

Travel Plan

September 2024



Thurnham CEI School

The Landway, Bearsted, Maidstone, ME14 4BL



DfE number	886-3081
URN	118629
Headteacher	Tony Pring
School phone	01622 737685
School email	headteacher@thurnham-infant.kent.sch.uk
School website	thurnham-infant.kent.sch.uk

School Travel Plan coordinator	Ali Vant
Job title	Business Manager
Contact phone	01622 737685
Contact email	avant@thurnham-infant.kent.sch.uk

1 Introduction to the school

1.1 Background

Thurnham is a caring Christian community where everybody is valued and encouraged to flourish. We are extremely proud of our children and their achievements. Our highly skilled staff bring learning to life and ensure that all our pupils have the opportunity, support and challenge to achieve their full potential. We strive to teach our children the life skills needed to be happy, confident learners, so they can thrive at all stages of their education and in later life.

The school is situated in Bearsted on the outskirts of Maidstone, south east of junction 7 of the M20. We are in a residential area directly off The Landway in Bearsted. The Landway is a busy thoroughfare through the village linking the A20 to the M20, railway station and village green. The Landway is also on a bus route and one of the stops is just outside the school drive.

Thurnham was built in 1989 approximately 100m to the rear of the existing site of Roseacre Junior School. We are a 3 form entry infant school with 271 pupils, Roseacre Junior School have 425 pupils. The gates are closed between 8.30am and 9.00am and 2.55pm and 3.25pm to stop traffic entering the site when children are arriving and leaving.

1.2 Changes at the school

The school is neither moving nor expanding.

1.3 Inter-site travel issues

The school is on a single site, hence has no internal travel issues.

2 Operational hours

2.1 Core hours

Our core opening times are: 8:40am - 3:10am, Monday to Friday.

Pupils are admitted from 8.30am and are dismissed at 3.10pm. Children who have siblings attending Roseacre Junior School arrive earlier, in the afternoon they wait on the drive for Roseacre siblings to be dismissed at 3.20pm

2.2 Overall hours

We offer Early Risers childcare from 7:30am until 8:45am, when registration begins.

We also offer after-school childcare from 3:10pm until 6pm.

Mon	Early Risers 07.30am until 08.40am After School Club 03.10pm until 06.00pm
Tue	Early Risers 07.30am until 08.40am Yoga Club 03.10pm until 04.00pm After School Club 03.10pm until 06.00pm
Wed	Early Risers 07.30am until 08.40am Creative Writing 03.10pm until 04.00pm Film Appreciation Club 03.10pm until 04.00pm Multiskills Club 03.10pm until 04.00pm After School Club 03.10pm until 06.00pm
Thu	Early Risers 07.30am until 08.40am After School Club 03.10pm until 06.00pm

Fri Early Risers 07.30am until 08.40am
After School Club 03.10pm until 06.00pm

3 Staff and pupil numbers

3.1 Overview of staff & pupil numbers

We are currently over PAN and have 271 pupils on role with a waiting list for all 3 year groups. We have 9 classes, 3 in each year group. The school employs a total of 53 staff, a mixture of full time and part time staff, not all staff are in each day.

Age range of pupils: 3-7 years

Total quantity of pupils on roll: 270

Year R	90
Year 1	90
Year 2	90
Year 3	0
Year 4	0
Year 5	0
Year 6	0
Year 7	0

3.2 Current staffing levels

The school employs a total of 53 staff (9 full-time, 44 part-time, 0 working other hours).

