

# Stokes Wood Primary School Sustainable Travel Plan

June 2023



*What we do today, matters tomorrow.*

# Stokes Wood Primary School Travel Plan

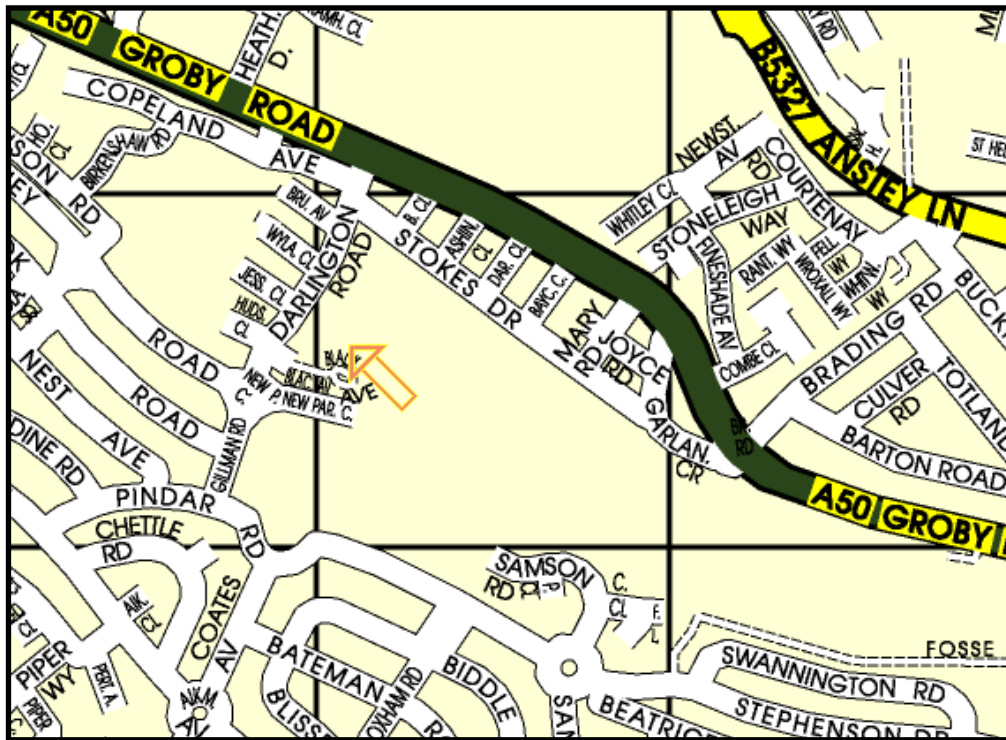
**Version of travel plan:**

**Date:** June 2023

**Type of school:** Primary

**School address:** Blackett Avenue, Leicester LE3 9BX

**Location of the school:** Stokes Wood Primary is a suburban school situated in the New Parks area of Leicester, approximately 2km west of the city centre.



*The location of Stokes Wood Primary is marked by an orange arrow*

**Number of pupils:** 480

**Age range of pupils:** 3 to 11 years

**Number of staff:** 80

**Contacts for the school travel plan:***School contact:*

Jane Gadsby  
Head Teacher  
c/o Stokes Wood Primary (address as above)  
Tel: 0116 287 5305 (school)  
Email: [jgadsby@stokeswood.leicester.sch.uk](mailto:jgadsby@stokeswood.leicester.sch.uk)

Grahame Smith  
Site Manager  
As above  
Email: [gsmith@stokeswood.leicester.sch.uk](mailto:gsmith@stokeswood.leicester.sch.uk)

**The key objectives of the travel plan are:**

To reduce the proportion of pupils making school journeys by car  
To increase the proportion of pupils walking, scooting and cycling for school journeys  
To improve road safety in the vicinity of the school

**The benefits of the travel plan will include:**

Improvements in pupils' health and fitness  
Enhanced pupil independence and social development  
An opportunity for pupils to learn road safety skills  
A chance for pupils to get to know their local environment better  
Environmental improvements around the school  
Reducing air pollution.

Since January 2011 projects have been undertaken annually to promote walking, scooting and cycling to school as well to encourage parents to park more safely and use appropriate seat belts/ car seats for themselves and their children.

This has been done through various schemes : the Star Walker Project, WOW and more recently, Sustrans activities and incentives. These involve pupils thinking about how they could encourage their parents to park safely, a little further away to allow some walking and safe places to park, as well as encouraging more children to walk, cycle and scoot on a daily basis, not only to school but for other journeys too. Year 6 pupils take part in Bike-ability training each year, other year groups take part in cycling events, balancability and community walks which include safety aspects when walking along roads as a pedestrian. School council members promote all these activities in assemblies. Clean Air Day is also celebrated through assemblies.

