Robert Bloomfield Academy

School Travel plan

Current Version	September 2026
Minor changes made	
Significant changes made	
Ratified	
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Author	J Linehan, Principal

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ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

School Name: Robert Bloomfield Academy

Address: Bloomfield Drive, Shefford, Bedfordshire, SG17 5BU

Number of Students: 977

Number of Staff: 123

School Hours: 8.50am – 3.30pm

Principal: John Linehan

Travel Coordinator: Tracey Watson

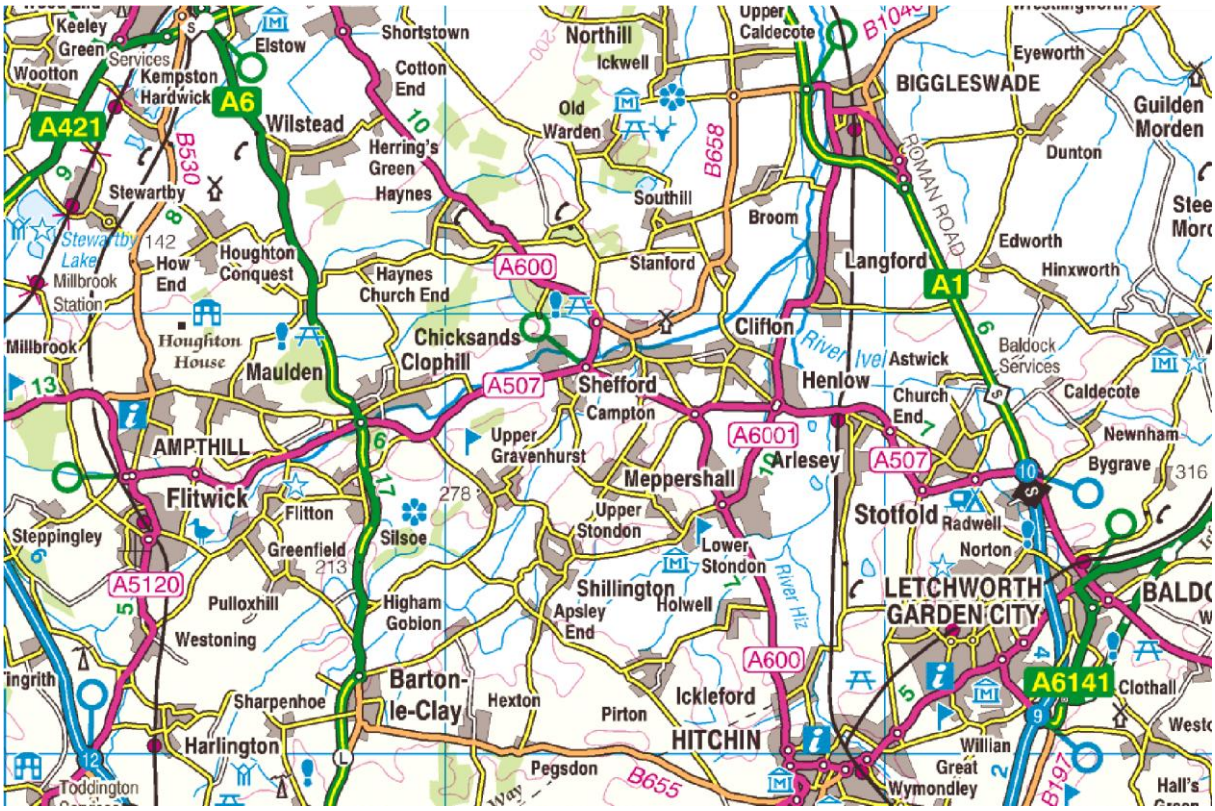
Telephone Number: 01462 628800

Email: RBA-Enquiries@Bestacademies.org.uk

Website: www.robertbloomfield.beds.sch.uk

Location:

The School is located on a residential road where the speed limit is 30 mph. It is close to the T-junction with Ampthill Road which brings additional dangers to the area. There are footpaths to the school which are in reasonable repair. There is a pedestrian footway along one side of the entrance to school which is also used by Shefford Lower School and one along the front of the school. Outside the entrance to the school there are zig-zags painted on the road to discourage parking immediately adjacent to the school entrance. There is also a drop off zone, but unfortunately this is often parked in. There are "No Stopping" signs between 8am and 4.30pm outside school and on one side of Bloomfield Drive leading down towards Ampthill Road.



