

# Overton Grange School

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## School Travel Plan 2006-7

# Introduction to the School Travel Plan

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A School Travel Plan (STP) is a working document that sets out the measures that Overton Grange School will use to promote walking, cycling and the use of public transport to get to school. This will also hopefully reduce the amount of private car usage.

These measures will be based on the research carried out during the year and on an annual basis thereafter. It has included surveys of parents, staff and students about the issues that they have encountered with travel and road safety near to the school. Obviously training and raising an awareness of the issues involved will become an inherent part of this process.

We hope that by doing this we, as a school, will make some steps to improve the way in which all our members think about travel.

K Nicholas  
Jan 2007

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## What should a STP contain?

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In accordance with the Travelling To School Initiative that the DfT/DfES are funding, the school travel plan must contain a number of criteria:

- A brief description of the location, size and type of school;
- A brief description of the travel and transport problems faced by the school. This information must include travelling to and from school, extra curricular events and travel to events at other locations.
- The results of a survey that show:
  - how students currently travel to and from school
  - how they would like to travel to school
  - what things they feel they need to support them in travelling the way that they would like to.
- Clearly defined SMART targets and objectives
- Details of proposed measures
- A detailed timetable for implementation
- Clearly defined responsibilities
- Evidence of consultation with all interested parties
- Proposals for monitoring and review

## School Background: Overton Grange School

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- A brief description of the location, size and type of school;

### Overton Grange School Statistics:

Postal Address:	Stanley Road Sutton Surrey SM2 6TQ
Type of School:	Non Selective State Secondary School
Age Range of Pupils:	11-18
Total Number of Pupils on Roll	1285
DfES School Reference Number:	319/4019

Overton Grange School is a mixed comprehensive school situated in a residential area on the outskirts of the London Borough of Sutton and is in close proximity to both Merton, Surrey and Reigate and Banstead Boroughs.

We are fortunate that as a new build school (having opened in 1997) we are on a single site. This means that there is limited travel during the school day off of our site with the exception of school visits and off site PE for Year 11 students.

The school is located in the corner of Stanley Road and Ventnor Road which is a residential area with limited on street parking. The parking that is available on the whole within a large radius is for permit holders or pay and display users only. Ventnor Road is a one-way road and also a bridge over the railway.

Within the school there are currently:

- cycle storage areas
- Over 100 car parking spaces for staff and visitors
- 2 parking for disabled visitor spaces
- 2 school minibuses
- Lockers for each student which is used to reduce books carried to and from school.

We have good transport links in the area for students to use including:

- Mainline railway station 0.5 miles away (approx 7 minute walk)
- Good bus links from all areas - provided by Quality Line and London United.
- Cycle Paths

The school catchment area within the year 2006/7 currently stands at 2.3 miles.

The school day is as follows:

8.15am	Students allowed in premises
8.25am	Registration
8.30am	Period 1
9.30am	Changeover
9.35am	Period 2
10.35am	Break
10.55am	Period 3
11.55am	Changeover
12.00pm	Period 4
1.00pm	Lunch
1.45pm	Tutor Time / Assembly
2.05pm	Period 5
3.05pm	Dismissal

The school holds a large number of clubs after school which are held from 3.05 until 4.30pm. Not all activities fill this whole time but a portion of it. Activities do not usually take place on a Monday evening as this is the usual staff meeting day. Basketball group is held before school at 7.15am but at present this is the only pre-school activity.

The governors and Senior Team are currently looking into the 'Extended School' provision which will in turn have an effect on the School Travel Plan.

The school pro actively promotes students and parents to use sustainable travel to school which over the past few years has seen some increases, however there is still more work to do.

The school has seen a steady increase in out of hours use by external groups. The buildings are now used in the evenings and weekends on a regular basis. This in turn creates another area where Travel becomes and issue.

The school has recently been awarded Investors in People status, Sportsmark Award and a Healthy Schools Status.



## Current Travel Situation

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- A brief description of the travel and transport problems faced by the school. This information must include travelling to and from school, extra curricular events and travel to events at other locations.

