



King Henry VIII 3-19 School

Travel Plan

2025-2026

Effective from: October 2025

Approved by Governors: October 2025

Next Review Due: October 2027

Introduction

Ysgol 3-19 Brenin Harri'r VIII is a three storey all-through school that is located within the market town of Abergavenny. The school caters for 1322 pupils within Nursery, Lower School, Middle School, Upper School, Sixth Form and the Specialist Resource Base learning areas. There are a further 40 children who attend Flying Start.

Flying Start	Nursery	Lower Phase Reception – Year 4	Middle Phase Years 5 - 8	Upper Phase Years 9 - 11	Sixth Form	SRB*
40	16	127	456	543	180	25

* As of September, 2025

Abergavenny itself is approximately 6 miles from the border with England and is located where the A40 trunk road and the A465 Heads of the Valleys road meet. The school is situated just outside and approximately 500 metres north of Abergavenny town centre. The site sits close to the boundary of the Abergavenny Town Conservation Area and also to 'The Hill' Registered Historic Park and Garden.

The area surrounding the school is predominantly residential and comprises sub-urban residential streets. High density dwellings are located on the northern boundary within Underhill Crescent and the eastern boundary along and beyond Old Hereford Road. Larger dwellings run along Pen-y-Pound Road along the western boundary with a small close of houses, Wellfield Close, to the south of the school. Wellfield Close sits alongside Bethany Church and graveyard and Pen-y-Pound Stadium, which between them run the length of the school's southern boundary.

Abergavenny Leisure Centre is located adjacent to the school buildings sharing the main entrance to the site and some of the outdoor leisure facilities.



Ysgol 3-19 Brenin Harri'r VIII benefits from dual entrances. To the east from Old Hereford Road and to the west from Pen-y-Pound Road. Both site entrances accommodate vehicular and pedestrian access and egress. The Old Hereford Road entrance also provides vehicular and pedestrian access and egress for Abergavenny Leisure Centre.

Whilst general vehicular access is not permitted beyond the secure perimeter of the school, access for emergency vehicles is permitted up to the primary entrances of the school buildings and the sports pitches.

The Purpose of The Travel Plan

This Travel Plan has been produced following consultation with pupils, staff, parents, governors and the wider community, and in accordance with supplementary planning guidance. Its purpose is to promote sustainable and active travel to and from Ysgol 3-19 Brenin Harri'r VIII through awareness raising and the setting of ambitious targets that will be monitored and reviewed regularly to assess changes in travel patterns and to consider how far travel targets have been met. Based on the outcomes of review, actions will be modified where necessary.

Local Authority Road Safety Officers and Public Transport Operators will play a key role in developing and implementing the Travel Plan alongside representatives from the school, the aim of the plan being to benefit not only the school but the wider community. This will be achieved through;

- Improving safe access to the school site;
- Increasing use of sustainable and active travel;
- Reducing traffic congestion and pollution;
- Reducing demand for parking;
- Improving all users' health and fitness;
- developing pupil road safety skills and knowledge;
- Reducing the potential for road traffic accidents

School based objectives of the Travel Plan are to involve pupils across all phases of learning in planning to bring about positive change, whilst forging links with the local community. It is hoped that this approach will have an immediate impact by encouraging greater reflection upon how adults, children and young people travel to school, and how they may be able to modify or change their travel behaviours so that these become increasingly sustainable over time. Sustainable travel options will be regularly promoted amongst staff and parents/carers, including the following

- Car-sharing;
- Walking;
- Travelling to school by bicycle or scooter;
- Bus travel to and from the school site

Pupils will also explore sustainable travel options and safe travel through a range of planned activities across the academic year.

Managing and Promoting Change

The Travel Action Plan

A travel action plan will form part of The Travel Plan. The action plan will include measures that are developed and agreed with pupils and that encourage the use of active and sustainable modes of travel. A timeline will be included within the action plan to highlight completion dates for actions.