3.3 Planned school expansion

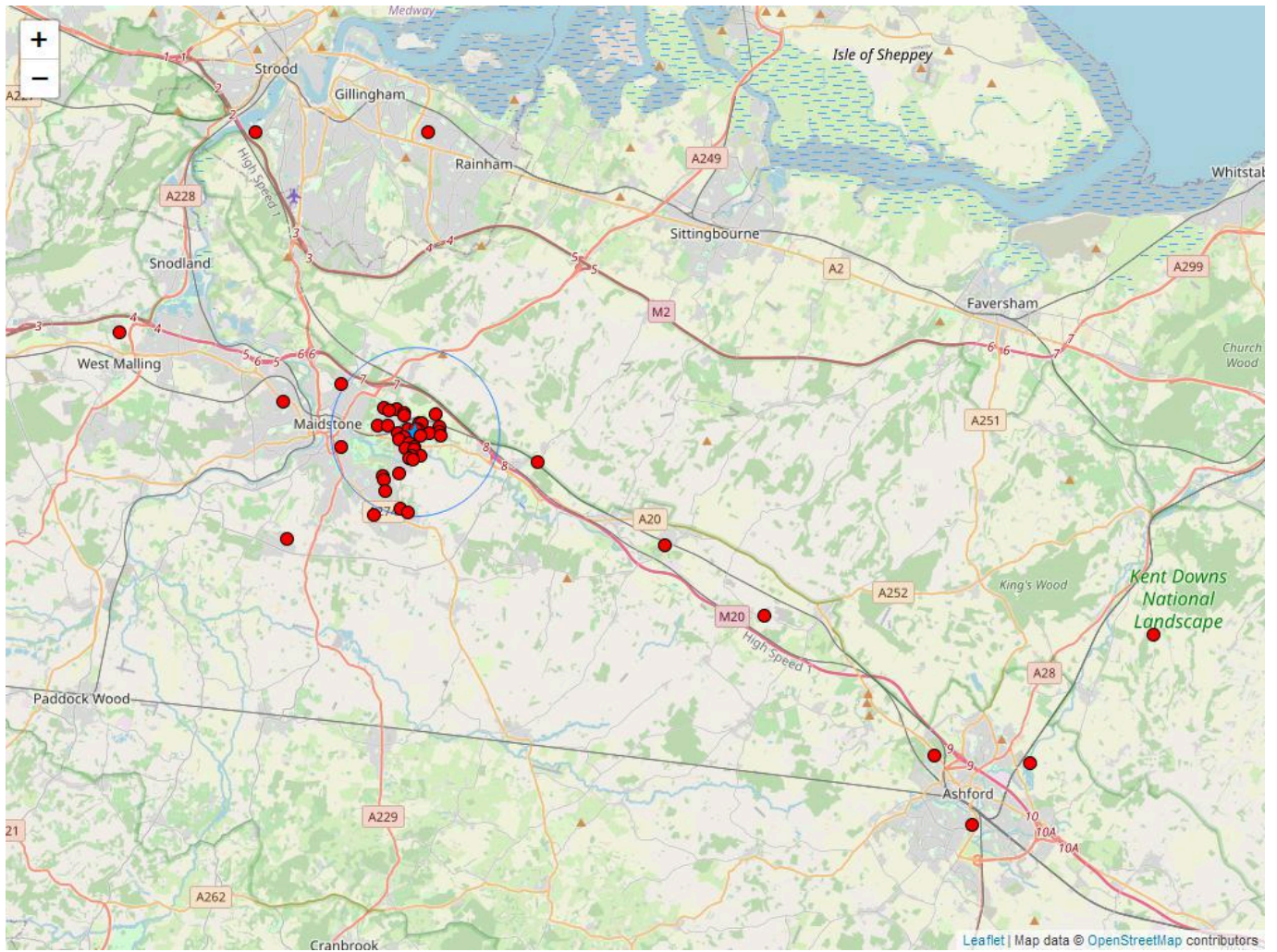
The school is not currently planning to expand.

