

# Grange Primary School



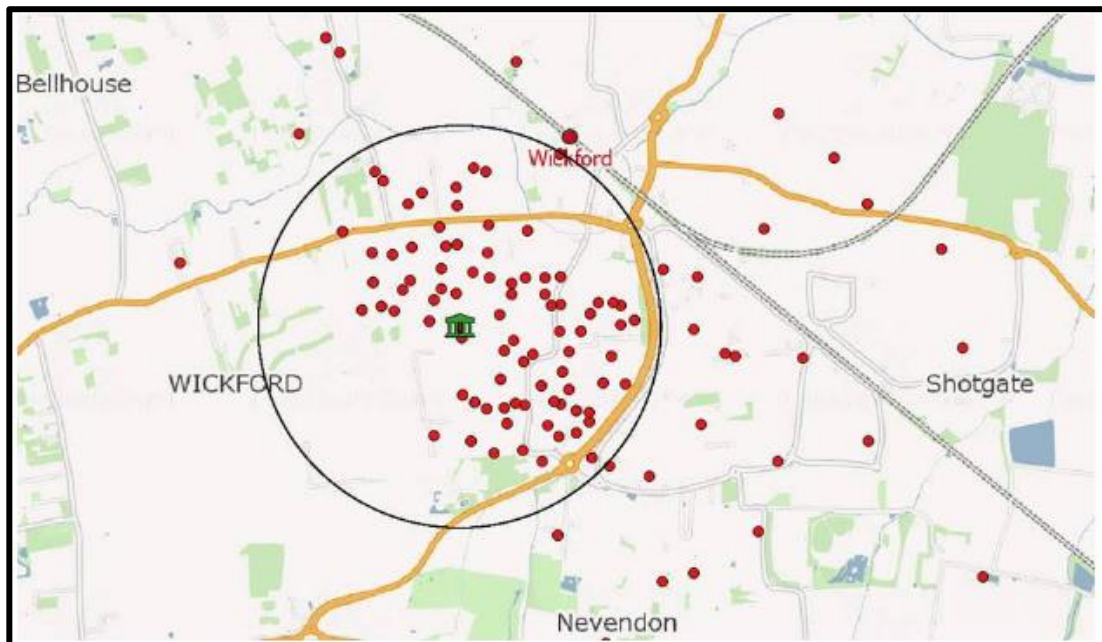
## School Travel Policy

Updated: Autumn 2024

To be reviewed: Autumn 2026

## Rationale

The map below gives a rough idea of where pupils at Grange Primary School live. The circle demarcates a 1km radius around the school, clearly showing that the majority of our pupils live within close proximity to the school. In actual fact, roughly 77% of the pupils at Grange live within 1km of the school.



The average primary school journey is just 1.6 miles. And yet one in four cars on the road during the morning peak are doing the school run.

There are so many benefits to encouraging children to walk, cycle and scoot more regularly to school:

- It will reduce congestion and pollution around the school gates.
- And it will also help your child's mental and physical health.
- Teachers find that pupils who walk and cycle arrive at school more relaxed, alert and ready to start the day than those who travel by car.
- According to government guidelines, children and young people aged 5 to 18 need at least 60 minutes of physical activity every day. The average primary school journey is a distance that can be cycled, scooted or walked; therefore, it's the perfect way to squeeze more activity into our busy lives.
- Getting out of the car and on to your bike or scooter, and walking are all great ways to reduce your carbon footprint.
- Instilling a love of cycling, scooting or walking in children from a young age has long-lasting benefits, developing road awareness which encourages independent travel as a teenager. It can also create good habits for a more active adult life.
- Cycling, scooting or walking the school run will save you and your family a small fortune. You'll be paying out less on petrol.

To improve the health and fitness of our pupils, to protect the local environment and to make drop-off and pick-up times as safe as possible, we actively encourage our pupils and staff to walk, scoot or cycle to school as these:

- keep us fit and healthy
- help our pupils develop road safety skills which will keep them safe as they travel further afield and more independently
- help keep our local air clean, and our streets free from congestion
- are life skills that everyone should be able to benefit from

### **What we do**

- We use Modeshift STARS to update and monitor our school travel plan
- We promote safe and active travel as much as possible by using our newsletter and website at <https://www.grange-primary.co.uk/>
- We encourage all members of our school community to walk, cycle or travel by public transport for the journey to school. To support this we provide:
  - Cycling proficiency
  - Public transport information where requested
- Local school trips are made by public transport where possible, or on foot if the destination is close by
- We let all new pupils and their parents/carers know that we promote healthy and sustainable travel to school before the child starts at our school

### **What we ask of parents.**

- Please encourage your child(ren) to walk, scoot or cycle to school whenever possible
- Ensure your child(ren) walk or ride sensibly and safely on the way to and from school, and to push bikes and scooters on school grounds
- Ensure that bicycles and scooters are roadworthy and properly maintained. If in doubt consult a qualified mechanic
- Consider providing your child(ren) with a cycle helmet
- Ensure your child(ren) can be seen by fitting lights to their bike by supplying them with high-visibility clothing when they are travelling in the dark
- Make sure your child(ren) has a lock for their bike or scooter and that they know how to use it
- Ensure you have appropriate insurance cover for your child(ren)'s bicycle or scooter as the school is not liable for any loss or damage to cycles or scooters on the premises or being used on the way to or from school
- If you travel by bus, can you get off the bus at least two stops early and walk the last part of the journey?

We understand that sometimes there is no alternative to driving to school.

- Where a car must be used we ask parents to drive only part of the way, and drop their child(ren) off away from the school so that some of the journey can be walked or scooted
  - We would like to encourage parents not to drive up Elder Avenue past Deirdre Avenue, rather to park further away and walk in.
  - We actively encourage parents not to park at the top end of Elder Avenue to ensure the safety of all children and parents at busy times of the school day.
- If you do have to drive your child(ren) and stop in the near vicinity, please do so legally, safely and with respect for our neighbours and local residents
  - It is not acceptable to park or wait on double yellow lines
  - You should not park on the school zigzags
  - Please do not park across residential driveways at any time

Please note that the decision on whether a child is competent to cycle or scoot to school is for the parent(s) or carer(s) to make. The school has no liability for any consequences arising from this decision.

### **What we ask of pupils**

- Ask your parents if you can walk, scoot or cycle to school
- Behave in a way that shows you and the school in the best light whether walking, scooting, cycling or using public transport
- Ride or walk courteously, sensibly and safely on the way to and from school
- Push bikes and scooters on school grounds rather than cycling or riding
- Check that your bike or scooter is roadworthy and properly maintained
- Consider wearing a cycle helmet
- Make sure you can be seen by using lights in the dark or bad weather and by wearing high-visibility clothing
- Make sure you have a lock for your bike or scooter and that you use it