A key component of the action plan is ensuring all pupils, parents/carers and staff are well informed about proposed changes and when it is anticipated that they will happen. Every new pupil, together with their parent/carer, and every new member of staff will receive travel information within one month of enrolment. This will help them to make informed decisions about how they travel to and from the school site.

The Travel Plan Coordinator (TPC)

A Travel Plan Coordinator (TPC), will be appointed by the school and will have responsibility for implementing The Travel Plan. The role of the TPC will be to ensure that there is a continued focus upon active and sustainable modes of transport through regular review of the action plan.

The TPCs responsibilities include:

- Managing the Travel Plan;
- Promoting active and sustainable travel within the school community;
- Identifying potential barriers in the way of change;
- Monitoring progress towards achieving action plan targets;

It is envisaged that a TPC will be needed for five years, which is the life of the Travel Plan.

Monitoring and Review

Monitoring is an essential element of The Travel Plan as it allows the school to gain an understanding of how travel habits can lead to specific measures that encourage the use of more sustainable methods of transport. The monitoring process will include travel surveys which will be undertaken yearly and during the same month as the initial survey.

All information gathered through travel surveys and related activities will be collated and used to evaluate the impact of the Travel Action Plan. A cross-section of pupils from the Lower, Middle and Upper Phase of the school will be involved in any review of progress towards meeting the school's targets and any revisions to the Travel Plan that are decided upon will be agreed with the Local Authority.

Access to Ysgol 3-19 Brenin Harri'r VIII

The Main School Entrance

Old Hereford Road

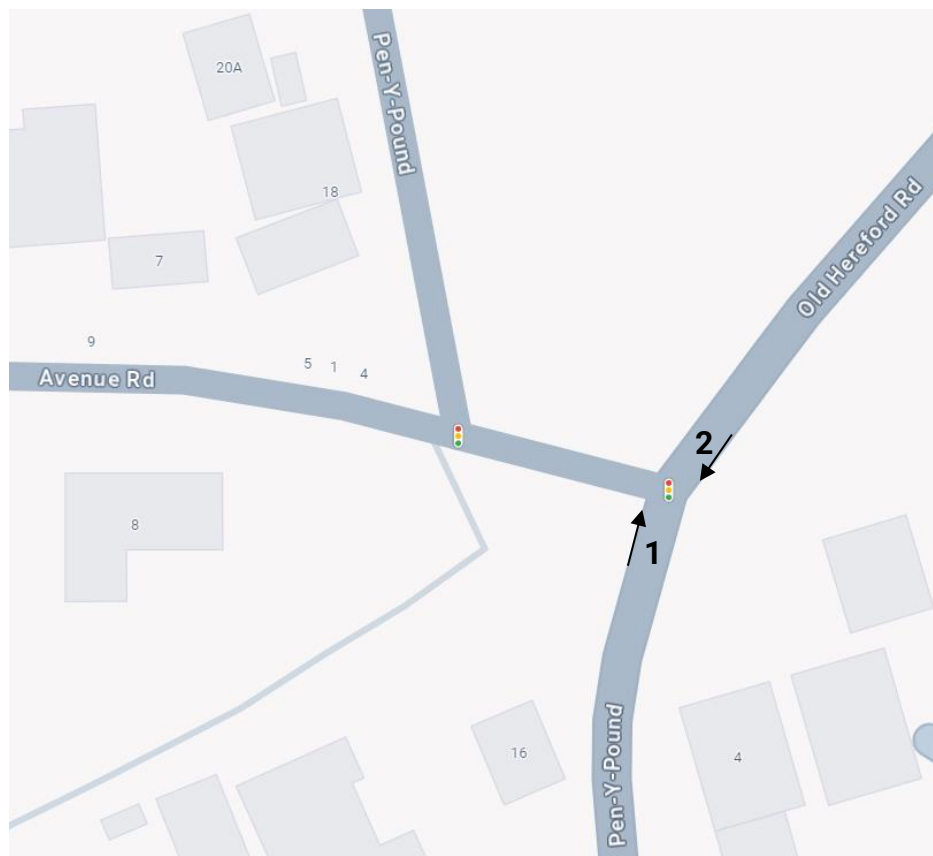
The eastern access forms a priority junction with Old Hereford Road. Old Hereford Road runs in a roughly north to south direction, forming a signalised junction with Pen-y-Pound and Avenue Road to the south. This is 551 metres from the school's main entrance.



