

# ST MATTHEW'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

## TRAVEL PLAN

2019



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## **Introduction**

This school Travel Plan documents the measures and initiatives that will be implemented by St Matthew's Primary School to reduce unnecessary car use, encourage healthy and sustainable travel options and increase safety for children getting to and from school. This is fully in accordance with the school's vision, which states that it aims, "to provide and resource an environment....which encourages each pupil and staff member to achieve their full potential in all aspects of life and to work as effective contributors and responsible citizens." The measures will include walking and cycling initiatives as well as educational programmes.

## **School Description**

St Matthew's Primary School is a denominational school situated in Carnethie Street, Rosewell. Our present building was opened in 1894, making our school now 125 years old. Although old the building is in a good state of repair. Our current school roll is approximately 64 pupils in three classes.

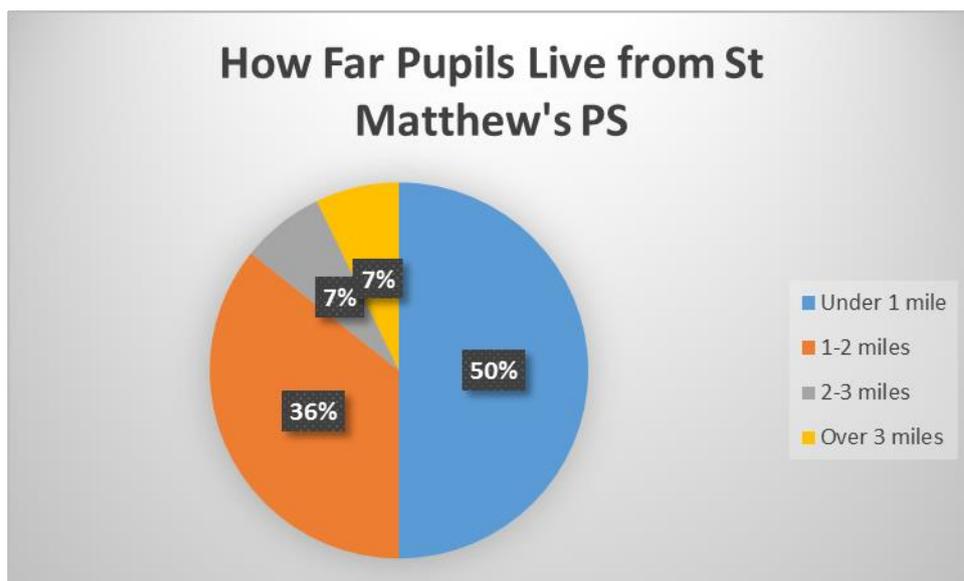
All pedestrians enter from the same location, the main gate on Carnethie Street. We do not have a vehicle entrance or a school car park. The school day starts at 8.50 am and finishes at 3.15 pm.

## Current School Travel Information

### Pupil/Parent Travel Survey Results

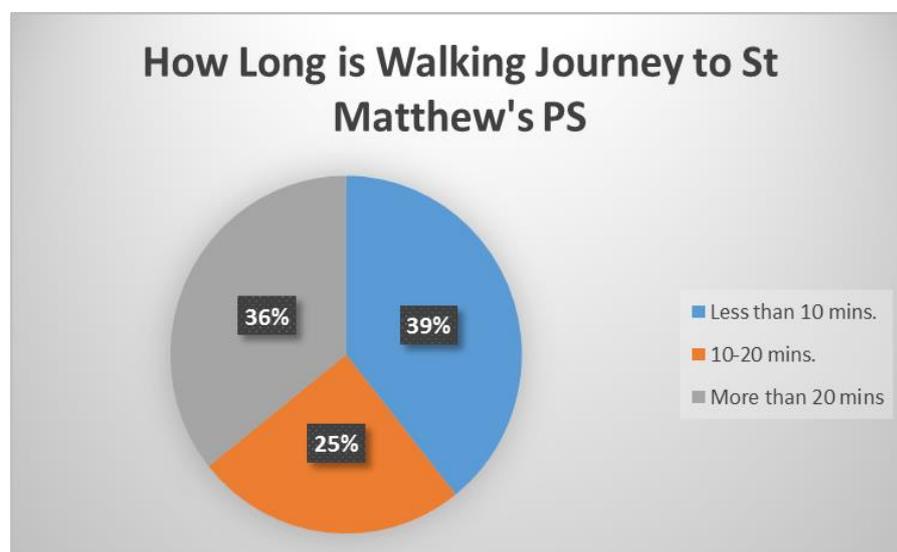
27 parent questionnaires were analysed - these will be used as representative of parental views. When questioned about how they currently travel to school, answers showed the following:

