

St Augustine's Academy



Travel Plan 2023

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'Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven.' *Matthew 5:16*

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Introduction

St Augustine's Academy established itself as a Church School in 2012 and as a Primary School in September 2014; it caters for pupils from Reception through to Year 6. The potential number of children on role to 189 however our current roll is 178.

School Description

St Augustine's Academy is a single academy trust but leases its land from Central Bedfordshire Council. The school is located close in the Downside area of Dunstable and is situated next to Blows Downs. Pupils who attend predominantly live in the school's catchment area, however some families (approximately 10.7%) travel from areas further afield such as Luton and Houghton Regis. The school day starts at 8:55am, with pupils arriving for 8:45am; pupils leave school at 3:20pm. The school offers a daily Breakfast Club and some After School Clubs (7:45am – 8:50am and 3:20pm – 4:30pm). Breakfast Club is often attended by up to 25 children.

Admissions

As of 7th March 2023, the school role was 178 pupils exactly.

Reception: 27

Year 1: 24

Year 2: 24

Year 3: 28

Year 4: 222

Year 5: 27

Year 6: 26

A number of pupils (currently approximately 11%) live outside of the St Augustine's Academy catchment area. This has doubled in 4 years.

Site

St Augustine's Academy is situated on the edge of the Downside estate, within a residential housing area but also next to Blows Downs. The access road, Oakwood Avenue, is a bus route and a main access road to the A5. It becomes congested during school opening and closing times. The school is located at the end of Oakwood Avenue and shares a joint driveway with Downside Children's Centre and Pre-School.

Our school benefits from good facilities including a large playing field and a hard-standing playground. The school has sufficient classrooms to accommodate pupils from Reception to Year 6 however, in order to maintain facilities which will provide outstanding provision for our pupils (such as a pupil kitchen, intervention rooms and additional office space) the school would benefit from further accommodation. We have facilities for cycle storage, and a staff car park with 2 visitor spaces and disabled parking, is available on site.

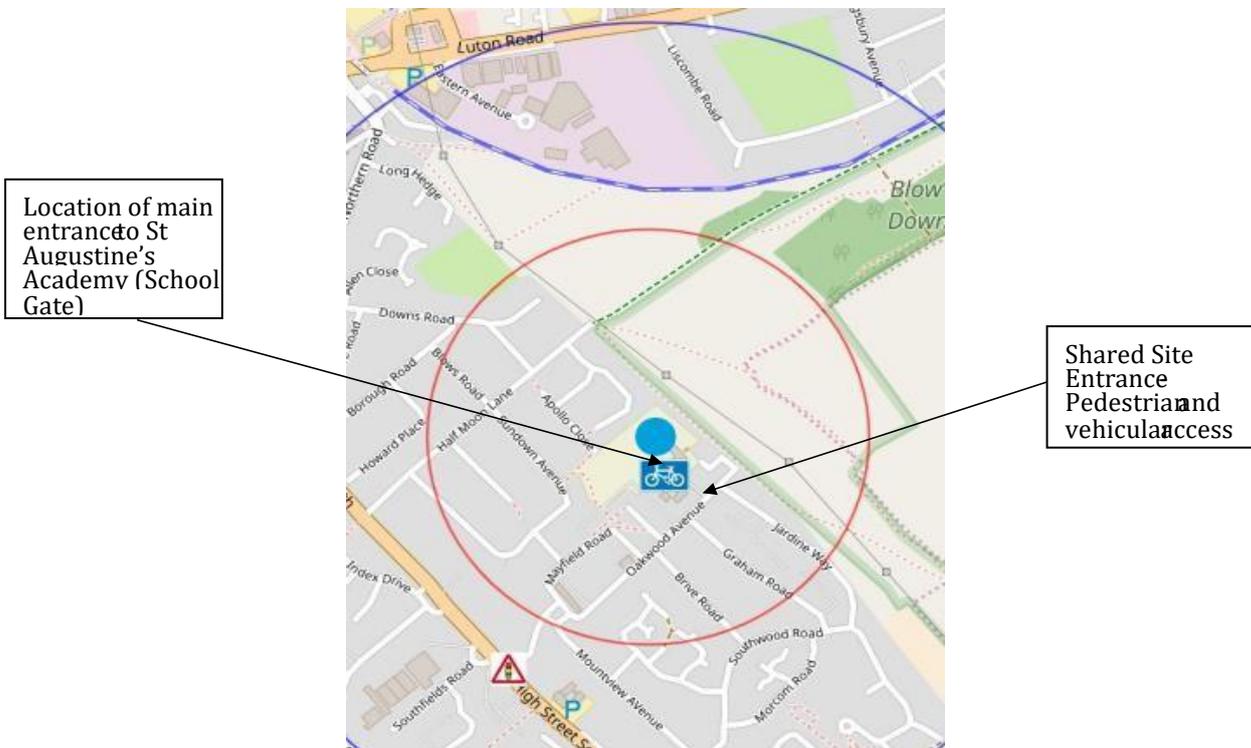
Pupils are able to access the school from 1 single entrance (Figure 1); the vehicular entrance is from Oakwood Avenue. The main entrance driveway is well maintained but is a single-track drive; it has a separate pathway. Gates to the driveway are not electronic and very often, parents drive onto the shared site which causes congestion and a hazard to pedestrians.

