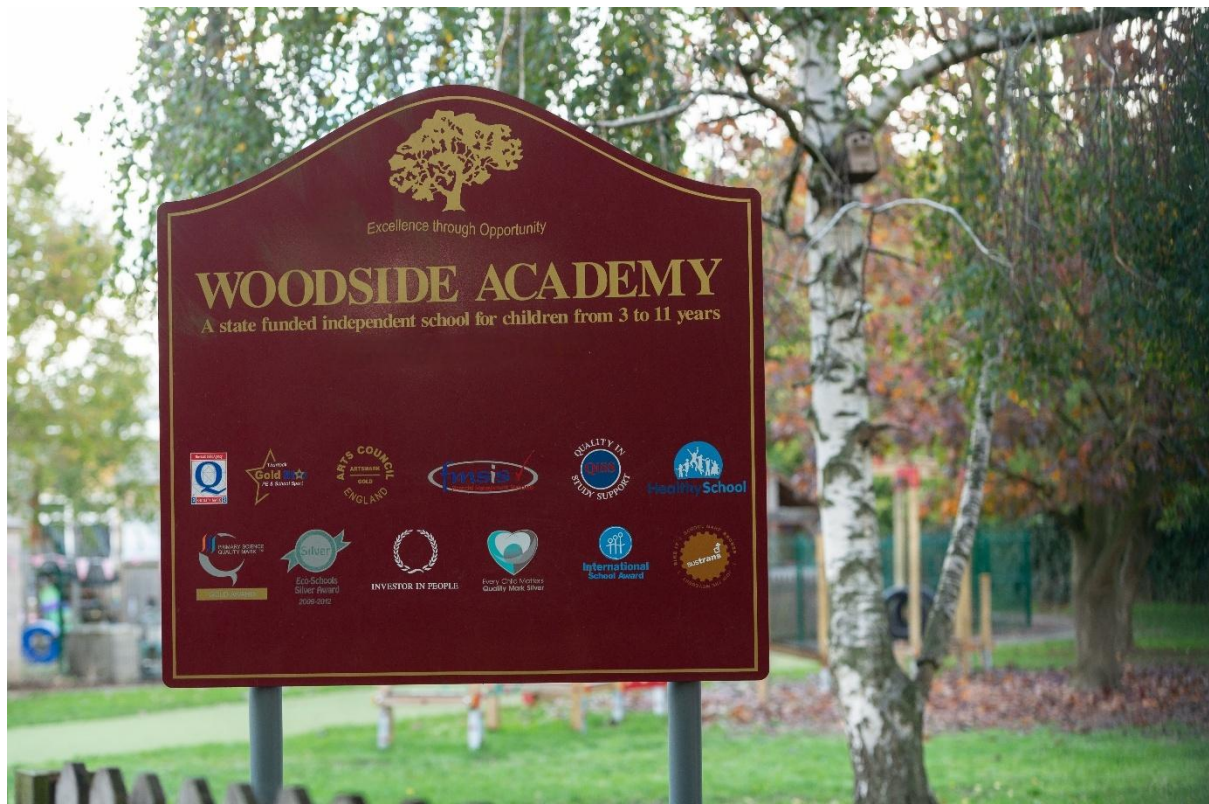


## Woodside Academy Travel Plan

### Introduction

Woodside Academy became an independent academy in December 2012 under the government's arrangements for successful schools. Since then, we have expanded and used our academy freedoms to develop an exciting and relevant curriculum for our children. We are ambitious for our children and pursue high academic standards while ensuring a broad range of cultural and sporting activities which develop their confidence, creativity and interpersonal skills. We are fortunate to have extensive grounds and adjacent woods which we use for a huge range of sports and have developed for outdoor learning and encourage safe sustainable travel to and from school.

We are working towards our third Green Flag Award and to become an international Green Flag Eco-School. The programme is designed to raise environmental awareness amongst young people and in England it is run by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy. Internationally, the programme is the largest educational programme in the world present in nearly 70 countries with millions of children participating. Our school is now part of this global community working to create environmental change for the benefit of our children and future generations.



