

NP18.1 Active Travel Policy

Introduction

We are constantly looking at ways to reduce car traffic around the school, particularly in Lockington Road, so we encourage pupils and parents to travel to school by cycling, scooting and walking (active travel) wherever possible. With excellent train links through Battersea Power Station, Queenstown Road and Battersea Park stations, and bus routes from all points, we encourage pupils to come to school by using public transport, walking, cycling or scooting. Bikes or scooters should be parked in the areas we have made available for secure storage on site at the school.

The school enjoys exceptional connectivity, we are within five-minutes' reach of three different stations, served by four bus routes and even accessible by river:

- Battersea Park (National Rail) - 2 minutes walking distance from the School
- Queenstown Road (National Rail) - 5 minutes walking distance from the School
- Battersea Power Station (Northern Line) - 5 minutes walking distance from the School
- 156, 344, 436, 44, 137, 452, 211 - 1-3 minutes walking distance from the School
- Battersea Power Station (River Bus) - 15 minutes walking distance from the School

This school travel policy explains how we will be encouraging active travel to school.

We will discuss the policy with the pupils and re-visit it periodically to ensure its relevance. For pupils unable to travel to school actively, we encourage use of public transport or car-share.

If you have any ideas to improve things at or around school for pedestrians and cyclists, or questions about travelling to school, please get in touch with either the Bursar by email: bursar@newtonprep.co.uk.

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Active travel

Some of the benefits of active travel are:

- improving both mental and physical health through physical activity;
- establishing positive active travel behaviour;
- promoting independence and improving safety awareness;
- reducing congestion, noise and pollution in the community;
- reducing the environmental impact of the journey to school.

To encourage pupils to cycle, scoot and walk (using public transport if necessary) to school frequently the school will:

- actively promote cycling, scooting and walking as a positive way of travelling;
- celebrate the achievements of those who cycle, scoot and walk to school;
- provide cycle and scooter storage on the school site;
- provide high quality cycle training to all pupils who wish to participate.

To make cycling and scooting to and from school a positive experience for everybody concerned, we expect our pupils to:

- ride sensibly and safely and to follow the Highway Code;
- check that their bicycle or scooter is roadworthy and regularly maintained;
- behave in a manner which shows them and the school in the best possible light and to consider the needs of others when cycling or scooting;
- wear a cycle helmet;
- ensure they can be seen by other road users, by using lights and wearing high-visibility clothing, as appropriate.

To make walking and using public transport to and from school a positive experience for everybody concerned, we expect our pupils to:

- behave in a manner which shows them and the school in the best possible light and to consider the needs of others when walking;
- ensure they can be seen by road users;
- ensure their personal safety by not using mobile devices in the street.

For the wellbeing of our pupils, we expect parents and carers to:

- encourage their child to walk (and use public transport), cycle or scoot to school whenever possible;
- encourage their child to take up opportunities to develop their competence and confidence in walking (and use of public transport), cycling or scooting;
- consider walking (using public transport), cycling or scooting with their child on the school run, possibly joining with other families;
- provide their child with equipment such as high-visibility clothing, lights, a lock and cycle helmet as appropriate;
- ensure that the bicycles and scooters ridden to school are roadworthy and regularly maintained.

Please note that:

- the decision as to whether a child is competent to cycle, scoot or walk (using public transport) safely to and from school rests with the parent(s)/carer(s). The school has no liability for any consequences of that decision.
- this policy covers the journey to and from school where the school has no responsibility or liability. When walking, scooting and cycling activities are being led by the school there may be additional rules and guidance concerning equipment such as use of helmets, high visibility clothing, etc.
- parents are advised to consider appropriate insurance cover (check home insurance) as the school is not liable for, and its insurance does not cover, any loss or damage to bicycles and scooters being used on the way to or from school or whilst stored at school.

Car use

Most parents and staff agree that driving into Lockington Road is the least pleasant way of arriving at school because of the congestion, at drop-off especially, between our school traffic and that of St Mary's RC Primary School opposite.

Following observation of the traffic in Lockington Road and at school drop-off times, both schools, Wandsworth Council and the Metropolitan Police have all expressed concern at the hazards to all the children, currently being caused by parents/carers driving into Lockington Road, blocking pavements, double-parking, and reversing in the vicinity of very small children.

If you feel you have to drive your child to school, please follow this code of conduct:

- Whenever possible, please do not drive into Lockington Road. Instead, park away from school (e.g. Prince of Wales Drive, Havelock Terrace, Battersea Park or other nearby streets) and just allow 5 minutes more for walking the rest of the way to school.
- If you insist on entering Lockington Road, please drive with extra care and attention to the mixture of young ages entering school; never driving more than 10mph, not driving up onto pavements, blocking the street by double parking, parking on any zigzag lines or leaving your engine running while parked.
- Continue slowly to the end of Lockington Road before turning. Please do not carry out three-point turns anywhere else on Lockington Road. This is especially hazardous at the Battersea Park Road end of the street where children from both schools converge.
- Consider whether your child needs to be accompanied onto the school site. (Obviously, subject to age and needs.) Congestion will be eased if vehicles spend less time in the street.

Please read the joint communication to parents from the Metropolitan Police, Wandsworth Council, St Mary's RC Primary School and our own Head regarding driving in Lockington Road which is at Annex A.

Accessing the Policy: This policy is also available in various formats to allow everyone to access it e.g. hard copy, enlarged print version, braille etc. Please contact the Bursar to request a copy of this policy in an alternative form.

Review and Update Process

Last update	August 2024
Next update	November 2024

Annex A - Driving in Lockington Road

Joint Communication to Parents from the Metropolitan Police, Wandsworth Council, St Mary's RC Primary School and from our own Head

Following observation of the traffic in Lockington Road and school drop-off times, the schools, the Council and the Police are concerned at the hazards currently being caused by parents / carers driving into Lockington Road to deliver their children to school.

We have observed vehicles blocking pavements, double-parking, and reversing in the vicinity of very small children.

Parents are reminded

- Do not drive on the pavements
- Do not block the street by double parking
- Do not park or turn on the 'School Keep Clear' zigzag lines
- Do not leave your engine running while you are waiting to pick up your child

In order to keep the traffic in Lockington Road safer, you are asked to:

- Continue to the end of Lockington Road before turning. Do not carry out three-point turns anywhere else on Lockington Road. This is especially hazardous at the Battersea Park Road end of the street where children from both schools converge.
- Consider whether your child needs to be accompanied onto the school site. (Obviously, subject to age and needs.) Congestion will be eased if vehicles spend less time in the street.
- Drive at low speeds and with particular attention for children.

Whenever possible, please do not drive into Lockington Road. Park away from school (e.g. Prince of Wales Drive, Havelock Terrace, Battersea Park or other nearby streets) or choose another means of transport.

The Council recognises that there may be improvements that can be made to the parking arrangements (e.g. in order to provide an easier turning circle and to ensure that there are passing places). We are investigating these.

The Council and the Police will continue to monitor this area. The Council will enforce parking restrictions using CCTV footage as well as civil enforcement officers. The police have power to prosecute drivers who commit careless driving offences.

We are all committed to improving the safety of Lockington Street and depend upon the cooperation of all parents. Please ensure that anyone who brings your child to school on your behalf is also aware of this request.