



THAMESVIEW SCHOOL **SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN 2014**

DCSF Number 886/5407



**THAMESVIEW SCHOOL
THONG LANE
GRAVESEND
KENT
DA12 4LF**

Phone number: 01474 566552

**School Travel Plan compiled by
Mr B Streets
Deputy Headteacher**

Contents Page

1	Introduction to the School	3
2	Transport Links and Issues	5
3	Travel Surveys and Analysis	8
4	Targets and Objectives	13
5	Action Plan	14
6	The Travel Plan Action Team	15
7	Approval Signatures	15

Introduction to Thamesview School

DFES number 886/5407

Thamesview is a mixed 11-16 secondary high school and is a designated school for Physically Disabled students. It is the only mixed non-selective school in a selective education cluster that contains two Grammar Schools and two Church Schools.

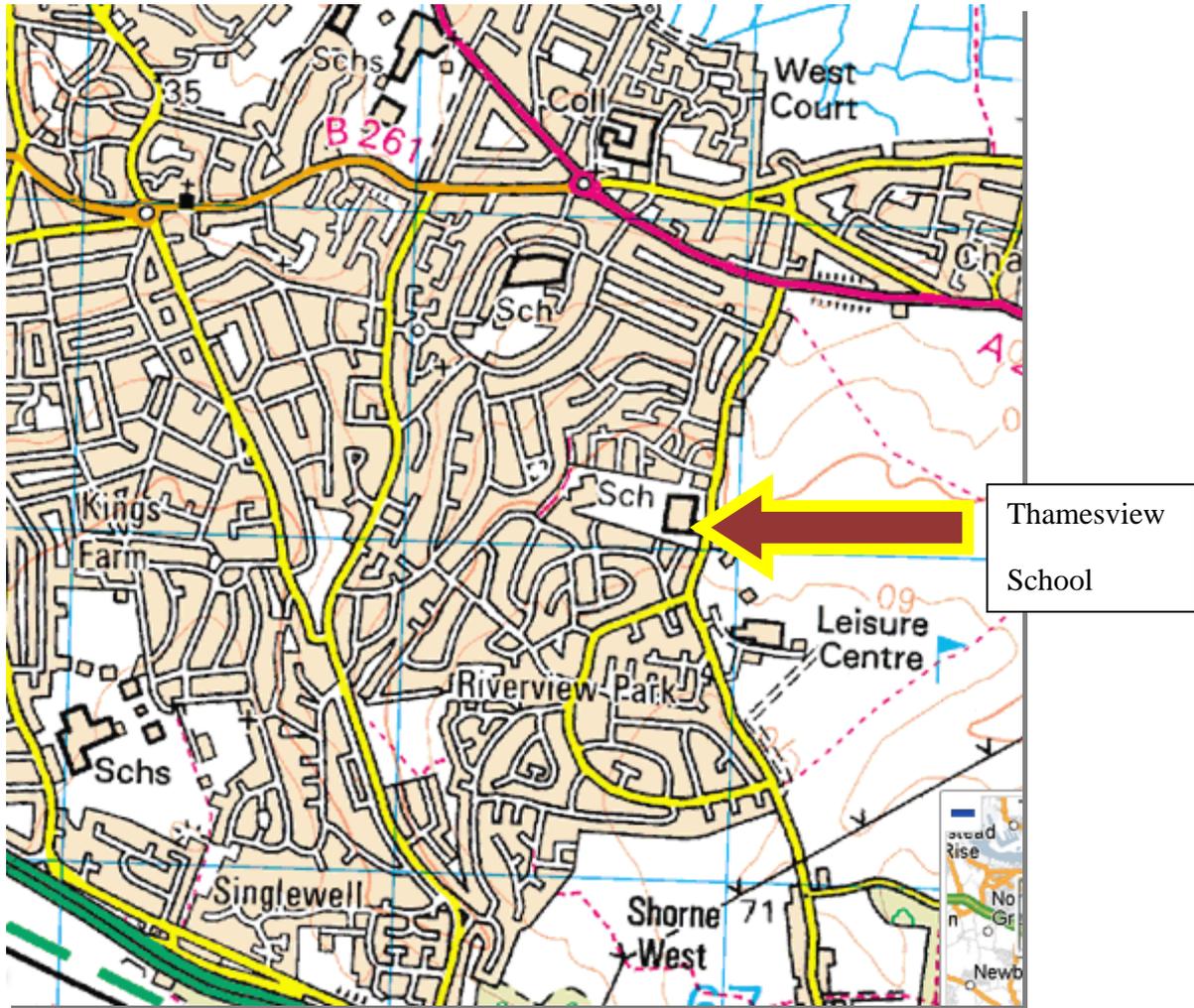
- The average intake of the school represents therefore the lower end of the ability range within the Gravesend area, with **31%** of students on the SEN register, above the national average, and **21%** on free school meals.
- Households in the local area fall predominantly within the low socio-economic category.
- Thamesview is a designated school for students with Physical Disabilities. We have 11 students who all require transport to bring them to Thamesview.
- In recent years the school has made great and continuing improvements, and as a result our popularity within the local area has increased.
- In January 2009 we achieved specialist schools' status and became a Business and Enterprise Specialists in order to meet the distinctive needs of both our students and the local community.
- Thamesview has excellent links with North West Kent College and other leading training bodies.
- We moved into our new building in July, 2010.
- The school is committed to providing a range of extra-curricular and extension activities which enrich the learning of our students.
- Although predominantly a white, English school there is a significant ethnic mix which gives the school a multicultural and multi-ethnic character.
- The school was awarded "Healthy Schools Status" in 2014.