1. Signalised junction looking north



2. Signalised junction looking south



Being near to the school site, Old Hereford Road is subject to a 20mph speed limit. A Pelican crossing is located approximately 15 metres to the north of the school access beyond which lies a priority give way system, giving priority to traffic travelling northbound along Old Hereford Road.



The main entrance to Ysgol 3-19 Brenin Harri'r VIII via Old Hereford Road

A shared pedestrian cycle route is provided along the east of the carriageway from the Pelican crossing heading south of the school. Steps give access to the housing estate to the east. To the north of the school access, a footway is provided along both sides of the carriageway. Dropped kerbs and tactile paving is located at crossing points. 'School Keep Clear' markings are located along Old Hereford Road adjacent to the school access.



Footpaths on both sides of the road and dropped kerbs and tactile paving at the crossing point

Road, footpath and cycle access to the school and Abergavenny Leisure Centre is located on Old Hereford Road. Road access leads to a designated school carpark adjacent to the Leisure Centre carpark. In addition, there is a designated car and bus drop-off and pick-up point. The school main entrance (including reception and visitor entrance) is located to the left of the parking and drop-off area and secure cycle storage.

Alternative School Entrance

Pen-y-Pound

Pen-y-Pound is a two-way single carriageway road and is subject to a speed limit of 20 mph. The road runs in a roughly north–south alignment, forming a priority junction with Avenue Road to the south. To the north of the school, Pen Y Pound narrows to a single-track lane.



South: Priority junction with Avenue Road



North: Pen-y-Pound narrows to a single-track

Footways are provided along both sides of the carriageway. The path running along the southern edge of the school widens as it passes in front of Pen-y-Pound Stadium before extending along the inside line of the hedge bordering the playing field (Lower Meadow) until it reaches the junction with Avenue Road.



Widening of the footpath near the school on Pen-y-Pound



The footpath passing through Lower Meadow

The footpath on the opposite side of the road to the school is very narrow. Street lighting is present along both sides of the carriageway.

The school staff car park is accessed from Pen-y-Pound. During the school day a security barrier is in use and can be opened by staff using a security key.



Accessing the school staff car park via Pen-y-Pound

Modes of Travel

"Our vision is clear – for walking and cycling to become the normal choice for shorter journeys, or as part of a longer journey in combination with other sustainable modes.

Active travel is a term used to describe walking and cycling for purposeful journeys. Whilst walking and cycling are in themselves healthy activities that are to be encouraged, it is when they displace car journeys that they deliver significant benefits for the health and well-being of Wales...increasing levels of active travel contributes to the achievement of all seven of Wales' Well-being Goals."

(Welsh Government Active Travel Act Guidance, July 2021)

'Active travel' is a useful term to differentiate between walking and cycling as a means of transport and walking and cycling solely for leisure. Ysgol 3-19 Brenin Harri'r VIII is committed to promoting walking and cycling to school wherever it is safe, possible and feasible to do so.



Anabl/Disabled Access

Children, young people and adults who are accessing the school site and have an additional learning need, or a disability, can do so safely and without the need for additional assistance. The school has a number of designated disabled parking bays. At the front of the school, these bays are located next to drop kerbs to ensure easy access to School Reception and the Lower Phase building. These bays are designated drop-off and pick-up points for Lower and Middle Phase pupils with limited mobility, or a disability at the start and end of the school day.

Within the staff car park to the rear of the school, disabled parking bays are close to the rear entrance to the school. A number of these bays allow access to the school via a path with a drop kerb and tactile paving. These bays are designated drop-off and pick-up points for Upper Phase pupils with limited mobility, or a disability at the start and end of the school day.



Disabled parking bays adjacent to the Main School Entrance and Lower Phase School Building

It is recognised that travel assistance may be offered to a child or young person by the local authority that supports individual needs. Travel options will consider opportunities to improve the physical well-being of those who use them. To this end sustainable transport modes such as walking, cycling and use of public transport will be prioritised wherever it is possible to do so.