## Summary

- Woodside Academy is a Single Academy Trust and is located at the end of Grangewood Avenue, Grays, Essex, RM16 2GJ.
- Woodside Academy is a 3-form entry primary academy, from years Reception to Year 6, with a one-form entry Nursery class.
- As of September 2024, the school had 660 pupils on roll.
- We promote positive travel habits and behaviours in pupils, parents, and staff to minimise and mitigate the impact of travel movements within the local community and around the school.
- We promote sustainable travel i.e., walking, cycling, scooting, bus, train, and car sharing.
- The school opens at 7:15am for morning clubs and breakfast club, and after school activities run to 18:15pm.
- We expect teachers to be in school by 8:15am.
- The normal school day starts at 8:45am and ends at 3:15pm.
- We have a designated Travel Plan Coordinator (TPC) to liaise with parents and the local community.
- Undertake travel surveys with both staff and parents, to help set targets and review results.
- Our Travel Plan is reviewed and revised regularly to meet and respond to the needs of the school and local community, including Thurrock Council.
- This Travel Plan sets out both short and long-term strategies for reducing dependence on travel by private car for essential and non-essential journeys made by pupils, parents, and visitors to and from the school site.
- We are committed to implementing a Modeshift STARS accredited Travel Plan that will be underpinned by a comprehensive and deliverable Action Plan.
- The Action Plan will clearly outline a list of initiatives to be undertaken so as to promote the Travel Plan to pupils, parents / carers and staff.
- The success of the Travel Plan will be judged against STARS accreditation criteria.
- The TPC will be responsible for the implementation, communication, monitoring and management of the overall aims and objectives defined within the Travel Plan including overseeing and undertaking the surveys as well as monitoring other aspects of the Travel Plan.
- Should it transpire those targets are not being met the TPC will, in consultation with the Thurrock Council School Travel Plan Officer, amend the Action Plan detailing agreed activities to be undertaken and timescales for the implementation of recommendations /modifications.

## Site Accessibility

The location of the school is at the end of a long residential road, with a bridle path to the side of the school in both east and west directions (from Chadwell St Mary in the east, and Grays in the west), giving both pedestrian and cycle access for children and parents.

Over 60% of our pupils live within the recommended 2km maximum walking distance for journeys to school, and there are numerous local cycle routes in the vicinity of the school.

Along the top of Grangewood Avenue and King Edward Drive there is an existing raised junction island to slow the traffic and ease pedestrian safety, and a 20mph speed limit down Grangewood Avenue.



## School Timetable

The compulsory school day starts at 8:45am and runs until 15:15pm, Monday to Friday, term dates as directed on the school website. The school buildings are open for pupils from 7:15am and stay open until 18:15pm for after school activities. We include a comprehensive range of before and after school activities that assist with spreading the impact of student arrivals/departures at the start and end of the school day which run on a daily basis.

School staff supervise a free walking bus which runs every day from Orsett Heath at 8:15am and the BonBon Convenience Store on King Edward Drive at 8:30am, to encourage safe sustainable travel.

It should also be noted that the school hall located to the front of the main school building is also open for community use outside of school hours and users are able to access the designated on-site parking facilities.

Time	Activity	Average no. of pupils
7:15-8:45am	Breakfast Club	50 (7.5%)
7:45-8:45am	Before School Extra-Curricular Activities (clubs/boosters etc)	60 (9.1%)
8:15 / 8:30am	Walking Bus	50 (7.5%)
8:45am	Registration: Years Reception – Year 6	470 (71.2%)
9:00am	Nursery Registration	30 (4.5%)
3:00pm	Nursery End of School Day	30 (4.5%)
3:15pm	End of School Day: Years Reception – Year 6	485 (73.5%)
3:15-6:15pm	After School Club	45 (6.8%)
3:15-4:15pm	After School Extra-Curricular Activities (clubs/boosters etc)	100 (15.2%)

## **Travel Plan Aims and Objectives**

Woodside Academy are committed to ensuring that everyone travelling to and from the school can do so as safely as possible.

We will encourage staff and pupils to choose active and sustainable modes of travel by walking, cycling, scooting or public transport and that they are offered assistance in identifying routes by which they can travel by these modes.

Our objectives will be to provide a focus for a range of initiatives to encourage journeys to the school to be made by safe sustainable modes of transport, and to inform the targets that in turn will assist in identifying and evaluating its success.

In accordance with the national and local policies, the key objectives of the Travel Plan are as follows:

- Staff, pupils, and parents/carers will support the aims of the Travel Plan to reduce trips by car to and from School by using alternative modes of transport.
- Actively encourage pupils and staff to walk or cycle to school where possible, or use public transport where walking or cycling is not possible.
- To limit the number of pupils and staff travelling to and from the school by car to reduce congestion on surrounding roads, to improve road safety and minimise harmful emissions.
- Increase awareness of the health benefits of walking and cycling.
- Raise awareness of road safety.
- Increase awareness of the environmental and social advantages of limiting the number of car journeys to and from the school.