The school has 713* students on roll, ranging from 11-16. It also employs 108* staff of which 57* are teaching staff. ***(02/06/14)**

The school day starts at 8:30, although students arrive up to 1 hour before this and finishes at 14:55. A number of students remain after this time to take part in clubs, community competitions, extra classes and other out of school activities. There is minimal travel at lunchtime as the majority of students remain on the premises.

Students from other schools travel to and from Thamesview to use our Vocational Centre at certain times during the week. This can increase the congestion on Thong Lane.

Map of Riverview Park and surrounding area.



Transport Links and Issues Affecting the School.

There are Arriva buses that service the local area and the school. There is just one major route the 499 from Bluewater to Riverview Park via Ebbsfleet, Perry Street and Gravesend. This route runs every 15 minutes during the day and is used by students and staff from Gravesend Town Centre in the morning and returning back in the evening. Arriva also supply 2 daily school buses from Higham to Thamesview bringing in students that live in the outline villages of Higham and Shorne 9% of Thamesview students and staff do not use the bus services.



The bus routes from Gravesend also allow some students to travel from further afield by train. 1% of staff travels by train. Gravesend Station (3 miles) has good links to Dartford and London, also to Strood and Gillingham. At Ebbsfleet (5 miles) there are also high speed trains to London and mainland Europe.

Thamesview is a designated school for Disabled students. At present eleven PD students are delivered by taxi, car or minibus. These vehicles have to bring these students to a drop off point on the school premises at the start of school and collect them at the end of the day.



Locally to Thamesview the roads are mainly urban with 1950's housing and standard pavements. These can be crowded in a morning and evenings as students make their way to and from school. Thong Lane has a rural feel to it with houses only on one side for most of its length. Thong Lane is a busy road which connects the A2 and the Rochester Road. Many of the surrounding roads to the school are also use as "rat runs" to avoid using the main routes of Valley Drive and Rochester Road. Traffic calming speed humps have been placed on Thong Lane to calm and slow this type of traffic. 42% of staff travel in to school from mid Kent and the surrounding towns. Heavy traffic on the M2/A2 or Rochester Road can cause delays to students and staff.

Many of our students also need to cross Thong Lane during the day to gain access to our sports field. This is monitored by staff when this is necessary. However, the need for a crossing here is becoming more essential as more students cross during the day.



At the beginning and end of school Thong Lane is very busy with large numbers of students being dropped off and picked up. 26% of students surveyed and 92% of staff arrive at Thamesview in a car or a Taxi each day. In the evening this number is increased by 4% for students. The car park of Viewpoint social club that is adjacent to the school is an additional recommended area for the parents to collect their children from. This also becomes very busy after school. The influx of extra vehicles before and after school causes major traffic disruption to the local community, sometimes causing friction with

our close neighbours. There is now also a designated dropping off area in the school grounds. This means that many are now dropped off in the grounds, however, this causes some problems as the bus also drops off here as well. Some parents drop off their children in the staff car park, which causes congestion and problems for the PD students drop off in the disabled parking spaces. Students' crossing the vehicular entrance also poses a risk.