Walking

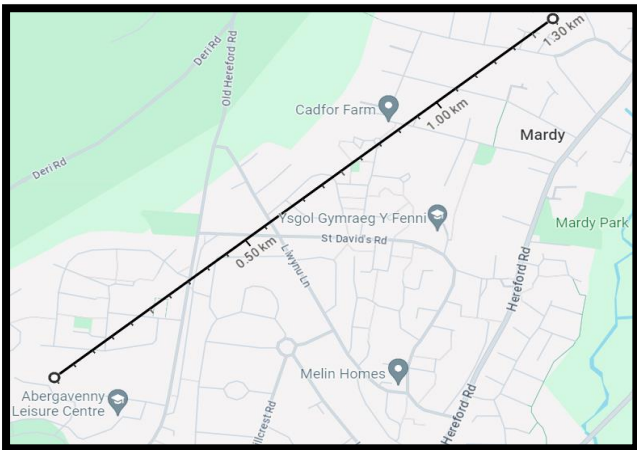
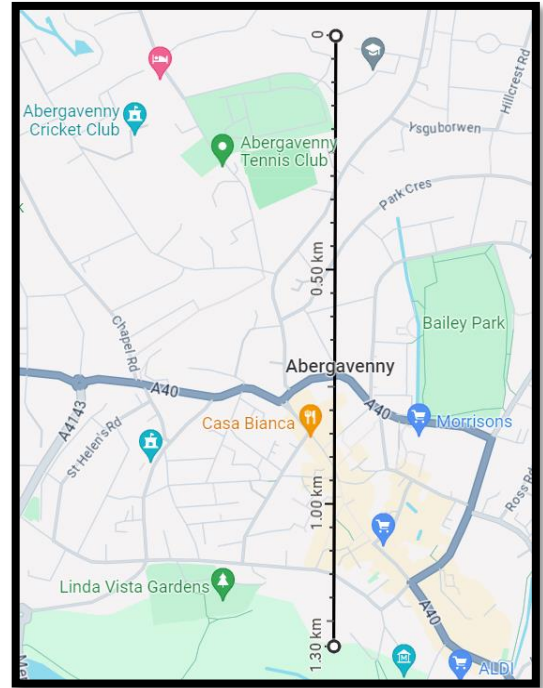
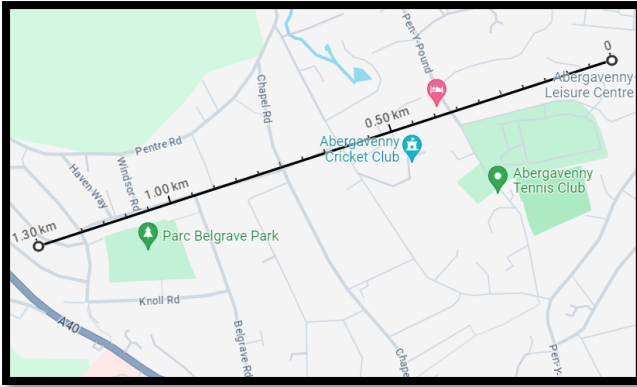
Why walk?

Walking is a low-impact aerobic exercise that promotes cardiovascular health, strengthens muscles, and improves flexibility. It increases your heart rate, thereby enhancing blood circulation and lung capacity. Regular walks can also contribute to weight management, reducing the risk of chronic conditions such as obesity, diabetes, and heart disease. It is the most sustainable method of travel and an important source of personal freedom. In addition, walking to school whilst escorted by an adult, or an older sibling, helps children learn valuable road safety lessons.

Local Pedestrian Provision

Pedestrian provision in the vicinity of the school is of a good standard and provides access to the main school entrance from surrounding residential areas. There is a continuous footway along the eastern side of Old Hereford Road and along both sides of the carriageway to the north of the site. A footway is also provided along both sides of the carriageway along Pen-y-Pound to the western side of the school, although the footpath on the opposite side of the road to the school is very narrow. All pedestrian surfaces are well-maintained with street lighting, dropped kerbs and tactile paving at crossing points.