**How far do you live from the school?**



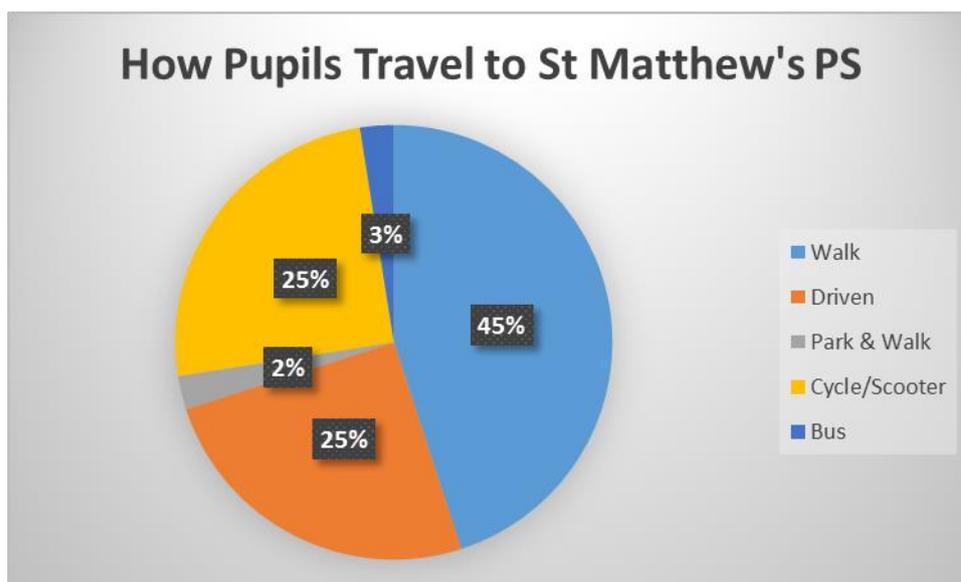
50% of pupils live under 1 mile from school. 36% live under 2 miles from school, making a total of 86% of pupils within acceptable walking/cycling distance to school. 14% of pupils live over 2 miles from school.

**How long does the walking journey to school take children?**



39% of pupils have a walking journey time of 10 minutes or less. A further 25% have a journey time of fewer than 20 mins. 36% of pupils would take longer than 20 mins. to walk to school with some of those stating walking is not possible (travelling out with catchment).

### How Does Your Child Travel to & From School?



45% of pupils walk to St Matthews, a 3% increase since our last surveys which we're pleased to see. A further 25% come by bike or scooter. We are however disappointed that our driven to school figure has increased from 23% of respondents to 25%. The main reason for this is a few pupils travelling out with Rosewell. We are keen to encourage these pupils to Park & Walk if the car is their only option?