3.3 SEN pupils with transport needs

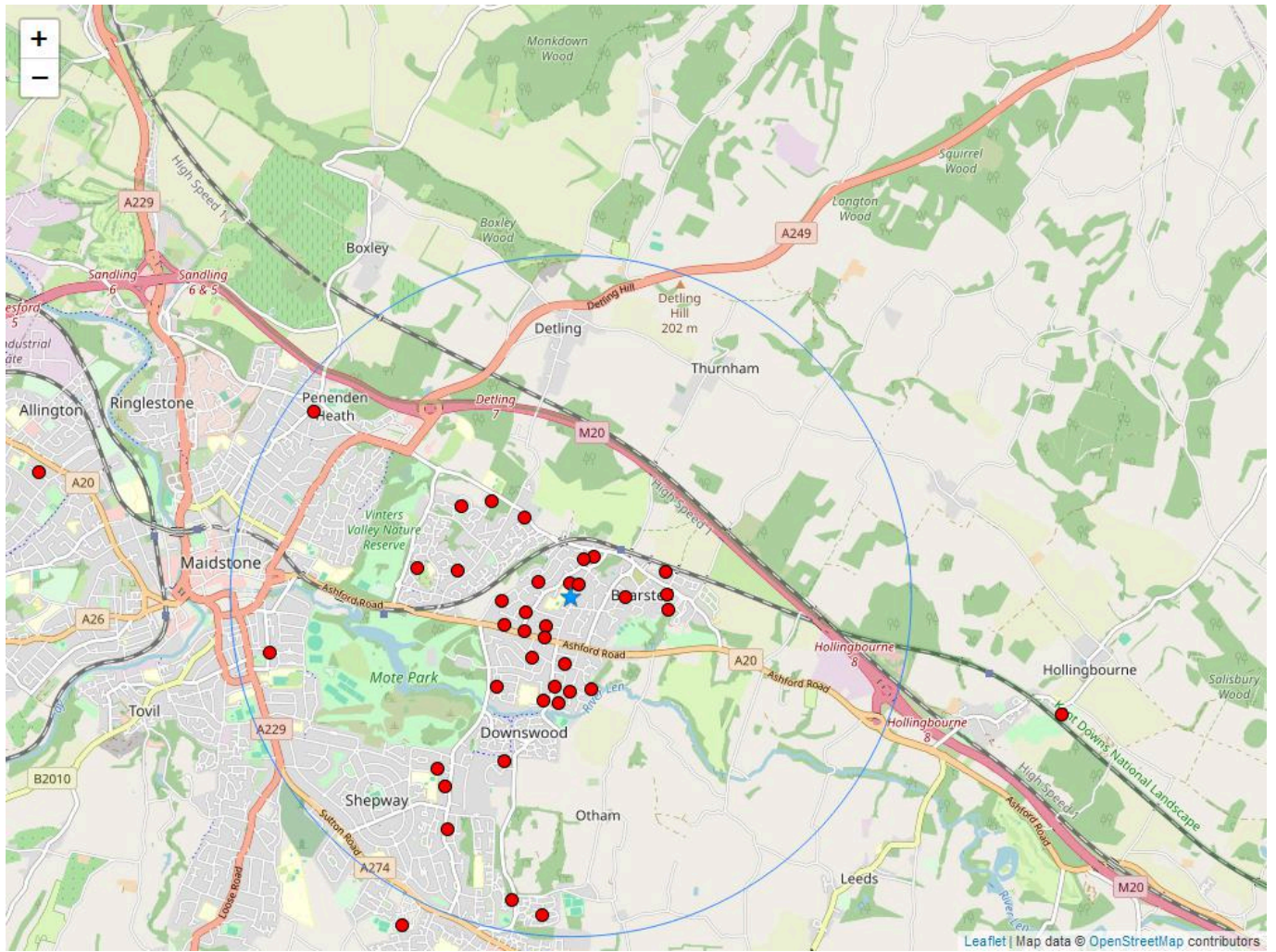
The school has no SEN pupils with specific transport needs.

