

Questionnaire from the Traffic Around Primary Schools Task and Finish Group

September 2017

SCHOOL: Upper Beeding Primary School.....

ADDRESS: School Rd.....

Upper Beeding

West Sussex.....

BN44 3HY.....

1. Do you have a school travel plan? And could we have a copy?

Yes we do – it is on our school website.....

2. Do you have any particular issues around parking outside your school in the morning? And in the evening?

Every morning and at end of school parent's park opposite the entrance and on the single yellow line during drop off and pick up times. Eye lines are obstructed and children cannot see if cars are coming when they cross. Parents also park up on pavements and kerbs.

This is a restricted parking area but there is no enforcement happens so parents do not observe the restrictions.

3. Are there problems with parking illegally outside the vicinity of your school?

Yes. We have a single yellow line opposite the school and some signage which parents ignore at drop off and pick up time and park illegally on. Where the single yellow line turns into double yellows, parents park up the kerb. We recently had new zig-zags outside of school which are more effective and parents generally adhere too.

In addition in the immediate locality parents tend to park poorly on corners, on double yellows and on pavements to get a space nearer the school.

4. What do you think would work well to resolve the issues?

Enforcement of parking regulations by traffic wardens. **1 -2 random visits per half term – one morning one evening, would be enough to create the sense of it is likely to happen. Parents on the whole are supportive of this with in excess of 75% of parents who responded to our survey agreeing enforcement was an appropriate route forward.**

We have literally done everything else possible. It is now a small percentage who will not think about where they park or care that they are putting children's lives in danger. We believe that only further involvement by authorities to give fines will give these parents something to think about.

When parking is not enforced by the local authority it contributes to conflict between parents who are parking and parents who are walking and passes the responsibility to the school. We can only advise parents as our primary role is to educate and for that we need a great relationship with our parents. It needs to be an external body from the school who dos this enforcement.

5. Can you tell us about the current situation regarding parking i.e. yellow lines, hatched boxes, are they visible, outside your school?

We have zig-sags directly outside front gate and a single yellow line opposite with in-adequate signage as to what parking restrictions this means for parents. We have very faded red in places also.

6. Do you have a walking bus?

No.

7. What do you do at your school to try to prevent antisocial behaviour? i.e. teachers/teaching assistants/parents with high visibility jackets outside the school at the beginning and end of the school day

We have staff at beginning of the day – but were told by Police that we can not enforce parking regulations. I will also not put my staff at risk to confront some parents. Governors and children have also stood to try to encourage parents to park more considerately and safely.

We have invested in new parking within the school to maximise our space and get teachers and school visitors' cars off the local roads.

We have regular assemblies and discussions led by the School Council. School Council have produced posters for parents. We have invested in Parking banners to remind parents. We have created a video through the eyes of a child of what inconsiderate parking does for their safety (please see our website).

Governors have presented to new parents on the issue at the beginning of the school year.

We have met with local parish council, community wardens, local councillor David Barling, police, District council to highlight the dangers and problems we are having with parking.

Through this the **parish and local council have combined forces** put in a new path from the local car park to the school for parents to use and we have had new line markings. This has helped to decrease the parking but it still is a problem and we need to keep the pressure up on parents to keep thinking about where they park.

8. What does your school do to involve children to encourage their parents to help with the problems? i.e. encouraging walking to school

We take part in Walk to school weeks and School Council lead on the Travel Plan. Children are actively encouraged to walk or bike/scoot to school through assemblies and health focus.

9. Is speeding a problem near your school?

Yes when parents become frustrated as they can't get through. Our main issue is parking illegally and making it dangerous for children and families to cross the road.

On the survey responses, 2 in 3 parents stated that they had personally witnessed an incident where someone could have been hurt by the current situation.

10. Do you have a policy in place to encourage cycling? Also for students to wear helmets when cycling and remove headphones?

Yes we do – all Y6 children take Bikeability in the Autumn Term and have to have a cycling permit so they can ride to school. They have to sign to say they will wear a helmet and cycle safely.

11. Do you have a record of accidents, incidents and near misses, caused by drivers outside your school?

We do not have a formal record but we can collate.

12. Is the parking at your school bad? (indicate as appropriate)

Strongly Agree

Agree

None

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

13. Do you have a lollipop person?

No. We have had the assessment and apparently we narrowly miss the requirements for county to provide one. Sadly we do not have enough funding to get one ourselves.

14. What would encourage your children to walk to school or travel by bike?

Parents supporting this.

15. Are road markings adequate/visible outside your school?

Yes – they are (NOW) but single yellow line not enforced so ignored.

16. What time does the school day start and finish and what time do the school gates open and close (if different)?

Gates Open AM	8:40
School Start Time AM	8:45
School Finish Time PM	3:10
Gates Close PM	3:30

17. In your opinion, what would be the one single solution to relieve the parking problems at your school?

There is no single solution. **There is a 3 prong strategy required, infrastructure, communication and enforcement.**

We started this journey 18months ago and it is still one we are on. We strongly believe it is the changing of parents mind set about parking that is the key. We have done everything we can physically to enhance where to park and give alternatives to parents. Children know and tell parents not to park illegally. We have poor signage and no authority to challenge parking on the single yellow line. We have encouraged parents to report to Operation Crackdown poor and dangerous parking and driving but believe a regular traffic warden presence with fines given out will reinforce the message of parking safely and legally. Our hope would be that this would make people think twice as they would possibly be fined...

18. Have the schools consulted with parents on these problems?

YES!

If you have any further comments which might be useful for the Group, please enter them in the box below:

This is an ongoing problem for many schools and will continue to be unless resource is put into it. We are hearing more and more about children being injured or fatalities occurring outside of schools. Solutions are not going to be the same for every school but the regular presence of traffic wardens even if once a week at varied days and times, morning /afternoon will make parents think twice.

Completed by: Becky Linford (Headteacher), Julie Krysik (Governor)

Date: 24/10

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire and assist with our review.