A majority of students walk to school (63%) but only 7% of staff. At the end of school 59% of students walk home. Ninety per cent of students live within a 3 mile radius of the school, with 57% living closer than one mile. This means that 84% of students can get home within 20 minutes on foot. Riverview Park has many safe areas for cycling, however, only 1 student from the sample, cycle to school regularly. No staff cycle to school regularly.



With the completion of the new school we have ample parking for all staff and visitors. There are 147 parking spaces with 8 additional disabled spaces; two disabled bays are used by staff blue badge holders. This is enough for everyday needs and for evening parking for parents' evenings and other events. This has removed the need for staff and visitor parking on Thong Lane. We also have parking/storage for 88 cycles



The school has a minibus which is used to move students from school to school for Vocational lessons and sports events. This enters and leaves the site at some of the critical times.

Thamesview is signed up to Healthy Schools. 2010. All students are encouraged to eat healthily, take regular exercise and have a general healthy lifestyle. As a school we work with our local community and the students are encouraged to be part of and support the community.



Travel Survey

Questionnaires were issued to Challenger Community students (144 students, 68 male, 76 female, {99 KS3, 45 KS4}) and staff (89) in June 2014.

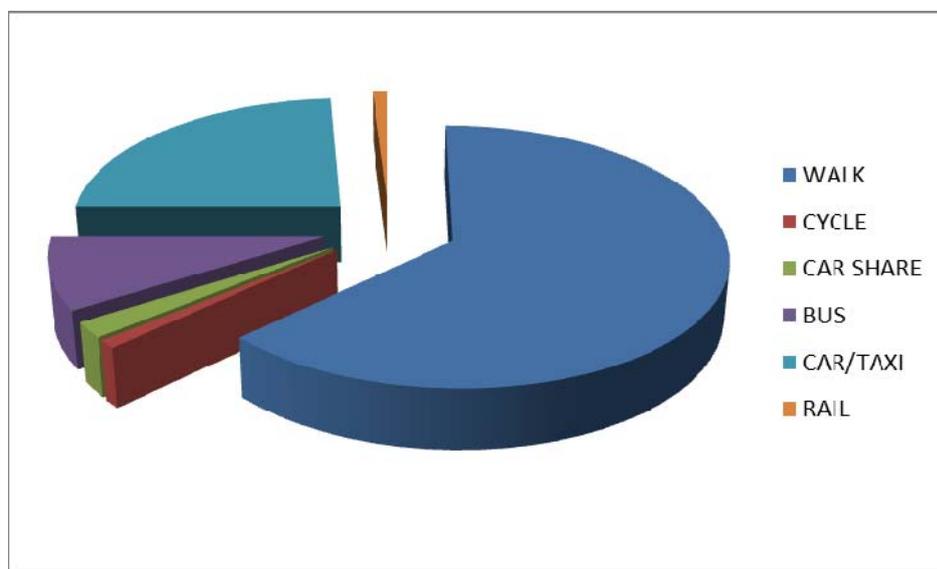
How students travel to school

2012

WALK	CYCLE	CAR SHARE	BUS	CAR/TAXI	OTHER
57%	1%	5%	8%	28%	1%

2014

WALK	CYCLE	CAR SHARE	BUS	CAR/TAXI	RAIL
63%	1%	2%	9%	24%	1%



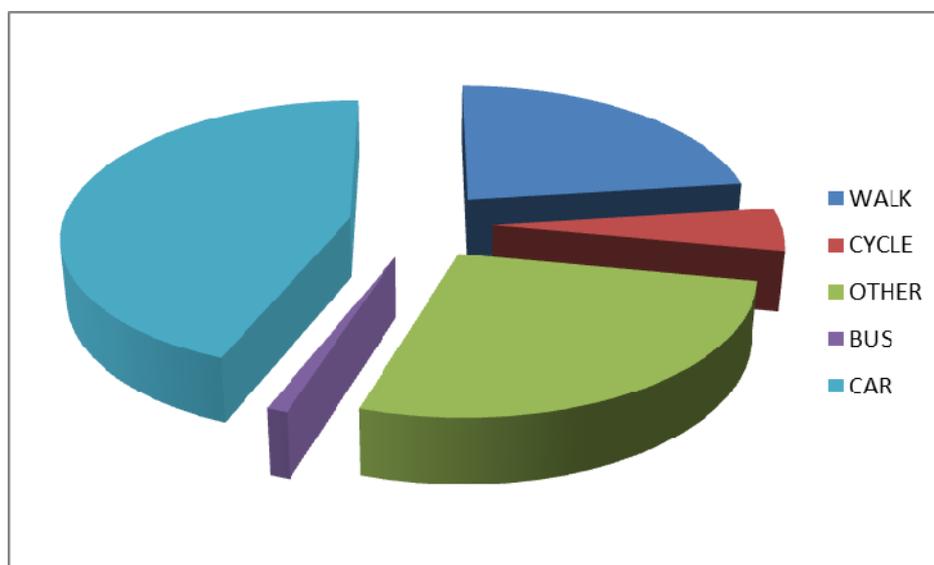
How students would like to travel to school