4 Pupil & staff postcode maps

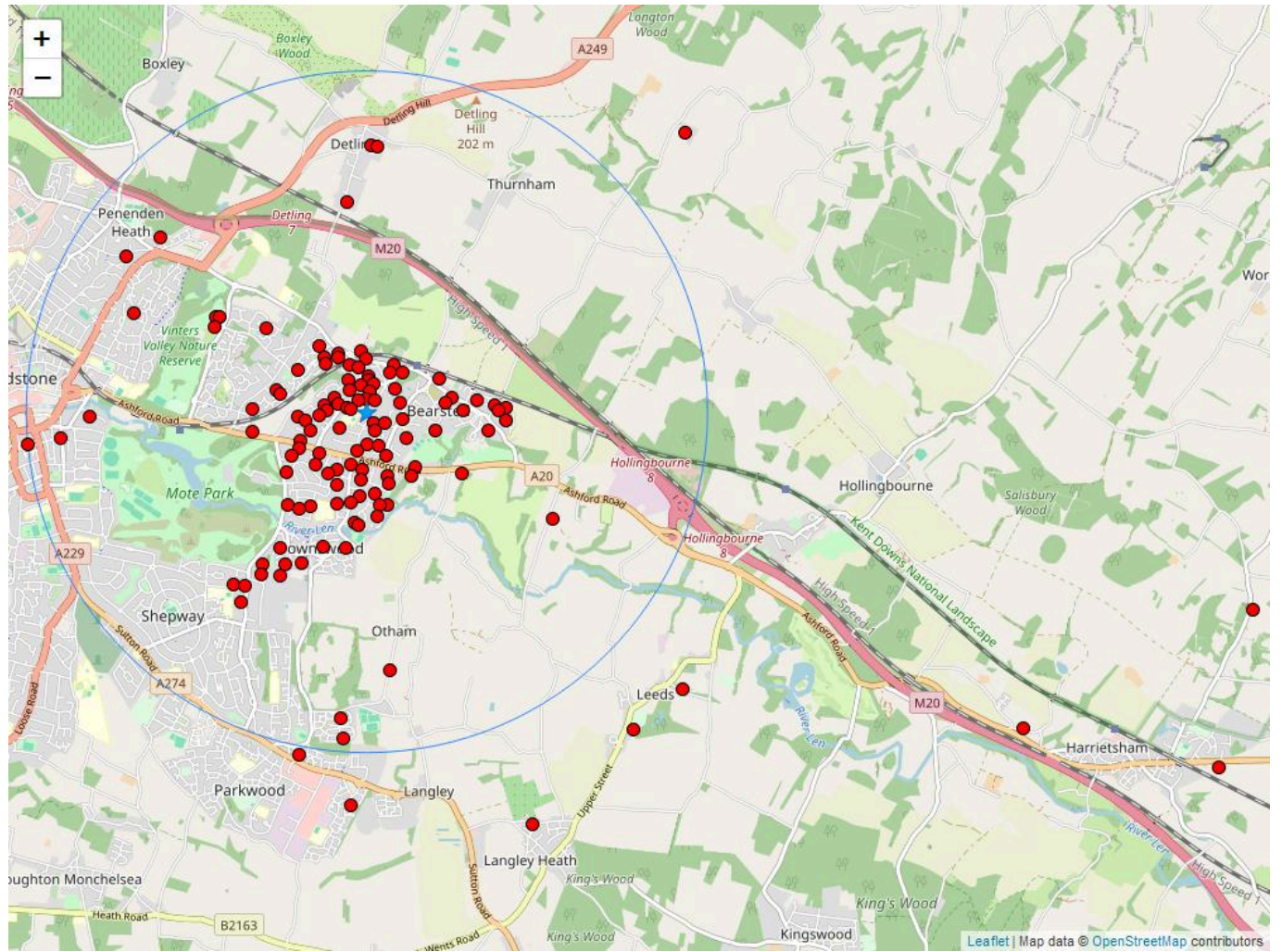
All staff postcodes



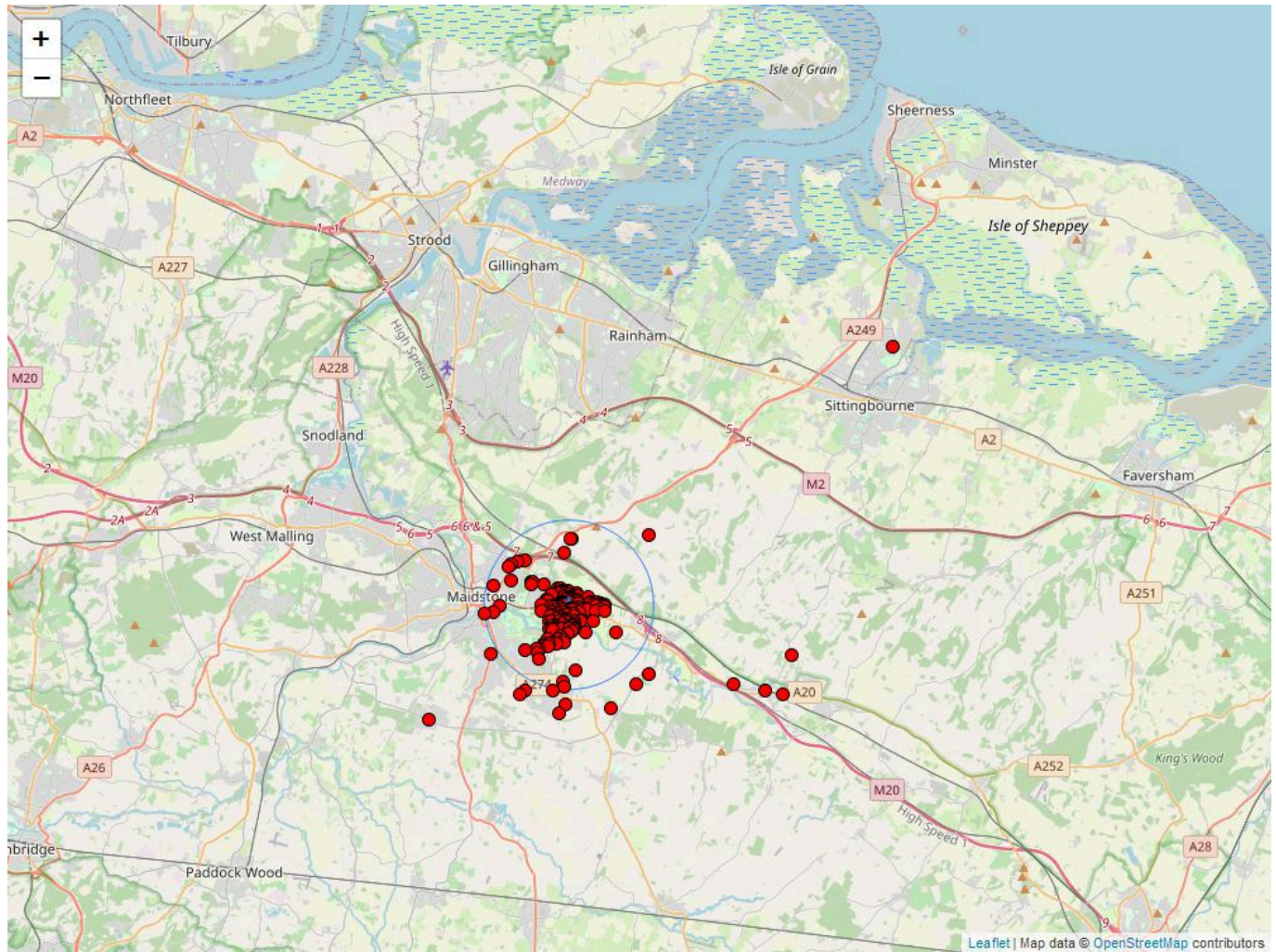
Staff postcodes 2 mile radius



Pupil postcode 2 mile radius



All pupil postcodes



5 Travel plan details

5.1 Previous travel plan

The school has a previous travel plan (2008), with the following objectives, targets, issues and successes.

- To promote the benefits of walking to school
- To improve the safety of pedestrians
- To reduce the number of children being driven to school
- To increase road safety awareness across the school
- To integrate the aims of the school travel plan into the curriculum where possible

5.2 Reason for new travel plan

We intend that the new, updated School Travel Plan will assist us in identifying measures and opportunities that we can explore to encourage positive changes for our families and staff on the school run each morning and afternoon. We have identified key concerns and issues that arise as a result of the morning and afternoon peak times (see section 12 for the list of issues) and, as a school we are committed to addressing and mitigating these issues as much as possible.

6 Surrounding roads

6.1 Surrounding roads

The school is situated in a suburban area of Maidstone on a bus route.

There are zigzag markings at the entrance of the site and limited markings on the corners of the driveway, there are also restrictions by the bus stop. There is no pedestrian safety barrier on the school side of The Landway. Opposite the school there is a pedestrian safety barrier, that is located at the end of the alley, leading from the centre of the housing estate which is used by many pupils. Many children and parents cross directly outside school to go down the alleyway, which has resulted in some near misses, due to parked cars on the corners of the driveway. There are pedestrian warnings signs on either side of the school to warn vehicles of children crossing. Additional parking restriction markings are in place in the immediate vicinity.