**Brief description of the current situation**

The school was built to serve the 'Stokes Wood' neighbourhood of the New Parks area of Leicester. The school draws the majority of its children from the New Parks Council Estate. In addition, children from the adjacent private housing and from the Heathley Park housing estate attend the school. There are also a number of children who travel a greater distance, either from choice or because their local schools are full.

The busy A50 Groby Road runs a few hundred metres to the north of the school grounds. Pupils from the Heathley Park estate need to cross this dual carriageway, if they do not travel by car. The A50 has very poor pedestrian crossing facilities in the vicinity of Stokes Wood.

There are two entrances to the school grounds, both off Darlington Road. The main one, Blackett Avenue, at the brow of a fairly steep incline on Darlington Road, provides both pedestrian and vehicular access. Once through the school gates, this road descends a slope and terminates with a roundabout outside the school buildings. For added security, the gates are now controlled from the office. During the busiest times at the beginning and the end of the school day, the school gates are closed to vehicles unless it is an emergency. No vehicles can access the grounds between 8.30am and 9.00am and between 3pm and 3.30pm. This is adhered to 99% of the time. The other access is solely for pedestrians, and is located further north on Darlington Road, opposite Wylam Close, with a surfaced path linking it to the school buildings.

There is no access to New Parks Crescent and to the estate at the top of Darlington Road to prevent motorists using it as a rat-run, or an escape route onto the A50. However this means motorists, unfamiliar with this find themselves having to turn round opposite the school gates which can cause additional congestion and possible issues at busy times. There have been incidents of damage and vandalism to parked vehicles owing to space constraints and frustration. More frequently it is the parents' vehicles parked in the vicinity of Stokes Wood Primary which annoy local residents as inconsiderate parents can park across driveways.

The school has a 35 space car park for staff and visitors. The school has a CCTV surveillance cameras to dissuade local youths from coming onto the school grounds and therefore keeping vandalism, theft, arson and break ins to the bare minimum.

Parks Primary, is situated no more than a few hundred metres from Stokes Wood, and both schools share a number of common problems. When considering solutions and measures to be taken to address issues of road safety, it is appropriate to consider them in a way which would have benefit for both schools.

Generally, parents choose a method of travel to school which is convenient, takes least time and is safe. Parents know that walking or cycling in preference to travelling by car is preferable and more healthy, but do not always chose these due to the other stated considerations.

### **Measures to promote walking or cycling for school journeys**

- Regular weekly focus weeks on walking and wheeling to school with incentives and prizes.

- Walking bus which picks up vulnerable children to improve punctuality and attendance.
- Continue work with the community police in encouraging safe and considerate parking, through the school newsletter.
- Continue with pedestrian training when on community walks.
- Continue with annual Year 6 cycle training
- Continue with the Sustrans project.
- Remind parents of safe places to park a short distance from the school to encourage park and stride through pupil produced posters and newsletters. Put these on the school website.
- Add questions to the annual school surveys to ascertain parents' and pupils' opinions on how we can further promote walking or cycling to school and make it easier for families to walk.
- Elect Junior Road Safety Officers as members of the School Council.
- Apply for available funding to construct child friendly bollards to prevent parents parking on the pavement.

### **Other measures to promote walking and cycling among pupils**

To support the initiatives by the school to encourage walking and cycling for school journeys, improvements to the wider physical environment – such as pedestrian/cycle crossings, traffic speed reduction features, new and improved routes, etc – may be necessary. These will need to be considered by Leicester City Council, which has primary responsibility for implementing such measures. The extent to which the City Council is able to meet the needs and expectations of Stokes Wood Primary will depend on the availability of resources, spending priorities and, to some extent, the level of commitment to the travel plan process demonstrated by the school.

- Zebra crossing at the bottom of the hill, on Darlington Road, by the small gate.
- Speed reduction measures in the vicinity of Stokes Wood Primary. (20 miles an hour limit/speed bumps.)
- Create a more pleasant and attractive physical environment for walking.
- Enforce parking restrictions around Stokes Wood Primary access gates.
- Create a more pedestrian-friendly layout around the Blakett Avenue school access gates.
- Tackle footway parking, which is prevalent throughout the local neighbourhood.
- The school improvement plan should also include reference to the school's travel plan objectives.
- As the school population is continually changing, reference should be made to the aims of the School Travel Plan in the School Prospectus and the Department handbooks as well as on the school website.

### **Monitoring progress**

- Add several questions to the annual school survey to monitor issues about travel to school.
- Assess whether progress is being made towards increasing the % of pupils walking or cycling to school and ascertain the continuing or new barriers.
- If/when targets are attained, review the need for new – perhaps more challenging – targets.
- Inform parents of the progress towards travel plan targets through survey feedback summaries and the school newsletter which will also be placed on the school website.
- The travel plan should be updated annually.