Currently the students at Overton Grange travel to school by 2 main methods - namely Walking or by Car. Only a limited number cycle or use public transport. This situation is even worse within the staff where approximately 90% travel by car.

It is essential that as a school we are promoting the reduction of travel using cars (unless car sharing is evident) and increase the use of sustainable transport - namely cycles and walking. In order to do this the profile of these must be raised with students and better facilities available for them to do so. We also must alleviate the fears of parents with regard to the safety of their children when travelling to school on their own.

As a school we have a strong Special Educational Needs department and Hearing Support Department. Students from within these areas are often provided with a taxi service to bring them to and from school. This service is provided by the London Borough of Sutton and surrounding Educational Authorities where our students travel from.

The benefit of being a new school is the single site that we work on. This requires little travel during the school day as our playing field facilities are located adjacent to the school and require a short walk.

With the increase of the 14-19 curriculum there have been links made with other organisations such as the building bridges programme and Carshalton College who offer vocational courses for our students. This does require movement between sites which currently takes place using cars and the school owned minibus.

As a school we pride ourselves with the wide variety of visits that we offer to our students both locally, nationally and internationally. The transport used for these trips has included:

- Walking - such as D&T trip to Sutton etc
- Minibus - Carshalton College
- Coach - Osmington Bay trip to Dorset, Visits to Higher Education conferences
- Train - Science Museum in London
- Eurotunnel - Day trip to Boulogne in France
- Aeroplane - New York conference

The school is actively promoting the national 'Healthy Schools' programme and has recently received accreditation until 2010. As a result we have looked carefully at the way in which our students are dealt with whilst in our care. We offer a wide PE curriculum, healthy food, a clean and safe environment and now we must be focussing

on the way that travel can make them 'healthier' as well as the environment in which they live, work and play.

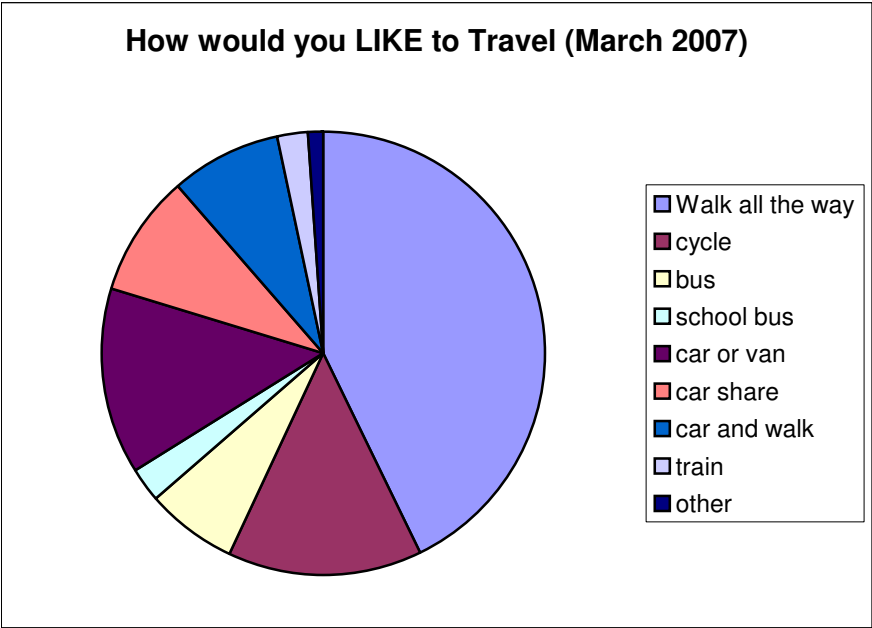
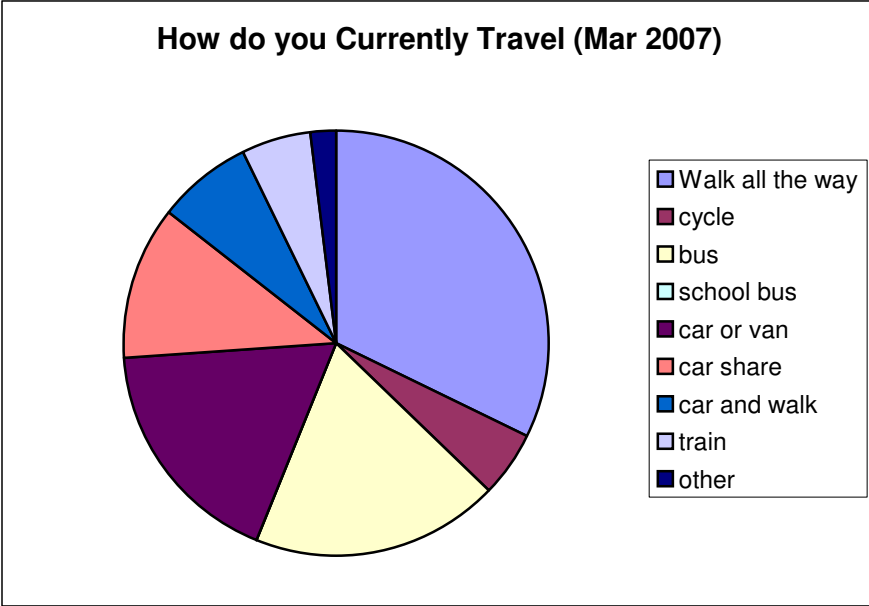
The school ethos is that in partnership with parents and the community, Overton Grange aims to provide opportunities for its students that enables them to play an active and positive role in the twenty-first century. As members of a co-educational comprehensive school, students have full access to and experience of the curriculum regardless of race, class, gender, physical ability and religious belief.