The Landway is a busy residential road, where all houses have dropped kerbs and driveways, many with double driveways. This can be a hazard for pedestrians with vehicles reversing in or out of driveways. It also means there are fewer parking spaces available along The Landway. The Landway is too narrow for two cars to pass each other when there are parked vehicles. This means at peak times, drivers can mount the pavement to pass.

Parents usually park on The Landway and in nearby cul-de-sacs (The Spurway, The Sprig and The Almonds).

The volume of traffic and the narrowing of the road due to parked cars, means that passing is very difficult especially at peak times. Cars frequently mount the pavement to enable passage and speeding often occurs to get further up the road as soon as possible. Parental parking exacerbates this problem at the peak time and buses and heavy vehicles find it increasingly difficult to negotiate the road.

Due to the volume of parking in The Landway, it makes identification of safe crossing points difficult for pedestrians.

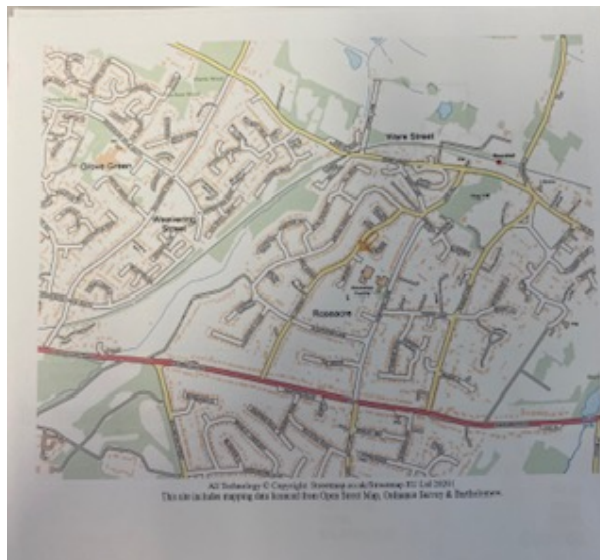
There are no road crossing patrols, despite the school advertising for the positions.

6.2 Entrances and exits

The entrance consists of a main gate and 2 small pedestrian gates either side. There are no other entrances or exits into the school site, it is the sole access for all vehicles including emergency vehicles and deliveries to both schools. The school main gates are closed between 8.30am and 9am and 2.55pm and 3.25pm to stop additional traffic entering the site when children are arriving and leaving.

Pedestrians are required to cross the staff car park entrance at Roseacre Junior School and walk up the pathway/drive to our school site.

Local map



6.3 Parking restrictions nearby

There are school clearway markings outside the school.

There are parking restrictions on nearby corners

There are zig-zag markings on school drive entrance rather than The Landway.