School Location

Robert Bloomfield Academy is a purpose built middle school situated in Shefford serving the town and surrounding villages. The students are aged 9 to 13, we share the same site as Shefford Lower School. Currently we have 962 students on roll. The school was constructed in 1938. The popularity of the school has increased. Students and staff travel from a wide area of surrounding villages. A number of parents tend to use their cars to transport their children at both ends of the day due to a number of factors such as distance, time of day, multiple school pick ups, split families or work issues.

A vast majority of our students travel to school on one of 8 scheduled bus routes.

THE PLAN

Our aim is:

- To understand the existing travel patterns of our students
- To increase the number of journey's to and from school using a sustainable mode of travel

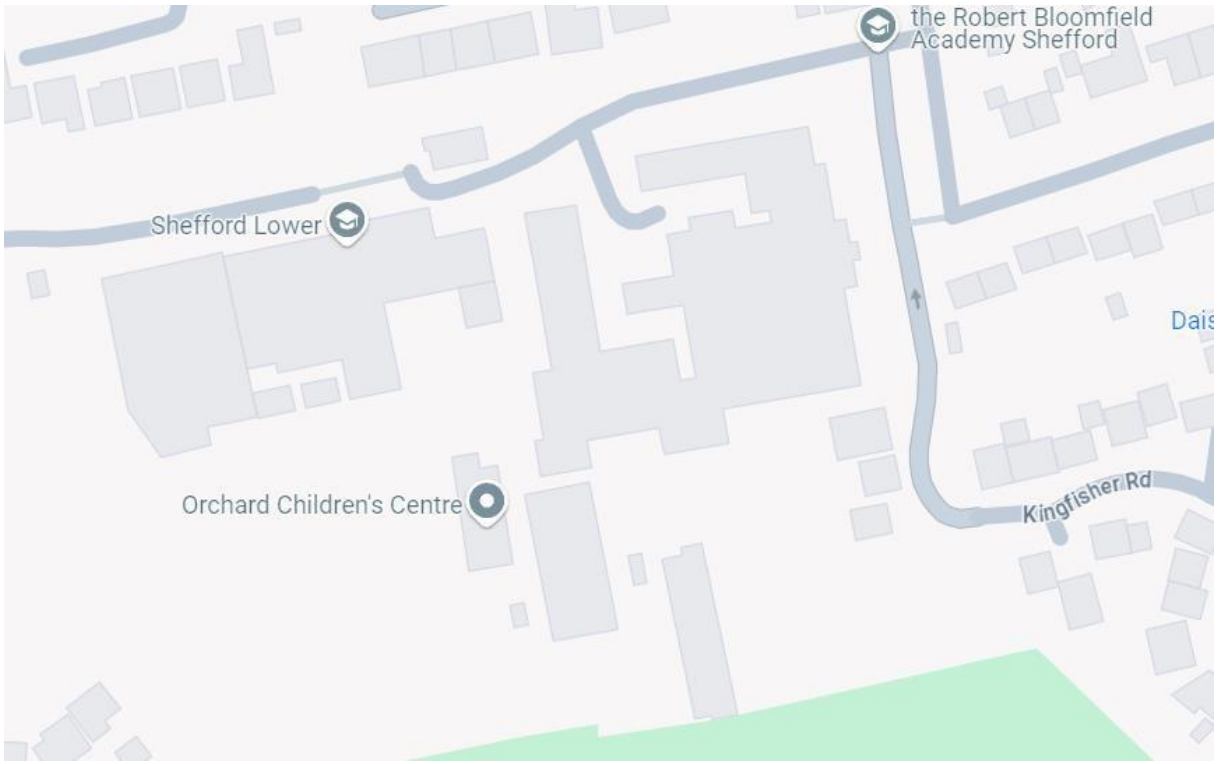
The objectives of this plan:

- To reduce the number of cars parked on the surrounding roads at the start and end of the school day
- To increase the number of students walking / scooting / cycling to school where possible

How can these objectives be achieved?