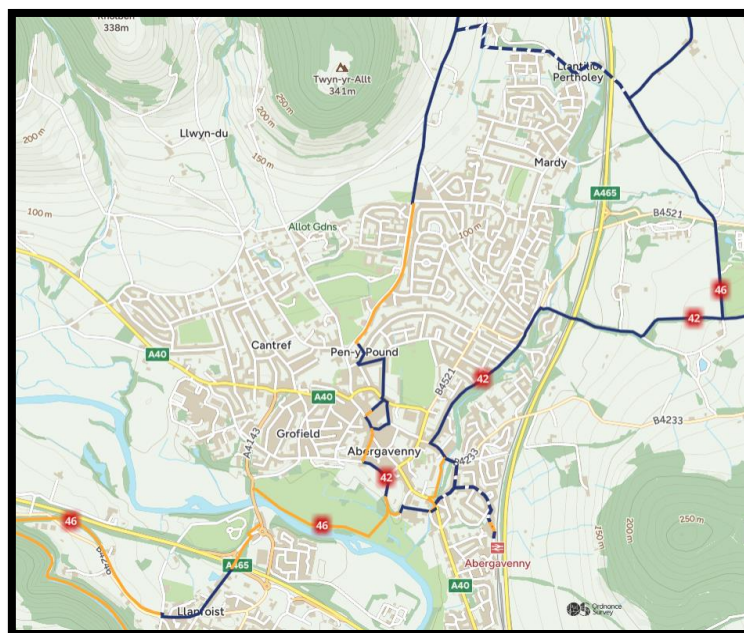
Formal crossing provision is provided approximately 15 metres to the north of the school access along Old Hereford Road in the form of a Pelican Crossing.



1.3 km (15 minutes) walking distance from the school

Cycling

As with walking, there are a number of health advantages linked to cycling and Ysgol 3-19 Brenin Harri'r VIII recognises that it could be a viable alternative to using a car, or bus, for many pupils when travelling to school.



Cycle routes near Ysgol 3-19 Brenin Harri'r VIII (Sustrans)

Cycling is a mode of travel that is currently increasing due to the growing trend of recreational cycling, especially within the Abergavenny area that is well known for its many cycling routes, including The National Cycle Network (Route 42) that runs immediately to the east of the site along Old Hereford Road, providing a safe cycle route towards the town centre. To the east a cycle route runs from Avenue Road, along Pen-y-Pound to the southern boundary of the school and entrance to the school site.



The cycle route that runs from Avenue Road, along Pen-y-Pound to the entrance of the school.

School Site Cycle Parking

Ysgol 3-19 Brenin Harri'r VIII provides secure storage for those pupils who choose to cycle to school. This consists of covered cycle shelters that hold 100 bicycles. The shelters are situated at either end of the Upper School Main building, next to the Sports Hall and adjacent to the Design and Technology area.



Safe Cycling

As part of the Travel Action Plan, the school will work with Monmouthshire County Council to raise cycle and scooter safety awareness amongst pupils, including through practical hands-on sessions and during assembly.



Car

Many people rely on the use of cars or taxis when travelling to the school site. This could be due to a disability, or out of necessity, including the school run being part of a longer journey, such as when going to work. However, reducing the number of journeys that people make by car is desirable as it reduces road congestion in the vicinity of the school and improves on-site pupil safety. In addition, cars are a major contributor to air pollution producing significant amounts of nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, and particulate matter. In 2018 use of private cars was responsible for 62% of the greenhouse gas emissions in Wales (*The Wales Transport Strategy 2021*).

Car-sharing

Car sharing helps to reduce congestion and has a number of other benefits, including:

- Reducing the impact of car emissions on the environment;
- Saving money and reducing car maintenance costs;
- Providing time to relax without driving stress;
- Having the opportunity to communicate and to socialise with others

Designated drop off and pick up zones

A dedicated drop off and pick up zone is located to the south of the leisure centre for Flying Start pupils. This is next to the Lower Phase building to ensure maximum safety for the youngest of the school's pupils who are under 4 years old and only on the school site for a maximum of two and a half hours per day.