The zig-zag markings on the corners of the drive are very limited.

6.4 Traffic management measures

The school offers no traffic management measures.

6.5 Drop-off on roads outside the school

Parents are not able to drop pupils off on nearby roads.

6.6 Congestion and access problems

The school experiences traffic congestion and/or access problems.

All surrounding roads become congested. The roads affected are:

The Landway, The Spurway, The Sprig, The Almonds, Birling Avenue, Ames Avenue and Mynn Crescent.

7 Car parking & usage

7.1 School car park

The school has an on-site car park.

In total, 18 parking spaces are available.

Parking spaces are not managed.

Parking spaces are allocated as follows:

17	employees (total)
0	visitors
1	mobility impaired
0	a drop off point
0	car sharers
0	pupil parking
0	minibus
0	other

7.2 Drop-off points

The school has no off-site drop-off point.

The number of parking spaces onsite is insufficient for the number of staff, so there is often problems with double parking and congestion.

Parents are not able to drop pupils off within the school grounds.

7.3 Parking on surrounding roads

Members of staff have to park on the surrounding road network.

Some staff have to park on the surrounding road network due to lack of space, and to be able to leave while the main gates are closed.

7.4 Other parking issues

There is no capacity to increase the size of the staff car park.

8 Pedestrian facilities

8.1 Access by footpath

The school is accessible by footpaths which are of good quality but which lack safe crossing points. The Landway has lots of drop kerbs for access to residential properties. There is a tactile pavement in place for crossing the school drive.

8.2 Access difficulties for pedestrians

None.

8.3 Crossing patrols

None.

8.4 Highway signs

There could be an increase in road signage to the school.

8.5 Walking bus

The school does not have a walking bus.

There is not currently a walking bus. It would be difficult with the number of children attending both schools to find sufficient adults to organise and operate it.

8.6 Other walking initiatives

The school does not promote any other walking initiatives.

8.7 Other pedestrian issues

Parents have indicated their concerns around walking to school in terms of safe crossing points, cars mounting the pavements, residents reversing to and from their driveways. Some school staff live such a distance from the school that walking is not an option.

9 Cycling & scootering

9.1 Pupil scootering

Some pupils (27) scooter to school.

The exact number can vary daily.

9.1a Scooter parking/storage

Scooter parking/storage spaces (36 total) are provided.

Scooter parking is adjacent to the infant school gate.

On the days the scooter racks are full, pupils leave their scooters hooked on the school fence adjacent to the scooter racks.

9.1b Encouragement & promotion of scootering to pupils & parents

Scootering is encouraged and/or promoted.

Scootering is encouraged by word-of-mouth and by providing parking places. The school has purchased a number of scooters for use at lunch time to enhance pupils scooter skills and confidence so that they might be encouraged to scooter to school

9.2 Pupil cycling

Some pupils (5) cycle to school.

Cycling is not actively encouraged as there is a lack of cycle paths and routes and the surrounding roads are too dangerous for infant pupils to use although some parents do allow their children to cycle on the pavements.

9.3 Staff cycling

No staff currently cycle to school.

There is a lack of adult cycle storage.

9.4 Cycle routes/lanes

The school site is not accessible by external cycle routes/lanes.

9.5 Cycle parking

9.6 Cycle training

The school accesses cycle training from Cycle Ready.

9.7 Encouragement & promotion of cycling

Cycling is neither encouraged nor promoted.

There is a lack of cycle paths and routes.

9.8 Other cycling issues

The surrounding roads are too dangerous for infant pupils to use.

10 Public transport

10.1 Use of public transport

Public transport is not used for travel to and from school.

10.2 Obstacles to use of public transport

Bearsted train station is approximately a 15 minute walk from the school.

10.3 Promotion of public transport

We do not currently.

10.4 Bus stops and services

10.4a Bus stops within 400m of site entrances

Two bus stops within 400m of the site.

10.4b Services currently serving these bus stops

643 Arriva

10.4c Shelters at these bus stops

There are no shelters at the nearby bus stops.

10.5 Railway stations and services

The site is served by one or more nearby railway stations.

None.

Southeastern services to Maidstone.

11 Contract transport

11.1 School buses

There are no dedicated school buses.

11.2 Taxis

Taxis, whether for SEN or other students, are not a regular part of the school day.

11.3 Parking issues related to contract transport

None.

11.4 Other contract transport issues

None.

12 Current travel issues

12.1 Other travel issues

There is a long-standing Road Crossing Patrol vacancy.

Recently, there have been several near misses with pupils on or around the school site.

Parking around the school can be inconsiderate (blocking driveways, parking on zigzags, pavements, junction corners).

The staff car park is overcrowded and there is double parking which could restrict access to emergency vehicles.

