



Uryside Primary School Travel Plan 2017

From mountain to sea

Introduction

Uryside Primary School is a new and modern educational facility opening in October 2017. This is to replace Inverurie Market Place School. The school will have the capacity to accommodate 540 pupils and provides nursery spaces. Uryside Primary is also an I-Bike school. The I-bike project looks to incorporate cycling projects into the curriculum in order to get more people active and interested in cycling. This Travel Plan provides information to families on how to travel to the school safely.

What is a Travel Plan?

A Travel Plan is a document which encourages people to travel in a sustainable, active and safe way. The travel plan supports walking and cycling as the most sustainable forms of transport.

Walking and cycling are a good choice for the environment and improves air quality. Other benefits are –

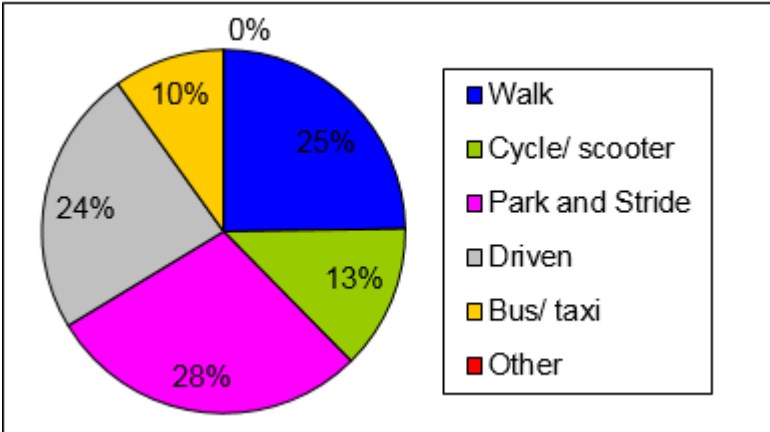
- **Fitness.** Walking, or cycling to school will provide great health benefits for all family members.
- **Road safety skills.** Being able to make the journey on foot or bike will provide ideal opportunities to learn essential road safety skills that many young people who are driven lack.
- **Social skills.** Walking to or from school, provides a great opportunity to talk to family or friends.
- **Safety.** More people walking and cycling means less cars on the road and around the school gate.

How families travel to our site

Although the travel data we hold relates to Market Place school rather than Uryside, it does provide a good baseline. Current travel to Market Place shows a high level of cycling, 13%, which is well over the Scottish average of 7% and above the Scottish target of 10% of all trips to be made by bike. If combining Park and Stride and Driving, over half of all pupils travel to Marketplace by car.

It may be hard to predict what travel patterns will be like once we move to Uryside Primary but we hope to provide you with the correct information for you to make the safest choice for your child.

Marketplace Travel to School Data 2016.



Action Plan

Action	How to achieve this	By whom
Provide safe routes to school information.	Communication with parents over any concerns they have about the journey to school. Feedback to relevant council departments.	HT/PC
Encourage safe, sustainable and active travel to school.	Existing resources and events: Walk to School Week, bike week, road safety week. Provide maps to school. Transition walks.	Staff/ Parent support
Monitor travel to school	Take part in annual Hands Up Survey and review travel patterns	HT/ staff
Support cycling to school.	Continue our I-bike project and encourage volunteers to help. Develop and run the bikeability program.	ALL



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The Journey to School.

The geographic relocation of our school will mean that all families will be rethinking how they travel to school. While some will have the distance to school reduced, many will be experiencing the opposite, but for all; this will be a time of transition and change. Below is some information that we want all families to read and understand no matter how you will end up travelling.

Tips to keep you safe when walking to school.

- Although we do discuss road safety in school, it is better if this is reinforced at home, the journey to and from school is a great opportunity to put these road safety skills into practice.
- Plan your route to school at home first. There are many path networks around the school, with crossing facilities in place – zebras, pelican and islands. Do some research and find out where these are located and plan your route accordingly.
- For those travelling from Inverurie, please do plan this route carefully so you are aware where the best crossing places are, which routes would be best avoided and how long your journey will take.
- Be aware of side roads, entrances into the garden centre and retail park, this is a very busy stretch of road with the need to take care. Please also be careful of driveways and narrow entrances - Stay alert and pay attention at all times.

Tips to keep you safe when cycling and scooting to school.

Where children can do so safely, we actively encourage children to bike or scoot to school. The journey by bike will be far quicker, and for some be the most practical way to travel.

Please feel free to bring your bike or scooter and make use of our storage facilities at our new school. There will be new cycle and scooter parking available at the school for all to use. The school, however, cannot take responsibility for any bikes or scooters left here so you might want to bring a lock to make sure they are secured during the day.

If your child would like to cycle to school, it may be a good idea to cycle with them. Try some routes during a weekend to see how they manage and what the best routes available are. The decision of when your child is ready to cycle to school lies with the parent/ carer and it will be up to families to make sure pupils know how to ride safely and sensibly to school. We only ask that:

- No cycling or scooting takes place within the playground and consider other pedestrians around the school gate
- Maintain your bike. Check your brakes and tyre pressure, some good guides can be found online by Cycling Scotland.
- Be aware of others on the pavements. You are responsible for the safety of others you are sharing the pavement with. As someone on a bike or scooter, you will probably be the fastest on the pavement, control your speed so as not to startle others. Don't be afraid to use your bell to warn people you are coming and thank people if they step out your way.
- We have produced a cycle and scoot to school passport which forms a contract on how to be safe. Please read and discuss this passport with your child so they understand what is expected.

Please be aware:

- A new path has been put in place from the retail park into the housing estate creating a shorter route heading from Inverurie town centre. This provides a great route away from the main road and we hope many will be able to make use of this.
- Please note, however, this path can flood. Be aware of this! Plan your route accordingly and make use of alternative routes alongside the Old Meldrum Road if necessary.

If you are taking the car, you can help by:

- Plan ahead and give yourself plenty of time in order to account for any unexpected delays, and to allow time to find a responsible place to park.
If choosing to take the car, please consider residents of Uryside, do not park over driveways, block pavements or park on junctions.
- We want to encourage drivers to access the school via Old Meldrum road. This will help keep everyone safe by reducing the amount of traffic on residential streets around the school where many families will be walking or cycling to school.
- Park and stride – parking 5 or even 10 minutes away from the school will hugely help in tackling congestion or try 'walkie talkie' where you drop your child off at a friend's house and let them walk to school together.
- When parking at the school, please make use of car parking facilities. If none available, please think carefully about where you are parking so your car is not causing road safety concerns for others by blocking crossing opportunities or reducing visibility of the road.
- Drop off areas are simply that. Areas to drop off. If you need to get out and leave your car you must park in an appropriate parking location.

Be responsible, drive and park sensibly.

Once you arrive at the school.

Our playground can be quite busy in the mornings, we therefore need to make sure pupils have enough space to get lined up safely to start the day. It can be disruptive for them if they are too crowded or can't get to their lines when the bell rings. We would therefore like to introduce a new system. At 08:56, a warning bell will sound. This bell means pupils say goodbye to their families and line up. At this bell, we ask that parents exit the playground. The bell will then sound again at 9am and staff will be on hand to welcome the pupils, take in the lines and enter the school. Please do not approach school staff at this busy time, appointments need to be made at the main school office.

The new school will be a community building meaning other groups will be using the space alongside your children. Therefore security of the building is of up most importance. If anyone wishes to speak to a member of staff, this must be done via the main building and by making an appointment at the school office. It can be tempting to try and get the teachers attention at the school gate but teaching staff would prefer to give you their full attention and therefore an appointment would be more appropriate.