For all other pupils the designated drop-off and pick-up zone is located to the west of the leisure centre, next to both the Primary and Secondary Phase reception areas.

Car Parking

There are 243 park spaces in total for staff and visitors. There are an additional 126 car park spaces allocated for Leisure Centre use. The staff car park which comprises 187 spaces is accessed via Pen-y-Pound. Disabled parking for visitors is provided at the closest point to the main entrance to the school. An access path with drop kerbs ensures disabled access to the main school entrance across level ground.



Bus

Buses are a greener mode of transport and are key to reducing people's reliance on cars and the development of the bus network is therefore a key part of the Welsh Governments vision for sustainable transport. There are many benefits associated with travelling by bus, including being able to socialise, read and relax when undertaking a journey. It is hoped that a growing number of pupils who travel by car and live beyond walking distance to the school will take advantage of the bus services available to them over the coming years.

In addition to buses provided by Monmouthshire Passenger Transport Unit for those pupils who are eligible for this service, there are several hourly bus services operating during the week within Abergavenny.



School bus pick up and drop off zones

A dedicated bus bay for picking-up and dropping-off Lower Phase pupils is located to the east of the school site, accessed via Old Hereford Road.

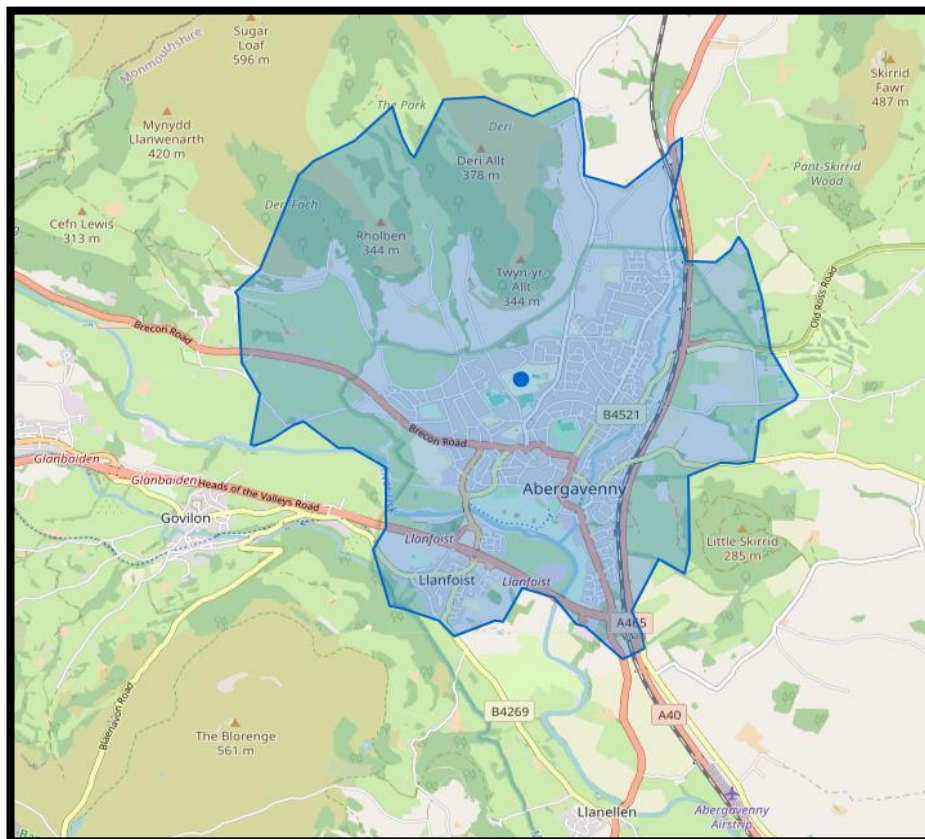
A dedicated bus bay for picking-up and dropping-off Middle and Upper Phase pupils is located to the west of the school site, accessed via Pen-y-Pound Road.