St Augustine's Academy does not presently have any pupils with special education needs who require special transport. Parents/Carers are only allowed to park on the school site with express permission being granted by the school e.g. to collect a sick child, disabled badge holder.

Journeys in the school day sometimes involve long distance travel to other schools for sports fixtures or day trips. These journeys are facilitated through the hire of a mini bus or coach. The school car park cannot be used as it is fully utilised for staff/visitor parking and there are no turning circles; coaches therefore park in Oakwood Avenue and pupils are escorted in a safe line to the coach by staff. Where possible, trips involving large coaches are booked to arrive at the school when there will not be a high volume of cars to avoid additional congestion.

There are currently no traffic calming measures in the vicinity of the school and there is no pedestrian crossing on Oakwood Avenue. There is a mini pedestrian crossing across the shared driveway.

Figure 1 – Location map



Staffing

There are currently 11 teaching staff, 11 learning support assistants, 1 Family Support Worker and 3 administrative staff at the school. A site agent is supported by 2 cleaners. There are 2 canteen staff and 5 lunchtime supervisors. Agency staff and a range of educational professionals visit the school on an ad-hoc basis.

Aims & Objectives

The Department for Transport and Department for Children and Family Services require that all schools have an approved travel plan in place by the end of January 2010.

The aims of the plan are to;

- Demonstrate a commitment to educate and involve pupils in real environmental issues
- Improve safety on the journey to school
- Promote car sharing where longer journeys take place
- Encourage courteous parking along Oakwood Avenue
- Promote and increase non-motorised travel such as cycling and walking
- Provide a safe shared driveway for pedestrians
- Reduce congestion in Oakwood Avenue
- Promote sustained change in habits

What are we already doing?

Staggered Start

Breakfast and After School Clubs help to stagger the start and finish times at the school.

Breakfast Club begins: 7:45am

Children arrive for school 8:45am

School begins: 8:55am

School ends: 3:20pm

After School Clubs end: 4:30pm (Intermittent)

Newsletters

Regular newsletters are sent to parents encouraging safe and courteous parking. (Figure 2)

Figure 2 – Extract from October 2022



Staffing and Car parking

Our staff car park is reserved for staff and visitors only and parents/carers may only park on site with express permission from the school. We currently have lined spaces for 13 cars and an additional gravelled parking area which can hold approximately an additional 15 vehicles. There is one space available for disabled drivers/passengers but 0 electric charging points. 0 members of staff currently car share, 1 member of staff travels by public transport, 7 members of staff walk to school and 2 members of staff live on site.

What provision is there in the curriculum for road safety?

We look for opportunities within the curriculum to educate our pupils about travel, healthier lifestyles and environmental issues. We cover these issues within Science, Personal Health Social Citizenship Education (PHSCE), Geography and P.E. In the Autumn Term 2022, Road Safety staff from Central Bedfordshire delivered assemblies and spoke to older children about road safety. A Team of 6 Junior Road Safety Officers has been developed who are currently being supported by Vanessa Ropke. OSCAR visited the school in the Autumn Term 2022 also.

We borrow the Step up for Safe Streets resources from Central Bedfordshire in order to deliver sessions to our younger pupils.

Figure 3 – Extract from February 2023

Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs)

Our new, volunteer JRSOs received their training and took up their new roles. We are delighted to have children keen to promote safety on our roads. You will be hearing a lot more from them in the future.



Encouraging Scooters/Cycling

Post-Covid, we offer Bikeability levels 1 and 2 training to pupils. Learn to ride your bike sessions also take place. Scootability is offered to younger pupils. Our September 2022 survey suggests that the vast majority of pupils (80%) would like to be able to walk, cycle or scooter to school.

Figure 4 – Extract from December 2022

Santa Challenge 2022



Rising to the challenge of travelling actively to school.

St Augustine's School

Target: Lapland 2,027 miles

Miles recorded: 4,322 miles

Congratulations from everyone at Sustrans



Registered charity no. 269926 (England and Wales) 10322848

sustrans

Figure 5 – Extract from January 2023

Learn To Ride



It was an active start to the term for some of our Year 1 and 2 pupils as they began to learn how to ride a bike.