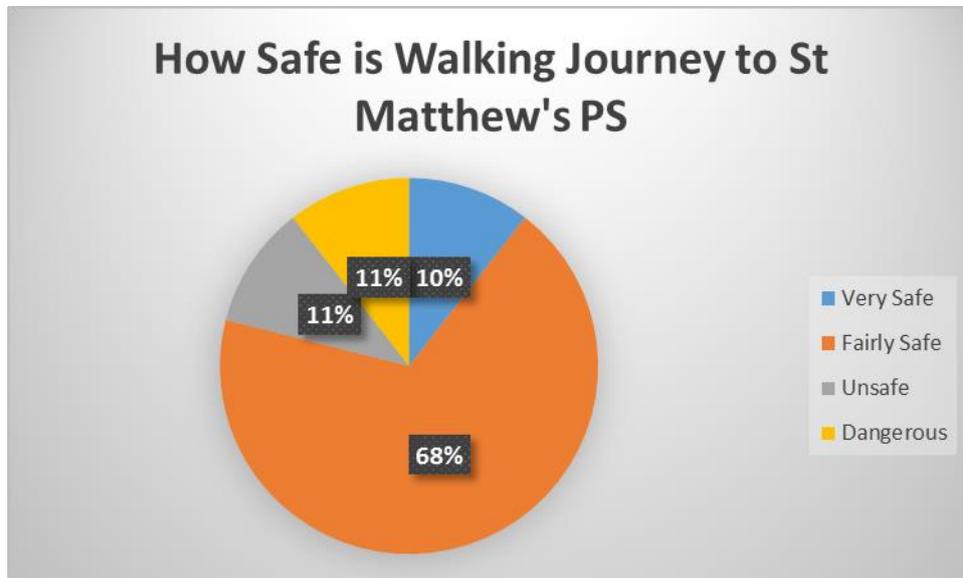
### If you could choose, how would parents prefer their child to travel to school?

|              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| Walk         | 57% |
| Bike/Scooter | 35% |
| Car          | 8%  |

These figures show that a further 17% of parents would rather their child didn't travel by car.

## For parents whose children walk/cycle to school only

How Safe Do You Consider Your Route To Be?



The majority of parents, 78%, consider their child's walking journey to school to be either fairly safe or very safe. However, 11% feel that there are unsafe elements to their child's journey with 11% actually considering it dangerous.

### Improvements parents recommended to make walking/cycling to school safer (noted where reported by more than 1 respondent)

- 4 respondents requested an official crossing at bottom of Prestonhall Cres.
- 3 requests were for a zebra crossing on Carnethie St near school.
- 2 people highlighted broken footpath surface near the church beside school.
- 2 suggestions were for crossing assistance near the corner shop.
- 2 concerns regarded speeds on Carnethie St which were perceived as high.
- 2 people felt more parking enforcement was required with a Thursday when the auction house operates being highlighted as a main issue.

## Aims and Objectives

As with most schools in Midlothian, even though our numbers are small, parking at the school gate at peak times can be a problem at St Matthew's Primary School. It is considered that the level of congestion caused by unnecessary car use presents a significant risk to the health and safety of our pupils. We are really pleased with the number of children using sustainable and healthy modes of transport and plan to continue this good work and to reduce the number of parents who park too close to the school gates. We would prefer that, if it is absolutely necessary to travel by car, they park a little way away and allow their children an opportunity to walk at least some of the way to school.

**Roles and Responsibilities** – Anna Chidgey, Head Teacher, will assume main responsibility for implementing the School Travel Plan.

## Programme of events/initiatives selected

| <b>Solution</b>     | <b>Target</b>  | <b>Undertaken by</b>                                       | <b>timescale</b>         |
|---------------------|--|--|--------------------------|
| Walking solutions   | Walk to school week  | School and School Travel Co-ordinator (STC)                | Annually May & Oct.      |
|                     | Kerbcraft Road Safety programme                                      | School, parental volunteers                                | Annually                 |
|                     | Walk & Win Scheme  | School, Midlothian Council                                 | As available             |
| Cycling solutions   | Cycle training for P6  | School with Active Schools                                 | Biannually               |
| Car solutions       | Display of Smart Parking Banner                                      | School/School Travel Co-ordinator                          | 6 monthly                |
| Education solutions | Road Safety Awareness  | School, JRSO and RSO (Steps to safety)                     | Ongoing                  |
|                     | Health promotion   | School (part of Health promoting project)                  | Ongoing                  |
|                     | Citizenship  | school   | Ongoing                  |
| Traffic management  | Ask authority to look at any measures highlighted by parents         | STC, Midlothian Council                                    |                          |
| Promotional         | Travel plan launch   | School, RSO and STC  |                          |
|                     | Updating school information booklet to inform parents of travel plan | School   |                          |
|                     | Update of travel plan  | School Travel Co-ordinator, Pupil Council, PTA and parents | Next plan due, Feb. 2019 |

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Regular updates reported at staff meetings

Data concerning perceptions of safety about school travel to be collected from JRSO children and Pupil Council members.

School Travel Plan to be reviewed every second year - next due June 2021.