School Transport Distances

Monmouthshire County Council Home to School Transport Policy states that:

“Free home to school transport is generally restricted to pupils who attend their catchment or nearest school and live more than 2 miles from the catchment school for Primary and more than 3 miles for Secondary.”



A rough approximation of the 2-mile radius around Ysgol 3-19 Brenin Harri'r VIII



Train

Abergavenny railway station is located approximately 2.2km to the southeast of the school site. There are opportunities to cycle to / from the station via traffic-free / lightly trafficked routes.

Travel Plan Targets

A recent BBC report (29th August, 2024), concluded that around one in three journeys are currently carried out by walking, cycling or by using public transport in Wales. The Welsh government wants this to rise to 45% by 2040. In line with Welsh Government active travel guidance, Ysgol 3-19 Brenin Harri'r VIII has set ambitious targets based upon school community surveys. These targets are aimed at reducing the impact of travel upon the local environment, whilst promoting both physical and mental wellbeing associated with alternative methods of travel, such as walking and cycling.

Travel Plan Targets	
1	Reduce the number of car trips made to and from the school site
2	Increase the number of pupil's walking and cycling to and from the school site by 15% in the first year of being in the new school buildings
3	All pupils have safe access to the school buildings and grounds
4	Ensure all pupils are active travel and road safety aware

School Travel Action Plan 2025-2026				
Action	School Lead	Success Criteria	Monitoring	Evaluation
<p>Safe Active Travel to be promoted within assemblies and during Registration.</p> <p>17th November 2025: Road Safety Week Why is road safety significant?</p> <p>23rd March Safety Week</p> <p>15th June 2026: Clean Air Day What is road safety to me?</p> <p>6th July 2026 Safety Week</p>	CA MHW	Increased numbers of pupils engaged in active travel.	Pupil travel survey to be completed by pupils across all phases.	Evaluation of Pupil Travel Survey's to assess numbers of pupils engaged in active travel.
<p>8th October, 2025 Domino Presentation to Post 16 pupils.</p>	KEC	Year 12 pupils will have good knowledge of safe driving practices to prevent accidents and injuries on the road.	Pupil Questionnaires.	Pupil questionnaires to measure changes in road safety knowledge and attitudes when driving.
<p>Site and Facilities Pupil Leadership Group to review access to the school site, drop-off and parking facilities.</p> <p>Site and Facilities Pupil Leadership Group to work alongside and share findings of site access review with the Diversity Pupil Leadership Group.</p>	MS	Improved access to the school site that promotes safe and active travel.	Site and Facilities Pupil Leadership Group meetings and feedback to SLT and Governors.	The impact of any changes made to improve access to the school site.

<p>Diversity Pupil Leadership Group to review disabled access to the school buildings.</p> <p>Diversity Pupil Leadership Group to work alongside and share findings of disabled access to the school with Site and Facilities Pupil Leadership Group.</p>	MHW	Improved disabled access to the school (ensuring DDA Compliancy).	Diversity Pupil Leadership Group meetings and feedback to SLT and Governors.	The impact of any changes made to improve disabled access to the school site.
<p>Lower Phase staff to set reading and creative tasks that focus upon travelling safely to school. (WC 17th November, 2025)</p>	CA	All Lower Phase pupils demonstrate good knowledge of the benefits of active and safe travel to school.	Pupil reflection and feedback relating to the stories they have been reading.	Pupil voice exercise outcomes that show good knowledge of methods of active travel and awareness of how to travel safely.
<p>Lower Phase. Practical Pedestrian training</p> <p>Lower Phase. Scooter training for Year 3</p> <p>(March 2026 - dates to be confirmed)</p>	CA	Pupils acquire practical knowledge and skills that allow them to travel to school safely.	<p>Successful completion of each road safety task, challenge, or event.</p> <p>Pupil feedback and follow-up classroom activities that require them to recall knowledge that they have gained.</p>	Analysis of numbers of pupils completing road safety tasks successfully.