

Name of Policy: Travel Plan	Version/Last Review Date: Sept 2019 (V4)
Statutory documents linked to policy:	Previous review date: May 2014 (V1) May 2016 (V2) Sept 2017 (V3) May 2019 (V3)
Other Policies linked to this policy:	Next Review Date: Sept 2022 (V5)
Governor Committee Responsible	People & Resource Management

WNA Vision: All children will achieve their full potential, with holistic support, whilst enjoying and driving their own learning, gaining self-respect, self-esteem and self- belief. Our classroom extends to rich, exciting environments within the forest, the beach, the city and the community as a whole.

Introduction - West Newcastle Academy Travel Plan Benwell Nature Park

West Newcastle Academy (WNA) is a publicly funded, independently-governed school which provides education free of charge to local children in the West of Newcastle. The school is a mixed, non-denominational school for children aged 4 -11years. The school now has the full complement of classes and has 185 pupils in YR-6. YR and Y1 are currently taught in Benwell Nature Park and Y2-6 in the main school off Armstrong Road.

The School's Aim

To enhance the social mobility of disadvantaged families in west central Newcastle.

The School's Vision

All children will achieve their full potential, with holistic support, whilst they enjoy, own and drive their learning, gaining self-respect, self-esteem and self- belief.

Our Ethos

WNA is a new school and a new way of learning for the families in the socially deprived area of west Newcastle. We aim to provide space and time for children to develop a deeper way of learning, and for parents to be engaged in personal development. Through this, we will ensure every child has a supportive learning environment at home, and a willingness to learn at school. Children will be encouraged and expected to outperform their peers educationally, socially and artistically and make a positive contribution to their community.

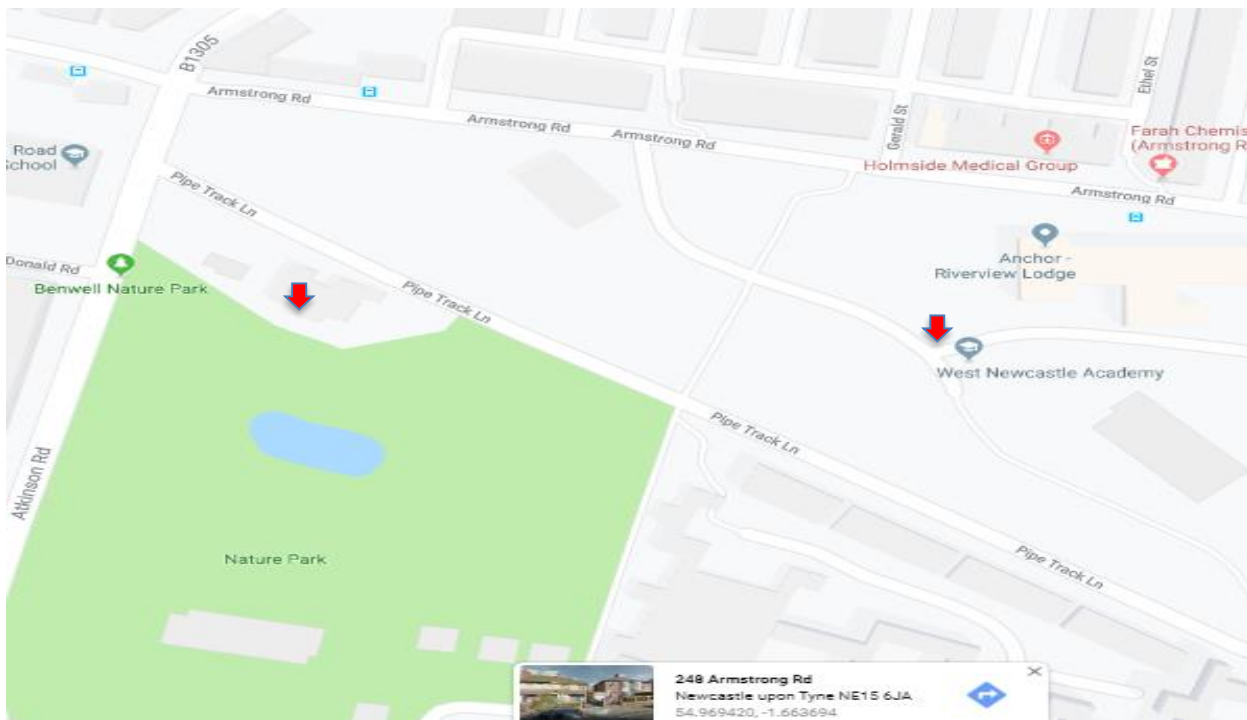
Our ethos is based on respect for the intrinsic capabilities of children and the recognition that all children are unique individuals with a wide range of abilities and potentials. Children are valued as strong, sociable and capable individuals, constantly learning and enquiring about the world about them. WNA is a place where children will be encouraged to be curious, to ask questions, to learn from one another and create their own theories and ask questions.

Dialogue with, and democratic decision making between children, staff, parents and the wider community will be central to the running of WNA.

Learning will be experiential, open ended and enquiry based and undertaken in rich and exciting learning environments, including the outdoors.