- Encourage car sharing through Parent / Staff communications
- To promote park and stride
- Promote physical activity for better health and well-being
- To encourage students to take part in Bikeability courses run at the school
- Encourage students and staff to use sustainable travel methods
- Work with parents, local authorities, and transport services to improve travel options
- To take annual travel surveys from staff and students

The School Travel Plan provides Robert Bloomfield Academy the opportunity to work closely with our feeder lower school, Shefford Lower, based on the same site, to look at issues that affect our children and to look at any travel problems and the local school community.

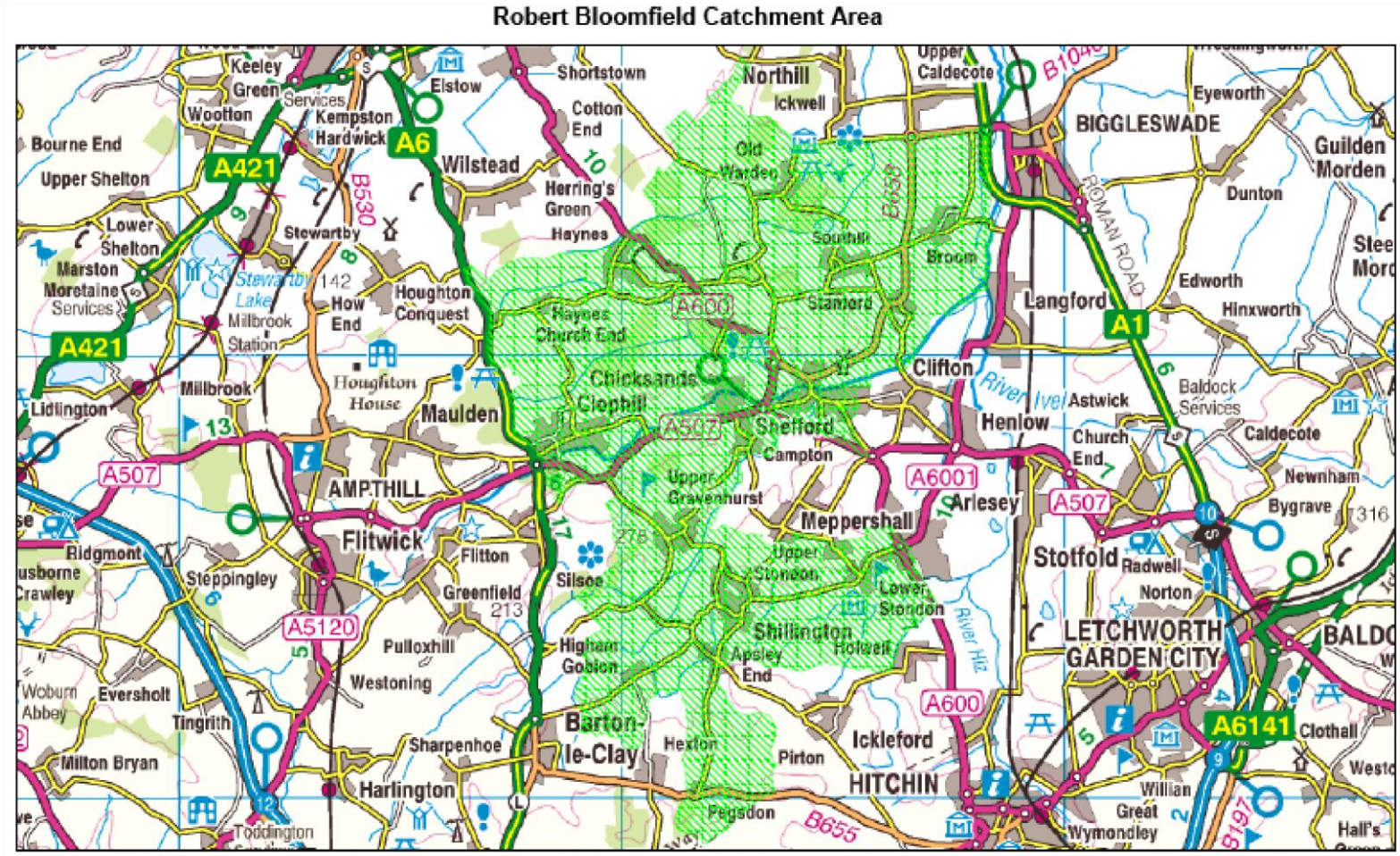


Site

Catchment Area:

Our catchment area extends from the village of Haynes to the North, Lower Stondon to the South, Clophill to the West and to Broom in the East. This includes several other villages such as Campton, Shillington, Southill and Stanford.