There are many short journeys to school from the village which increases congestion on The Landway. This can result in pupils crossing between parked cars and reduced visibility.

12.2 New & current travel issues

Vehicle congestion at drop off and pick-up times is the biggest issue.

Too many children are driven to school, not enough walk or scooter.

Many due to parental concerns about the safety of the surrounding roads.

Some staff drive to school from homes within walking distance.

13 Travel survey results

modal split percentages (actual) - pupils

	May 2024	Mar 2007
walk	41.5	59.9
park & walk	26.0	
cycle	2.0	0.0
scoot/skate	11.0	
bus (all types)		0.0
public bus	0.4	
school bus	0.0	
rail	0.0	0.0
car share	0.4	1.9
car (alone)	18.7	37.8
other	0.0	0.4

NB rounded percentages may not add exactly to 100.0%

modal split percentages (ideal) - pupils

	May 2024
walk	23.2
park & walk	7.3
cycle	16.7
scoot/skate	26.8
bus (all types)	
public bus	0.8
school bus	6.5
rail	7.3
car share	1.6
car (alone)	9.3
other	0.4

NB rounded percentages may not add exactly to 100.0%

modal split percentages (actual) - staff

	Jun 2024	Mar 2007
walk	23.9	42.9
cycle	0.0	0.0
bus	0.0	0.0
train	0.0	0.0
car (alone)	76.1	57.1
car share	0.0	0.0
other	0.0	0.0

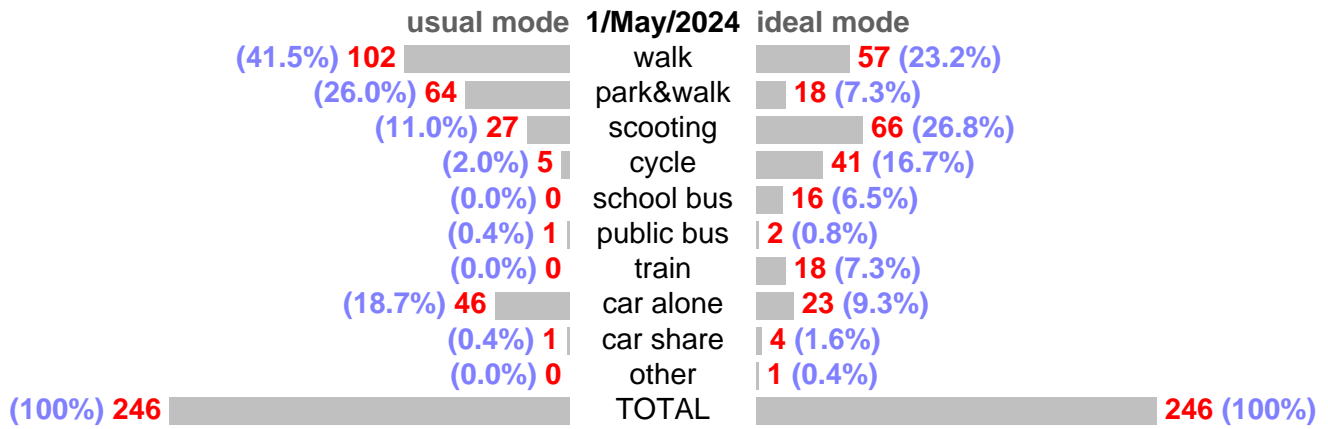
NB rounded percentages may not add exactly to 100.0%

modal split percentages (ideal) - staff

	Jun 2024
walk	45.7
cycle	8.7
bus	0.0
train	0.0
car (alone)	45.7
car share	0.0
other	0.0

NB rounded percentages may not add exactly to 100.0%

13.1 Barchart of latest pupil actual/ideal survey



14 Objectives

1	<i>To encourage more children to walk or scooter to school.</i> <i>To reduce vehicle congestion and therefore increase safe crossing points in The Landway.</i>
2	<i>To encourage more staff to avoid driving to school.</i> <i>To reduce the number of vehicles on site. The car park is overused with cars double parked.</i>

15 Targets

A	<i>increase % of pupils arriving/departing solely on foot from 41% (May 2024) to 45% by Jul 2025</i>
B	<i>increase % of pupils travelling by scooter from 11% (May 2024) to 15% by Jul 2025</i>
C	<i>reduce % of staff arriving/departing by car (alone) from 76% (Jun 2024) to 70% by Jul 2025</i>