We currently promote students to travel to school through walking and public transport however we are not very pro-active at doing so. This is an area which really must take priority in the coming months.

# Travel Survey Results

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- The results of a survey that show:
  - how students currently travel to and from school
  - how they would like to travel to school
  - what things they feel they need to support them in travelling the way that they would like to.



## Action Plan

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### Objective 1:

**Improve Health and Safety for students, staff and visitors travelling to and from the school and increase awareness of environmental responsibility.**

It is evident from the student responses that cycling to school is a method of transport that the students are keen to complete.

Unfortunately the percentage of students that are actually cycling to school is particularly low (5%).

Following a discussion with the 'School Council' and a number of student representatives the main facts that are affecting this number are:

- Poor state of cycle sheds - currently the cycle sheds were fitted in 1997 and over the years have seen a deterioration in their quality. The fencing around the storage area does not allow students to feel that their cycles are safe.
- The trees above the cycle sheds often drop branches and leaves leaving the roof damaged and paving area slippery.
- Lighting - In the winter the cycle sheds are very dark and students do not feel safe using them.
- Damage or Theft of cycles - There have in the past been a number of cycles damaged or stolen in the current cycle sheds. Often students are very proud of their cycles but do not want to risk the cycles being damaged or stolen. The cycle sheds would benefit from increased CCTV coverage.
- Danger of Accidents when travelling to school - some parents do not allow their children to cycle to school due to the risk of accidents. Also some students do not feel safe travelling to school themselves.

In order to rectify these problems the school will need to do the following:

- Replace the existing cycle sheds - to increase number of cycles stored and fencing around them.
- Remove the trees from around the cycle sheds - this would prevent damage and the paving areas.
- Improve lighting - both lighting in the sheds and around the general area.
- Improve CCTV coverage and general visibility - this would also require the compactor to be moved from in front of these cycle sheds.
- Improve cycle safety - ensure that the new students from primary schools have had sufficient cycle training and that those from schools that do not offer it have an opportunity to do so during the summer before they begin in Sept. Also to ensure that those who are currently in school can be given the opportunity for such training to be given.

## Action Plan

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### Objective 2:

#### Improve facilities for walkers and cyclists

In order to improve the number of students, staff and visitors who cycle or walk to Overton Grange school we need to carefully look at the facilities that are available to them.