The area the school catchment covers is predominantly rural. There are several school buses which transport students from Wilstead, Cotton End, Haynes, Clophill, Shillington, Stanford, Broom, Southill, Old Warden, Stondon, Chicksands, Gravenhurst, Meppershall and Campton.



Catchment Area

Home location of students:
Children come from a wide area – many outside the catchment area.

The number that come from outside the catchment is increasing and is over a wide distance and the students can only get to the school by car or a paid for bus service.

Numbers on roll:
There are currently 977 students on roll (September 2026)

Facilities on Site:
The school is used for outside activities such as Gymnastics clubs, Trampolining clubs, MUGA facilities are used weekdays between 4pm and 10pm and Shefford Saints FC use the site every weekend. The school runs an extensive range of extra curricular activities which take place before and after school. These clubs involve parents dropping off and collecting their children from the site, mostly by car.

School Hours:
The school day starts at 8.50 am and finishes at 3.30 pm, although many children arrive well before this time for Clubs or for social interaction with their friends. Breakfast club starts at 8.00am and after school clubs usually run until 4.30pm. Staff arrive anytime from 7.30am and generally leave by 6pm.

CAR PARKING

The school has some limited car parking for visitors and staff of RBA. The speed limit is 5mph in the school car park. We have 1 disabled bay and 3 visitor bays. Most visitors have to park on Bloomfield Drive or George street due to our limited amount of parking spaces. The bus lane is used exclusively by school buses from 8.20am – 9am and 3pm – 4pm. Cars can park here outside of these hours. Shefford Lower School also use our bus lane for pick up and drop off for school trips as there isn't anywhere that is safe near Shefford Lower school to do this.

During large school events one or both of the school's playgrounds are used for car-parking. Visitors are able to use the school parking facilities for events outside school hours. Currently we have cycle parking for up to 14 bikes. We can park 108 scooters in the pods supplied by CBC. Students lock their helmets to their bikes when parked.

We currently have no facilities for charging electric vehicles. This is something that we are looking into for the future.

ACCESS

Pedestrian access is available via Bloomfield Drive, George Street and Kingfisher Road. There is pedestrian access for Shefford Lower School at the side of our car park.

There is an unpatrolled Zebra crossing on Ampthill Road.

TRANSPORT LINKS

The main roads through Shefford are the B507 and B568. These two roads are the main routes to Sandy, Bedford and Henlow. The A507 bypasses Shefford to the West and provides access to the A1(M). The town of Shefford is used as a through route to Sandy, Clifton and to the A1. Shefford is a vibrant community with numerous small businesses, two Supermarkets and a small industrial estate. As a result, the roads are busy at peak times and a large number of heavy goods vehicles use the local routes along with farm traffic.

The local bus service stops on Ampthill road and some students use this public service.

https://bustimes.org/localities/shefford

The nearest train station is at Arlesey.

https://www.greatnorthernrail.com/travel-information/plan-your-journey

The school is also served by 7 CBC organised bus routes, 1 “pay as you go” bus organised by SWA and 2 council organised taxis.

CURRENT SITUATION

The vast majority of children at our school catch the bus to school. The rest live locally and can walk or use bikes/scooters to get to and from school. This is highly encouraged. However, there are a considerable number of children who are driven to school for a variety of different reasons.

We do offer Bikeability courses to our Year 5’s every year.

The car drivers who bring children to school vary in their approach to safety and there is often congestion around Bloomfield Drive and George Street. There is no onsite parking at the school for parents. Parents sometimes use the old bus bays at the front of the school and the grass verges along Bloomfield Drive for parking. Despite letters/newsletters, Police patrols and surveys, parents still park in these areas, adding to the hazards to students and staff leaving the school premises. Shefford Lower parents also park outside Robert Bloomfield as there is no parking near the Lower School.