Travel Plan - Access

The Department for Transport has defined a School Travel Plan as a document setting out a package of measures for reducing the number of car trips made to a school or a group of schools by parents and staff and for improving safety on the school journey. This Travel Plan aims to accomplish this for West Newcastle Academy at both sites marked on the map below.



Location of West Newcastle Academy – at Benwell Nature Park and off Armstrong Road

WNA sites are in busy areas within the West End of Newcastle; Benwell Nature Park is near the crossroads of Atkinson Road and Armstrong Road and the main site is off Armstrong Road.

The great majority of children live in South and North Benwell, Elswick and Pendower and travel to school each day on foot. Relatively few travel by bus. Those who use cars are encouraged to use the drop off zone at the main school where there is visitor parking for school groups to the Nature Park. At WNA we use Modeshift Stars to plan, deliver and review our sustainable travel plan and encourage more families to walk, scoot or cycle to school.

There is signage at the Nature Park Site to indicate the parking facilities at the main school and to remind parents not to park on Pipe Track Lane.

Aims and Objectives

WNA has developed a School Travel Plan in order to:

- promote an awareness and understanding of road safety
- combat traffic congestion
- improve the health of pupils
- encourage the walking of short journeys
- improve the local environment
- achieve accredited School Travel Plan Status

Local Issues

The following list of traffic related issues has been identified as key factors affecting safety in the vicinity of the school:

- parking and double parking in a narrow residential streets adjacent to the school
- families having to negotiate the crossing of busy major roads
- traffic congestion at key times of the day
- older children walking to school by themselves

Overview & Current Travel Patterns

Aims

Our aim is to establish a partnership consisting of all those parties involved with our school, parents, governors, Northumbria Police, Nexus and Local Authority Road Crossing Patrols. This partnership will work to create an environment in which pupils may travel safely to and from school whilst giving parents confidence and incentive to reduce the level of car borne journeys to school.

Equally important to the success of this initiative is the need to work closely with Road Safety practitioners and the health sector in order to promote closer links between traffic and education, together with a greater awareness of the benefits to be gained from increased physical activity amongst children.

Objectives and Targets

1. To use Modeshift Stars Award scheme to increase sustainable and active travel and to improve health and wellbeing of children by working through awards and having school wide engagement
2. To maintain the current split of walk, bus and car trips to the school and in the longer term seek to reduce car trips in favour of a shift towards walking, cycling and public transport
3. To ensure that pupils and parents are aware of the full range of travel options and the important health benefits to be gained from a more active lifestyle (linking to Outdoor Learning)
4. To continue to forge links with local residents and maintain good community relations (linking to Community Learning)
5. To ensure pupils and families have support to learn to bike, scoot and walk safely to school
6. To be vigilant regrading safe parking with reminders and signage about school drop off zone
6. To review the School Travel Plan document annually each September and update the Action Plan Targets on Modeshift Stars Award scheme.

It is important that School Travel Plans are not perceived as a one-off treatment but rather as an ongoing investment in the local community requiring continual review and commitment to ensure the long term integrity of the plan and that is why WNA use Modeshift Stars.

How the school will operate

The school times are 8.45 – 3.30pm (EYFS, KS1) 8.45-4pm (KS2) A breakfast club will run from 7.45 and an after school club will continue until 5.30pm.

Walking to school

The great majority of children live in North and South Benwell, Elswick and Pendower and travel to school each day on foot. Roads are busy and there are traffic calming measures in place. There is a pelican crossing at the crossroads between Armstrong and Atkinson Road.

Cycling

Children can cycle to school on paths under the supervision of their parents. There are cycle racks and showers at both sites.

Public transport

The number 1 & 32 bus stops at the junction of Armstrong Road and Atkinson Road.

Car parking and drop off

At WNA pupils live within walking/cycling/public transport and so are encouraged to live a healthy lifestyle by walking or cycling to school and taking public transport if necessary. This is modelled by staff and reviewed in assemblies and Walk to School Weeks.

There is a drop off area and turning circle in the car park for those who choose to arrive at school by car and parents who park inconsiderately are contacted and given guidance.

Deliveries are be made during the school day to prevent additional congestion.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This travel plan is reviewed annually and the next review is September 2020. Modeshift Stars Targets are reviewed throughout the year by the whole school community. Data is collated through the admin team in response to Walk to School Week, Staff and Pupils Surveys. WNA will continue to seek the advice and counsel of experts in this field as well as local stakeholders.

The Working Group

The travel plan will be prepared and agreed by the approved Working Group. Group members meet at least half termly and include:

- Headteacher
- SLT
- Teacher
- Parent and School Governors
- Pupils
- Residents
- FLW
- Termly meetings
- Local Authority – Traffic and Road Safety Officers, Education Officers, Community Coordinator and School Crossing Patrols.

The Working Group will pledge commitment to the principles and long term aims of the plan by using Modeshift Stars to:

- Set objectives
- Plan and implement actions
- Monitor and review progress
- Revising plans and objectives if necessary.

The Pledge

This Travel Plan is incorporated into our School Development Plan and Performance Review and continuous revisions are made to this document. This pledge recognises that the pupils, parents, staff and governors of WNA have agreed to implement this School Travel Plan.