## **Travel Plan Management**

### The Travel Plan Coordinator

We place great importance on the role of the Travel Plan Coordinator (TPC) to deliver the aims and objectives of the Travel Plan. Mr Radford, Vice Principal and Health & Safety Governor, is appointed to carry out the role of (TPC) in the first year. The primary responsibilities of the TPC are to implement, communicate, monitor and manage the defined aims and objectives contained within the Travel Plan.



The role of TPC also involves:

- Overseeing the development and implementation of the Travel Plan.
- Raising awareness of the Travel Plan through continued communication with staff, pupils and parents/carers.
- Organising the necessary surveys or other data collection exercises required to develop/review the Travel Plan including questionnaires to staff and pupils.
- Issuing any updated Travel Plan to Thurrock Council.
- Liaising with the Thurrock Council regarding all Travel Plan related matters.
- Liaising with nearby schools and other organisations with Travel Plans to discuss shared issues and best practice.
- Reporting each term to the wider school and annually to the governors.

#### The Travel Plan Working Group

The TPC will set up and coordinate the Travel Plan Working Group (TPWG) who will assist with the objectives and targets and should include:

- The TPC, the principal, pupil representatives, parent representatives, one member of non-teaching staff and one governor.

Following the analysis of the initial survey and the communication of the results to all interested parties, the on-going responsibilities of the TPWG will involve the following:

- To engage regularly with external groups in the local community (particularly local resident associations) to ascertain any real or perceived issues or problems.
- To monitor and review the progress towards the fulfilment of the agreed actions and targets.
- To ensure that the objectives remain relevant and in focus.
- To keep alert of new developments in education and transport since the original Travel Plan was completed.
- To plan and carry out an annual repeat of the initial baseline survey; and to plan for the next review of the whole Plan.
- The TPC/TPWG will be responsible for community liaison and engage engagement with Thurrock Council Travel Plan officers.

#### **Publicity**

The success of the Travel Plan is reliant upon effective communication strategies to ensure that governors, staff, pupils and parents/guardians are made fully aware of the principles and initiatives established. Accordingly, the TPC will market and promote the Travel Plan through the following:

- Integration of active and sustainable travel into the curriculum
- The school website
- Social media
- Notice boards
- Newsletters
- Meetings and Open Days

## **Curriculum, Partnership and Local Engagement**

We will promote through the curriculum, particularly through PE and Science, education on the benefits and environmental impacts of sustainable travel. Exercises in sustainable travel routing and planning will also be undertaken as part of Geography lessons.

We will build partnerships with the Council's Road Safety Team, local Police and MPs in order to promote and build the Travel Plan. We will also liaise with local residents via proactive engagement meetings with a view to understanding the impact of vehicular drop-off/pick-up activity in the surrounding area and ensuring this is managed and minimised as far as possible.

Promoting resident engagement regarding the school travel plan will be highly effective by using a mix of communication channels and approaches to make the information accessible and relatable, such as via leaflets and flyers, the school website and social media, school newsletters and community meetings / focus groups.

Educating parents about the school travel plan is essential for gaining their support and involvement. We would use several strategies to effectively engage and educate parents including school communication channels through ParentMail, the school website, social media, flyers and infographics.

Woodside Academy work with Thurrock Council to promote Bikeability, Scooter Training and Twilight Safety training, and also with Essex Highways who come into the school and deliver Road Safety workshops to the Year 5 pupils.

### Bikeability training:



## **Sustainable Travel Initiatives**

We are committed to the promotion of maximising opportunities for sustainable transport as well as minimising the impact of travel on local residents and other road users. Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs) are elected and help with walking bus, run competitions and liaise with school council to highlight benefits of walking, cycling and scooting.

### Cycling & Scooting

Woodside Academy provide many opportunities for pupils to learn how to scoot and cycle safely. We start with Balance Bike training for EYFS pupils, helping them develop essential physical, cognitive, and social skills in a fun and engaging way.

There is annual scooter training with Thurrock Council for 48 pupils in Year 1, which teaches balance and coordination, promotes physical activity, fosters independence and teaches safety awareness. Every year we have Thurrock Council Bikeability come in and teach Year 4 and Year 6 cycling skills, from basic to advanced. There are 90 pupils in each year and there is approximately a 70% uptake.

The whole school takes part in the annual 2-week Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel, which inspires pupils to make active journeys to school, improve air quality in their neighbourhood and discover how these changes benefit their world.

Cycling Club is run weekly for KS2 pupils. This is a fun, educational, and beneficial activity that supports their physical and social development. It offers the pupils the opportunity to learn new skills, stay active, and make friends, all while fostering an appreciation for an environmentally friendly mode of transportation.

On site, there is a large main bike shed which houses up to 100 bikes and scooters, a smaller bike shed for 15 bikes, as well as four bike and scooter rack storage areas spread around the school, storing up to 200 bikes or scooters.