We do regularly promote car sharing to staff and families. We also ask them to park further away where possible and walk a short distance into school. There are several suitable locations in Shefford

where students can be dropped off to walk into school such as Morrisons or Co-Op car park, outside Lemon Plaice fish and chip shop or in the surrounding streets.

We communicate and encourage this via Bromcom, Facebook and in our Newsletters.

Parking is at a premium and with the distance (over fifteen miles in many cases) and quantity of material brought into school necessitates car use by staff. Few staff live locally.

We have a web site page full of travel information. You can access this by following the link below.
https://www.robertbloomfield.beds.sch.uk/rba-life/transport-to-school

Based on a recent travel survey, this is a summary of how our students travel to school:

- **Walking:** Over 20% walk to school
- **School Transport:** Over 38% travel on the school bus
- **Cycling:** Over 15% use bicycles or scooters
- **Public Transport:** Less than 1% use public buses/trains
- **Car:** Over 12% are driven by parents
- **Car Sharing:** Over 1% share rides with others
- **Park and Stride:** Over 9% park further away and walk into school

TRAFFIC INCIDENTS

Fortunately, any serious incidents which involve travelling to or from school are few and far between. The school is in constant contact with families and regularly remind them how journeys can be made safer. Traffic wardens do not patrol the area.

SEN/DISABLED TRANSPORT NEEDS

There is one designated area for SEN/disabled parking for parents and staff.

Some patrolling of Bloomfield Drive and George Street takes place by the Senior Leadership Team at Robert Bloomfield at the beginning and end of the school day. This is very limited as staff are needed to control the students getting on and off the buses.

JOURNEYS MADE DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

Students make a number of trips off site as part of the curriculum or for sporting fixtures against other schools. When visiting local sites like the church, market square or for swimming lessons, students walk in pairs supervised by the teachers or volunteer helpers.

Coach access to the site is made easier by the bus lane. Buses enter the bus lane via Kingfisher Road. There are 2 “No Parking” signs in the Bus Lane.

ROUTES TO SCHOOL

In compiling the Robert Bloomfield School Travel Plan, the main routes which pedestrians use to access the school have been identified. In doing this, there are several areas that have been identified as ‘hot spots’ where people find it difficult or perceive the location as dangerous.

‘Hot Spots’

1. Ampthill Road Pedestrian crossing
2. Crossing Ampthill Road near the Fish and Chip shop
3. Bloomfield Drive
4. George Street / New Street
5. Crossing the A507 at the roundabout
6. Kingfisher Road estate

INFORMATION AND LINKS TO TRAVEL INITIATIVES

All the information below can be found on our RBA website
https://www.robertbloomfield.beds.sch.uk/rba-life/transport-to-school

For more information about Central Bedfordshire Council's Liftshare scheme, click here...

https://liftshare.com/uk/community/travelchoicescbc

A free online public transport journey planner along with public bus and train timetable information, can be found here https://www.traveline.info/

Details of National cycle routes and a cycle route planner can be found here

https://www.sustrans.org.uk/ https://www.cyclestreets.net/

RBA run Bikeability courses every year for Year 5 students and encourage walking or cycling / scooting to school where possible.

Central Bedfordshire Travel Choices website has lots of useful information on:

- Health and well-being benefits of walking / cycling
- Organised health walks
- Walking / Cycling guides
- Bus maps
- Cycle clubs
- The Cycle to Work scheme

The CBC website can be found here:

https://www.cbtravelchoices.co.uk/

MONITORING AND REVIEW

We will evaluate the effectiveness of the plan by:

- ✔ Conducting annual travel surveys
- ✔ Collecting feedback from parents, students, and staff
- ✔ Updating the plan based on results and feedback

CONCLUSION

By implementing this School Travel Plan, we aim to create a safer, healthier, and more sustainable travel environment for everyone in the Robert Bloomfield community.