Learning to ride a bike safely and confidently is an important life skill and we are pleased to be able to offer specialist training from Learn To Ride as part of our extended curriculum offer for PE.

Successes

In June 2019 we were the first school in Central Bedfordshire to be awarded the Bronze Modeshift Stars Award for our work in promoting safe and active travel. We have continued to maintain this award since.

Main issues

The main issues that affect stakeholders travelling to the school and local residents are:

- Crowded parking of vehicles on Oakwood Avenue (Residents)
- Pedestrian access (pathway) from Oakwood Avenue is dangerous for children as it is so narrow (Parent/child)
- Cars are a preferred option for parents/carers living out of the school catchment area and for many within the catchment area.
- No families currently car share (September 2022 Travel Survey)
- There is no pedestrian crossing on Oakwood Avenue (Pupils and staff)

St Augustine's Academy works closely with our pupils, parents, Governors and the local community. By addressing issues that arise in this plan we hope to educate the pupils about larger environmental issues and develop life habits and awareness of travel issues including ways of reducing pollution and car use.

School Travel Plan questionnaire analysis

The **Hands-up Survey** was taken on 19th September 2022. All pupils from Reception to Year 6 were surveyed. 170 responded.

	Walk	Cycle	Scoot/ skate	Car	Car share*	Park & stride	School bus	Public bus	Train
Nursery									
Rec	16		4	5					
Year 1	6	4	9	3					
Year 2	9	0	3	12				1	
Year 3	13	6	4	7					
Year 4	14	0	3	4					
Year 5	12	7	4	3					
Year 6	16	1	1	6					
Total	50.6%	10.6%	16.5%	23.5%				0.6%	

How children would like to come to school (taken from the Hands-up Survey 19th September 2022)

Year	Walk	Cycle	Scoot/ skate	Car	Car Share	Public Bus	Park and stride	Other	total
Total	43%	17.5%	20.5%	15.3%		2.7%			

Evaluation

- A large number of children expressed a desire to travel to school by foot/bicycle/scooter.
- A much larger proportion of children travel to school by car than would be expected (due to nearly 90% of children living in the catchment area)
- Less children want to travel by car than currently do

St Augustine's Academy Targets

Priority: Travel Plan 1

Target: To reduce the number of cars that travel (and in particular down the slip road from Oakwood Avenue) to school.

Tasks	Personnel	Resources	Timescale	Measuring Impact	Completed
Participate in Sustrans initiatives such as Santa Challenge, Bike to school week, Walk to school week	JF	Preparation Time, Walk to School resources e.g. stickers	As events occur – at least termly	Evaluation report to Governors, Travel Survey July 20	
Inform parents via newsletter that it is not an access road and that they should park elsewhere	AH	Letters to parents, website	Spring Term 2023	Evaluation report	
Re-introduce Junior Road Safety Officers who can persuade parents not to drive.	JF	Meeting time	From February 2023	Evaluation report	

Priority: Travel Plan 2

Target: Raise travel awareness and road safety to ensure safe journeys to and from school and pupils to feel safer

Tasks	Personnel	Resources	Timescale	Measuring Impact	Completed
Raise awareness through assemblies and PHSCE	Teachers and PSHCE Lead	Curriculum and assembly time	Throughout the year	Evaluation report to Governors	
Encourage cycling/scootering to school and participation in the 'Bikeability' course/tests	JF	PE and Sports Fund	Throughout the year	Travel Survey June 2023	
Provide parents/carers with the Travel map illustrating safer travel routes to and from school.	AH	Letters to parents, website	Spring Term 2023	Report to Governors, Travel Survey July 2023	
Junior Road Safety Officers to raise awareness with local authority and parents about road safety in our local area.	JF/JRSOs	Printing/email/admin time	Throughout the year	Travel Survey July 2023	
Support initiatives such as Play Streets and School Streets	JF	Meeting time	Throughout the year	Evaluation report	

Monitoring and Evaluation

This Travel Plan is an ongoing project which will need to be revisited to look at what impact the actions have made, what further issues may arise and to ensure sustainability. The actions are time bound and also include further hands up and full traffic surveys to measure impact and to look at any new issues. The next full travel survey will be in July 2023 and annually after that. When the actions have been completed the new full travel survey will denote new actions which will become the next steps.

The actions in this plan will be monitored by a Working Group and the school Governing Body.

Approval

The St Augustine’s Academy Travel Plan has been approved by:

Headteacher: Amanda Howes

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Chair of Governors: Carole Hegley

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