### Main bike shed:





## Walking

Walking to Woodside Academy and the health benefits attributed to walking is actively promoted to the pupils and parents. New parents are made aware of the pedestrian access routes to the school as well as cycle routes.

Woodside Academy run a free 'Walking Bus' where staff collect pupils from designated pick-up points and walk them to school along the safe pedestrianised bridle paths. This runs every day from the Pavilion at Orsett Heath at 8:15am, 0.3miles (450m) away, and the BonBon Convenience Store on King Edward Drive at 8:30am, 0.2miles (350m) away. These pupils are rewarded in assemblies for their participation and continued sustainability. Parents and pupils are educated that by dropping their children to the Walking Bus that they are reducing the congestion along the neighbouring roads whilst promoting independence.

### Walking Bus from the Pavilion:



### Walking Bus from the BonBon:



Although we have been running the Walking Bus consistently for over a year, we are constantly striving to increase numbers and participation. We reward pupils who consistently walk with the Walking Bus more than 3 times a week, and we also reward new pupils who join it. This is done by giving out prizes in assemblies, and these initiatives have more than doubled the numbers of the walking bus, and are on-going.

### Walking Bus regular participants with their reward:





Woodside Academy actively promote participation in initiatives such as 'Walk to School Week' and 'Walk and Wheel'.

#### Car Sharing

Staff are encouraged to car share, with the personnel database used to establish staff living in the same locality.

#### School Minibuses

Woodside Academy have two 16-seater school minibuses, which enable a full class to be transported to events, trips, train stations and ferry ports, removing the requirement for coaches, reducing congestion on the main road and obstruction to local residents.



### **Focus on Road Safety**

#### Current and Future implementations

The Car Park Management Plan outlines the expansion of the car park and adjusting the gate opening times to enable more staff to park in there rather than on the main road.

Site Staff are supervising traffic directly outside of the school at drop off and pick up times, and use traffic safety barriers to cordon off the school zone. They are looking to purchase speed bumps to put either side of the school gate to slow any approaching cars, ensuring the safety of parents and pupils.

Freestanding kiddie road safety signs are used to deter dangerous parking on corners. These have had a positive effect and there has not been any parking on the corner of Grangewood avenue and Carlton Road since the road safety signs have been placed.

### Griffin donating road safety signs:



Pupils and parents are encouraged to walk on the bridal paths rather than the pavements, and the school continuously remind parents to park considerately and safely via newsletters, ParentMail emails, website and social media, whilst targeting poor parking and congestion, highlighting bad parking practice and its consequences.

The school recently organised a Walk to School campaign in the Spring Term, which included Park and Stride from areas including the Pyramid Centre, the Chadwell Pavilion and the BonBon on King Edward Drive. Any child who walked, rode, scooted or joined the free Walking Bus received the chance to win a £10 prize or a free book. This campaign had over 500 pupils' journey to school in safe sustainable travel rather than by car. Following the success of this, Woodside will promote these Park & Stride routes and ensure that reward days are set up every half term.

The benefits of walking and sustainable travel are taught to pupils in assemblies every half term, and we have Safer Essex Roads Partnership from Essex Highways visit to deliver Road Safety presentations and workshops. The pupils were given worksheets and literature to complete both in school and to take home. The benefits of these workshops are then sent on to parents online via ParentMail.

### Safer Essex Roads Partnership presentation & workshops:







Woodside Academy have markings outside the school, but implementation of more prominent School Keep Clear Markings to prohibit parking outside school entrances would be beneficial.

Request to the council to put School Streets in place to alleviate congestion on the road, closing Grangewood Avenue for specific times at morning drop off and afternoon pick up times, allowing only residents and staff access alongside parking permits for use during school term time (defined by the published school term dates) and between specific school arrival and dispersal times, e.g., 8.30–9.00am and 3.00–3.30pm, Monday to Friday.

#### Continuing initiatives

Reducing traffic outside the school is a great way to enhance safety and improve the environment for students, teachers, and the surrounding community. Woodside Academy will continue with the following initiatives:

- Encourage Walking and Biking
  - Walk, Bike or Scoot to School Programs
  - Walking School Bus
- Flexible Drop-off and Pick-up Times
  - Staggered Hours for Morning & Afterschool Clubs, and Wraparound Care
- School Zones and Traffic Calming Measures
  - Reduced Speed Limits and Safety Signs
  - Traffic Calming Features
- Promote Public Transport
- Community Involvement Engaging Parents, Local Authority and Businesses
- Incentives and Awareness Campaigns
  - Reward Programs
  - Educational Campaigns
- Carpooling Initiatives