ACTION PLAN

Proposed action	Description of the action	Action to be completed by (name)	Proposed completion date
Travel Plan Co-ordinator	Appoint a Travel Plan Coordinator. Include contact details.	Tracey Watson	September each year
School Travel Survey	Complete 'Hands Up' school travel survey and send to CBC.	Tracey Watson	September each year
Marketing / publicity	Complete the School Travel Information webpage. Make available to parents via website/ newsletters/ emails.	Tracey Watson	September each year
Modeshift STARS	Sign up to Modeshift STARS. Fill in details of any sustainable travel initiatives that have already been completed (refer to Modeshift STARS Education Initiatives).	Tracey Watson	In place
Modeshift STARS	Modeshift STARS initiative number C22 Bikeabilty Level 2 Sessions	Tracey Watson	Year 6's every June
Modeshift STARS	Modeshift STARS initiative number PR13 Travel Information on RBA website	Tracey Watson	Updated as required
Modeshift STARS	Modeshift STARS initiative number P14 & P5 Mayor / Beds PCC Visits	Tracey Watson	Twice yearly visits to RBA
Modeshift STARS	Modeshift STARS initiative number W12 Extra scooter storage installed to encourage students to scoot to school	Tracey Watson	Installed January 2025
Modeshift STARS	Modeshift STARS initiative number W10 Walking Bus in place for trips within the town of Shefford / Clifton	RBA Staff	Continuous
Modeshift STARS	Modeshift STARS initiative number P6 School has achieved Eco School Status 24/25	Tracey Watson	Annually

Modeshift STARS	Modeshift STARS initiative number PR6 School has an active Travel Policy	Tracey Watson	Annually
Modeshift STARS	Modeshift STARS initiative number PT3 & PT10 School promotes responsible behaviour / has a bus behaviour policy / has an anti bullying policy – School transport behaviour is within our behaviour policy	Tracey Watson	Updated Annually
Modeshift STARS	Modeshift STARS initiative number PR1 Travel to school initiatives will be shared with our community through our Newsletters	Tracey Watson	Termly
Modeshift STARS	Modeshift STARS initiative number PR15 Our new Prospectus for 25/26 will contain Travel to school Initiatives	Tracey Watson	Annually
Modeshift STARS	Modeshift STARS initiative number PT1 Public Transport used for school trips	Tracey Watson	Annually
Modeshift STARS	Modeshift STARS initiative number PT4 Private coaches for school trips pick up and set down in safe / accessible places	Tracey Watson	Annually
Modeshift STARS	Modeshift STARS initiative number AQ1 School promotes car sharing to staff and via Newsletters to families	Tracey Watson	Annually
Modeshift STARS	Modeshift STARS initiative number R9 Road Safety Assembly	Tracey Watson	Annually
Modeshift STARS	Modeshift STARS initiative number R18 Road Safety day / week is included as part of our PSHE curriculum	Tracey Watson	Annually
Modeshift STARS	Modeshift STARS initiative number W6 Walk to school week – part of our climate action plan	Tracey Watson	Annually

Modeshift STARS	Modeshift STARS initiative number CU2 School teaches the health benefits of safe / active travel – this is part of our Vitality value	Tracey Watson	Annually
Modeshift STARS	Modeshift STARS initiative number CU3 School teaches the environmental benefits of active travel	Tracey Watson	Annually
Modeshift STARS	Modeshift STARS initiative number PR9 School promotes travel and environmental initiatives in year group assemblies throughout the year	Tracey Watson	Termly
Modeshift STARS	Modeshift STARS initiative number PR18 Transition activities - promotes travel and environmental initiatives during transition days	Tracey Watson	Annually
School Travel Plan Review	Agree the date for an annual School Travel Plan review with key stakeholders	Tracey Watson	Annually

APPENDIX A

September 2026 Travel to School Survey results – Students and Staff.

	Walk	Cycle	Scoot/ skate	Public bus	School bus	Park & stride	Train	Car share	Car
Nursery									
Reception									
Year 1									
Year 2									
Year 3									
Year 4									
Year 5	55	3	29	3	88	36	0	5	22
Year 6	61	13	25	2	91	15	0	3	28
Year 7	34	4	36	0	92	17	0	4	36
Year 8	38	18	20	3	87	18	0	4	31
Year 9									
Year 10									
Year 11									
Year 12									
Year 13									
Total	**188**	**38**	**110**	**8**	**358**	**86**	**0**	**16**	**117**
Overall pupil total									921
Percentage	20.41%	4.13%	11.94%	0.87%	38.87%	9.34%	0.00%	1.74%	12.70%

	Walk	Cycle	Public bus	Park and stride	Train	Car share	Car
Staff	7	2	0	0	0	2	60
							71