2012

WALK	CYCLE	BUS	CAR/TAXI
50%	11%	10%	29%

2014

WALK	CYCLE	OTHER	BUS	CAR
23%	5%	27%	1%	44%



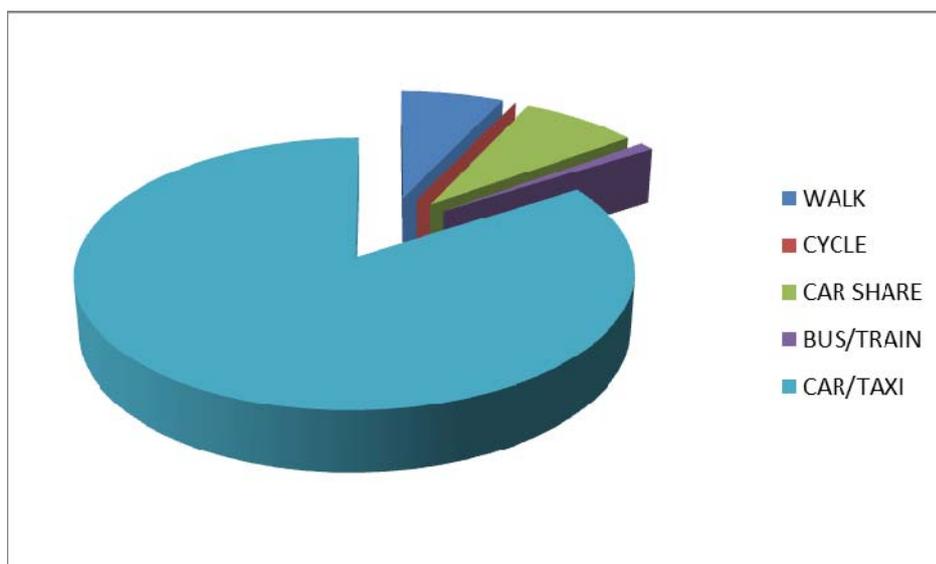
How staff travel to and from school

2012

WALK	CYCLE	CAR SHARE	BUS/TRAIN	CAR/TAXI
7%	0%	10%	5%	78%

2014

WALK	CYCLE	CAR SHARE	BUS/TRAIN	CAR/TAXI
7%	0%	8%	1%	84%



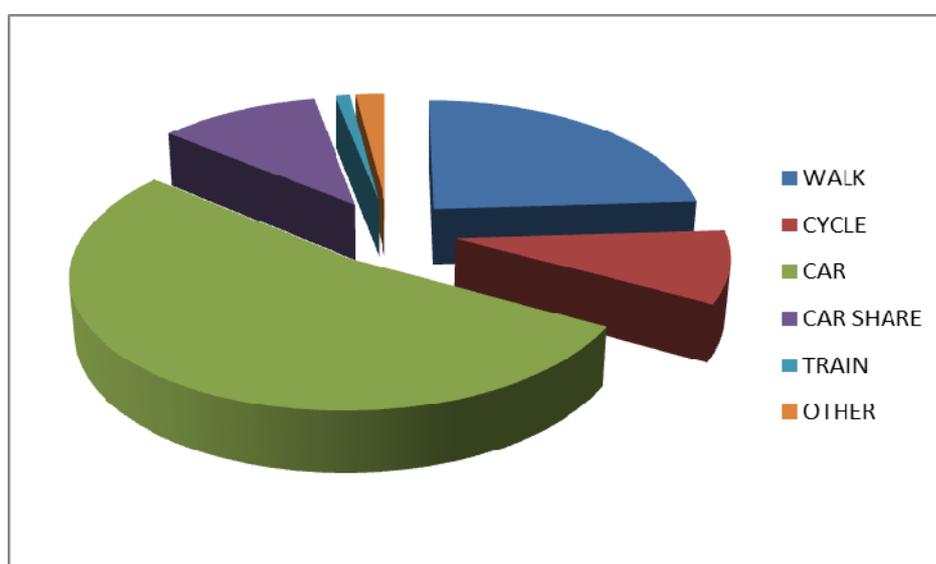
How staff would like to travel to school

