions | Person responsible | Timescale | Monitoring |
| Take part in the annual Hands Up Travel Survey and ensure the data is reliable. | Hildi Mitchell | Annually | |
| Include school travel as an item on the School Development Plan. | Hildi Mitchell | From September 2018 | |
| Review the Travel Plan and Action Plan annually. | Hildi Mitchell | From December 2018 | |
| Travel Plan to be published on the school website. | Hildi Mitchell/Andy Croll (Governor) | New website Spring 2019 | |

| Objective 2: Encourage more pupils and their families to walk, cycle or scoot safely to school. Target: To reduce the % of children travelling to school by car to 10% or less. | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Actions | Person responsible | Timescale | Monitoring |
| Take part in 'Walk to School Week' and SMILE. | Hildi Mitchell and Gabby Cornish | Autumn 2018 and May 2019 | SMILE and Autumn Walk to School week done. |
| Bike training for KS1 children. | Gabby Cornish and Lucy Dance | Autumn 2018 and Spring 2019 | Autumn done. |
| Replace old and broken scooter storage. | Hildi Mitchell | Summer 2019 | |
| Work with Bike Champions to promote cycling to school – aim to plan at least one activity per term for families to join in with. | Hildi Mitchell and Gabby Cornish | Autumn 2018 | Autumn bike breakfast completed and was v popular. Bike champions to plan activities for Spring 2 and Summer with Lucy. |
| Purchase balance bikes. | Kirsty Lean | Autumn 2018 | Done |
| Scooter training for all year groups in Spring/Summer Term. | Year leaders | Spring and Summer | |

| Objective 3: Promote safe and legal parking outside school. | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Target: Reduce the number of incidents reported to the headteacher by neighbours, staff and parents to less than 2 per term. | | | |
| Actions | Person responsible | Timescale | Monitoring |
| Promote considerate parking through the school newsletter and other correspondence with parents and carers. | Hildi Mitchell | Ongoing | |
| Continue to challenge illegal or inconsiderate parking on an individual basis. | All Senior Leadership Team | Ongoing | |
| Use good parking resources to promote good parking. Children to design their own and turn them into banners. | Hildi Mitchell and school council | Spring/Summer 2019 | |
| Publicise ways that the public can report dangerous parking. | Hildi Mitchell and office team | Autumn 2018 | |
| Use A boards outside school with school council volunteers. | Hildi Mitchell and school council. | Summer 2019 | |
| Reduce the numbers of cars near the school by promoting parking further away and walking. | Hildi Mitchell and Bike It Champions. | Autumn 2018 and ongoing. | |
| 'Pupil Power' actions by the school council: Parking promise to be designed and rolled out/badges to indicate positive parking etc. | Hildi Mitchell and Gabby Cornish | Spring and Summer 2018 | |

Useful Websites and Links

Reporting dangerous driving and parking

<https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/parking-and-travel/parking/report-it-parking>

<http://www.operationcrackdown.org>

Road safety

<https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/parking-and-travel/travel-transport-and-road-safety/road-safety>

Public transport

<https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/parking-and-travel/travel-transport-and-road-safety/public-transport>

Sustainable Travel for Schools

<https://www.sustrans.org.uk/taxonomy/term/127>

For more information about this travel plan, please see the headteacher.