The main facts that are affecting this number are:

- Early arrival to school for students ensures a positive approach to learning however when weather is inclement then there is little space provided for students to arrive any earlier than 8.15am (the time at which they can enter the building).
- Staff and Visitors currently have nowhere for them to store cycles unless they are put in the student area. Unfortunately a number of staff are not prepared to do this as they feel that they are vulnerable.
- All these enhancements to the facilities would require promotion and advertising - this can be completed simply by signage.
- By observing the students at the beginning and end of the day it is clear that we have been very lucky at Overton Grange not to have suffered a serious accident. Students walk and cycle through the same gates that cars and lorries are using. They do this often without looking and due care and attention being given by both parties.
- Students would be keen to be offered a breakfast facility.

In order to rectify these problems the school will need to do the following:

- Shelter for students at far end of mall area to create conservatory type space. Seating area etc to promote early arrival.
- New cycle storage area for staff and visitors.
- Clear signage for students and visitors showing cycle storage area, changing facilities
- Clear 'cycle path' and 'walking routes' in school grounds. Safe crossing areas and routes into car park.
- Changing areas for staff, students and visitors.
- Breakfast facilities - devise some incentives to promote early arrival and walking/cycling to school. Apply to Council for funding if necessary.
- Clear signage to indicate facilities available - Signs to indicate breakfast club, room for early arrival etc.

## Action Plan

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### Objective 3:

**Provide the opportunity to focus on travel issues through the curriculum**

Students are the prime focus of our work on travel. It is essential that a focus is made of sustainable travel and the School Travel Plan through the curriculum.

Obviously this does not fall into any one curriculum area and with the added pressures on each department to cover their core curriculum, this will need careful handling.

The main facts that are affecting this number are:

- A number of subjects will already discuss and complete work on sustainable travel but this is often completed by students without an awareness of how it affects their daily life.
- Limited curriculum time will affect the enthusiasm in which staff carry this work out.
- Tutor times are often seen as a 'underused' contact time with tutors.
- CPSHE lessons are currently full with an essential curriculum however sometime could be given to the STP.
- A whole school travel awareness day would be a good method to get a 'whole school focus' on the subject.
- Y7 and other KS3 year groups are an ideal target audience for walking and cycling.
- London Borough of Sutton are promoting the new 'Go-Bike' scheme which promotes students to cycle to school by offering prizes. After an initial meeting with Trevor Lenthall from the borough to discuss the help that he can offer I feel that we should seriously consider the assistance that he can offer us.

In order to rectify these problems the school will need to do the following:

- Review of curriculum areas to define where Travel Issues are covered in the current curriculum eg: CPSHE, Science, D&T, PE
- Liaise with HODs to consider different areas where travel issues could be incorporated in curriculum.
- Create tutor time activities for students to complete - inc writing personal travel plan.
- Incorporate School Travel Plan into CPSHE lessons.
- Implementation of travel awareness day
- Launch of 'Go-Bike' programme. Use inter-form competition to improve the number of students cycling to school. Prizes are available through the Go-Bike programme to motivate students.
- Launch of Cycle Safety and training for students who have not completed this
- Cycle Safety Summer School - Offer training to students who wish to spend week in summer completing training.
- New parent induction meeting / BBQ event with cycle safety team present

## Action Plan

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### Objective 4:

#### Reduce congestion on surrounding roads

Congestion on the roads surrounding Overton Grange between 8.15-8.30am and 3.00-3.15pm is very bad and steadily getting worse.

In order to rectify these problems the school will need to do the following:

- Inform parents through the Information issued during Y7 Induction Day to new parents on the health and environmental issues of the 'school run' and flagging up the alternatives.
- Issue cycle route maps to students and parents to promote safer cycling.
- Research with parents in Stanley Road to find out their travel habits. The borough travel officer to help parents arrange alternative routes and methods of travel.
- Incorporate travel methods and routes in Y7 student induction booklet.
- Prevention of parents from entering the car park and school grounds as this creates a safety issue for students and also congestion in Stanley Road as they return along the 'one way' entry road.

# Appendix 1: Location Map of Overton Grange School