16 Actions

Summary:	Tasks:	Status:
<p>Annual Survey [lead: Headteacher] Following the creation of the 2024 School Travel Plan, we will continue to monitor the Travel Plan objectives and key issues.</p>	<p>Complete the Annual Review via the Jambusters system for the 3 years following the approval of the 2024 School Travel Plan (2025, 2026, 2027)</p> <p>As part of the Annual Review of the 2024 School Travel Plan, we will complete a hands up survey with our pupils for the next 3 consecutive years. We intend to complete the travel survey in term 5 or term 6 each year.</p> <p>As part of the Annual Review of the 2024 School Travel Plan, we will complete a survey with our staff for the next 3 consecutive years. We intend to complete the travel survey in term 5 or term 6 each year.</p>	not started
<p>Assemblies [lead: Headteacher] Deliver assemblies through out the school year on topics to support the promotion of active and sustainable travel</p>	<p>Look to promote annual events such as "road safety" week</p> <p>Look to invite guest speakers to support our topics and educational assemblies</p>	not started
<p>Car Share [lead: Business Manager] Encourage car sharing for staff</p>	<p>Using the new Travel Plan data and imagery regarding the staff postcodes, we will encourage car sharing to staff. Staff will be reminded at staff briefings.</p> <p>The staff postcode mapping image (from the School Travel Plan) will be displayed in the Staff Room to prompt conversations regarding staff car sharing and sustainable travel options.</p>	not started
<p>Cycling [lead: Business Manager] Install specific charging point for cycle batteries to enable and encourage staff to ride electric bikes to school</p>	<p>February 2025 - project end date, installation to be completed and signed off</p> <p>June 2024 - Apply for KCC grant funding</p> <p>September/October 2024 - Obtain quotes from electrician. Work costs to be met by the award funding (total funding £5,000)</p>	ongoing
<p>Cycling [lead: EY Lead and PE Lead] Cycle Ready - to provide cycle ready lessons to Year R pupils before the end of term 6</p>	<p>Contact Cycle Ready to arrange the training sessions</p> <p>Deliver the training sessions before the end of term 6</p>	ongoing
<p>Road Safety Education [lead: Headteacher/Business Manager] Responsible Parking Toolkit - utilise KCC's Responsible Parking toolkit to support sharing key messages with car users at peak times.</p>	<p>Identify appropriate leaflets that can be sent out to families during the course of the academic year, particularly if specific complaints are received from local residents.</p> <p>Liaise with Roseacre Junior School to promote an Art competition to design road safety banners that can be put on the school gates.</p> <p>Arrange the purchase of a banner for the winning design</p>	not started
<p>School Crossing Patrol [lead: Headteacher] Liaise with Roseacre Junior School to re-advertise for a SCP, ensuring that the site still meets the criteria, liaising with KCC as appropriate.</p>		ongoing
<p>School Newsletter [lead: Headteacher] Reinforce the promotion of safer and more active and sustainable travel options to families</p>	<p>Promotion of active travel initiatives through out the academic year</p>	not started
<p>Storage [lead: Business Manager] install cycling storage for staff to enable and encourage cycling to work</p>	<p>June 2024 - Apply for KCC grant funding</p> <p>Sept/Oct 2024 - obtain quotes for covered and uncovered storage for adult bikes, costs to be met by the award funding (total funding £5,000)</p> <p>February 2025 - project end date, installation to be completed and signed off</p>	ongoing
<p>Storage [lead: Headteacher]</p>	<p>June 2024 - Apply for KCC grant funding</p>	ongoing

Install welly storage to promote walking to school even in incimate weather	Sept/Oct 2024 - obtain quotes for covered and uncovered welly storage, costs to be met by the award funding (total funding £5,000) February 2025 - project end date, installation to be completed and signed off.	
Storage <i>[lead: headteacher]</i> install scooter storage to encourage increased scooter usage	June 2024 - Apply for KCC grant funding September/October 2024 - Obtain quotes for scooter storage units, costs to be met by the award funding (total funding £5,000) February 2025 - project end date, installation to be completed and signed off.	ongoing
Zig Zag Enforcement <i>[lead: Headteacher/Business Manager]</i> Explore options to make the road surface Zig Zags and other road markings more visible to road users (very worn out)	Liaise with KCC to find the best way to have the markings repaired/repainted Engage with the local Parish Council to see if our aims could be achieved in partnership with their Highways Improvement Plan for our area.	not started

17 Monitoring and reviews

The Travel Plan will continue to be monitored closely by the school, and reviewed on an **annual** basis.

The school agrees to complete a brief annual review of this travel plan **and** a pupil hands up survey at least on an annual basis, or when requested by KCC. The hands up data and review will be fed into KCC's Travel Plan Management System. This will be led by Ali Vant.

The review will take into account all pupils' needs arising from new developments in education and transport provision. A more detailed review will be carried out should the school seek planning permission for further development.

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

Headteacher	<i>Tony Pring</i>	26/Sep/2024
Chair of Governors	<i>Sue Jackson</i>	26/Sep/2024