2012

WALK	CYCLE	CAR SHARE	BUS/TRAIN	CAR/TAXI
10%	8%	13%	2%	59%

2014

WALK	CYCLE	CAR	CAR SHARE	TRAIN	OTHER
24%	9%	53%	11%	1%	2%



Analysis of surveys and conclusions

The Student Survey

The survey results show that walking is at present the most popular form of travel to school, with car/taxi following on. The number of students, who car share is not insignificant, but maybe this could be increased to cut down the overall number of journeys. The amount of students that travel by bus is relatively small and it looks as if numbers may fall over the next few years as student numbers from the outlying villages are set to become less. It is disappointing that so few students cycle and make use of the excellent cycle storage facilities available.

When asked how they would prefer to travel, a smaller number of students indicate that they would like to cycle, than at present, from 1% up to 5%. It is also interesting that travel by bus and rail is not very popular. The results from the survey show that a lot more students would use the bus if there was a better service and bus stops were closer to home and school. Many students commented on the lack of routes and long distances from bus stops. Some also were concerned at the cost of the fares and lack of people to travel with.

It is not surprising to see that 24% of students choose the car as their preferred mode of travel, although this rises to 26% of students if car share is included. This is significantly lower than last survey where 33% preferred this form of transport.

The Staff Survey

The survey results show that coming by car is at present the most popular form of travel to school (84%) and with car share added on 92% of staff come to school by car. The amount of staff travelling by bus/train, walking and cycling is small at about 8%. This is slightly lower than the previous survey where only 12% travel by other means other than car.

When asked how they would prefer to travel 55% said they would like to travel by car, but a larger number of staff (34%) indicated that they would like to walk, cycle and car share this is significantly more than at present. Travelling by bus and rail is not very popular and the staff gave many reasons for not using public transport. The staff gave the following reasons for using their cars to get to school.

- Too many heavy books and resources to carry to school.
- Cannot car share because different people work to different hours
- Different staff run different after school clubs
- A lot of staff live too far away to travel by any other means of transport

Targets and Objectives

The overall objective of the travel plan continues to be:

- To encourage more staff and students, who live within a half mile radius to walk or cycle to school

Specific targets for the year 2014/15 are:

1. To increase the awareness of Road Safety with all students
2. To encourage more cycling to school by staff and students.

These will be met by:

- Integrating the aims of the school travel plan into the curriculum where possible, particularly through work related to health and citizenship.
- Introducing and improving students' awareness of travel options through PSHE with a unit of work on Road Safety for all students
- To introduce some work units in PSHE to encourage more students and staff to use a cycle
- To arrange training for cycling proficiency.

These objectives and targets will be reviewed annually and updated as appropriate. The success of the travel plan will be determined by the results of the annual surveys in 2015 and 16.

Action Plan.

Proposed Measure	Actions	Lead Person	Others Involved	When	Completed
1. To encourage more staff and students who live within a half mile radius to walk or cycle to school.	Hold a healthy lifestyle week in school in Autumn term. Investigate "Go ride cycle training" for those interested.	HP		By April 2016.	
2. To increase the awareness of Road Safety with all students	Introducing and improving students' awareness of travel options through PSE with a unit of work on Road Safety for all students Using outside agencies to talk to students about Road safety.	HP	Tutors	Oct 2015	
3. To encourage more cycling to school by staff and students.	To introduce some work units in PSE to encourage more students and staff to use a cycle To arrange training for cycling proficiency.	HP HP	Tutors	Oct 2015 June 2015	

Travel Plan Action Team.

Mr B Streets Deputy Head
Mr R Davis Enrichment Co-ordinator
Mrs J Reilly Exam Manager/EVC Admin
Miss H Profitt Community Leader

This School Travel Plan has been agreed and signed up to by the following people, who agree to the plan being viewed publicly.

Title	Signature	Date
Head Teacher		
Chair of Governors		