



BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

2016

MILTON ERNEST

VC LOWER SCHOOL



School Travel Plan

For Proposed School Expansion

Date submitted: February 2016

Date approved: 2nd March 2016



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1.Introduction

Milton Ernest is a village of around 600 residents based in North Bedfordshire. Our small school is set at the heart of the village and serves children between the ages of 4 and 9 years. The school is part of a federation with Eileen Wade Lower School.

At Milton Ernest VC Lower School we believe that education enriches people's lives and aspirations. We value everyone and strive for all to reach their full potential. We base our work on the principle that children learn most effectively in a secure, exciting, challenging and inclusive environment that nurtures a life - long love of learning. As a Church of England school, Christian faith is central to our school's way of learning and living. We work in partnership with parents, the local community, All Saints Church, other schools in the area and fellow professionals to build our children's social, emotional, intellectual, physical, spiritual and ethical skills.

Our Aims:

- To provide the best possible education for each child through the delivery of a broad and balanced curriculum that matches individual needs and aspirations
- To provide a secure, happy and stimulating learning environment in which children are challenged and encouraged to take risks
- To enable children to become numerate, literate, creative and curious
- To promote a healthy life style
- To nurture an atmosphere in which children, parents, staff and community feel part of the school family
- To encourage mutual respect, confidence, co-operation and self-esteem
- To help our children to understand and respect other cultures, beliefs and faiths – so that they celebrate diversity and have no fear of difference

1.1. Reason for STP: This School Travel Plan (STP) is being developed to support the planning application for the expansion/extension of the upper age limit of Milton Ernest Lower School and enlarge the physical capacity to establish a primary school with an age range from 4 years (Reception) to 11 years (Year 6).

1.2. Proposed additional Pupil numbers from 2017

The current capacity of Milton Ernest Lower School is 60 places. It is proposed that from 1 September 2017 the capacity will increase to 72 places (12 places in Year 5) and from 1 September 2018 the capacity will increase to 84 places (12 places in Year 6). This will require 1 additional classroom for Years 5 and 6.

The earliest any changes could take place would be from September 2017. The effect for our school would see an expansion upwards to Year 5 in September 2017, Year 6 in September 2018 and then children would enter the Secondary School at Year 7 in September 2019.



2. Working Group and Involvement

In order to achieve remarkable shift away from single car occupancy and promote safer and active green travel in your school, we have established a Working Group to share responsibilities and workloads. Its members will be as follows:

KW	School Travel Plan Champion
LV	Head teacher
MS	Pupil
NB	Pupil
AC	Pupil
CH	Chair of Governors
Funmi Atolagbe	BBC Travel Plan Officer



3. School details

3.1. Description of the school

School Name: Milton Ernest VC Lower School

School Address: Thurleigh Road, Milton Ernest, Bedford MK44 1RF

STP Champion : Karen Winter

Telephone Number: 01234 822079

Email Address: office@mels.org.uk

Website Address: <http://www.miltonernestschool.ik.org/>

DFE Number: 822/3023

Type of School Lower

3.2. Pupils and staff numbers

Pupils roll: 51

Age range of pupils: 4 – 9 yrs

Number of pupils entitled
to SEN transportation and
how their needs are taken
into account: NIL

Full-Time staff roll: 3

Part – Time Staff roll: 10



3.3. Other information about the pupils who attend our school:

16% of our pupils are from an ethnic group other than White British
2% having English as an additional language
4 are entitled to FSM
3 are SEN

3.4. Other information about the people who work at our school:

Total Staff roll: 13

A majority of the staff team live within 5 miles of the school, with the remainder living between 5 and 11.4 miles away in the adjacent boroughs. There are a few staff that live within a reasonable walking distance to the school.

* Please note that although we do not have any facilities in the School for car parking, the Village Hall, which is opposite the school, are kind enough to allow us to use the car park, when the Hall is not booked, for staff/visitor parking and this can accommodate 15 cars plus 1 disabled space.

3.5. Current Facilities in the school

	Description	Numbers
Car Park	No. of staff parking spaces	0 See above *
	No. of visitor spaces:	0 See above *
	No. of disabled spaces:	0 See above *
Cycle Storage	Cycle Storage :	0
	Covered Sheffield Stands	0
	Sheffield Stands	0
	Cycle Racks	0



3.5. Current Facilities in the school

	Cycle Pod / Mini Pod	0
	Other Cycle Spaces:	0
	Scooter Parking Available:	0
If storage is available, how secure is it?	None at present.	
Storage Lockers:	No. of staff storage lockers:	13
	No. of pupils storage lockers:	0
Shower Facilities:	Are staff shower facilities available:	No
	Are pupil shower facilities available:	No

3.6. School opening and closing times:

	Start Time:	Finish Time:
School Site:	0800	1730
Pupils official school time:	0900	1530
Breakfast Club (if applicable)	0800	0850
After school Club (if applicable)	1530	1730



3.7. Extended and community use

Use of school outside of school hours including extended schools activities:

- We operate an After School Club which runs five days per week during term time between 15.30 and 17.30 in addition to numerous Clubs including PE, Gym, Football, Dance, Computer, Chess and Gardening.

3.8. Location of the school:

The School is bordered on one side by the A6 and on the other by Thurleigh Road.

3.9. Pedestrian and school entrances:

The School has three pedestrian entrances in total; 1 main entrance, 1 at the rear and 1 from the Village Green.

3.10. Transportation Links:

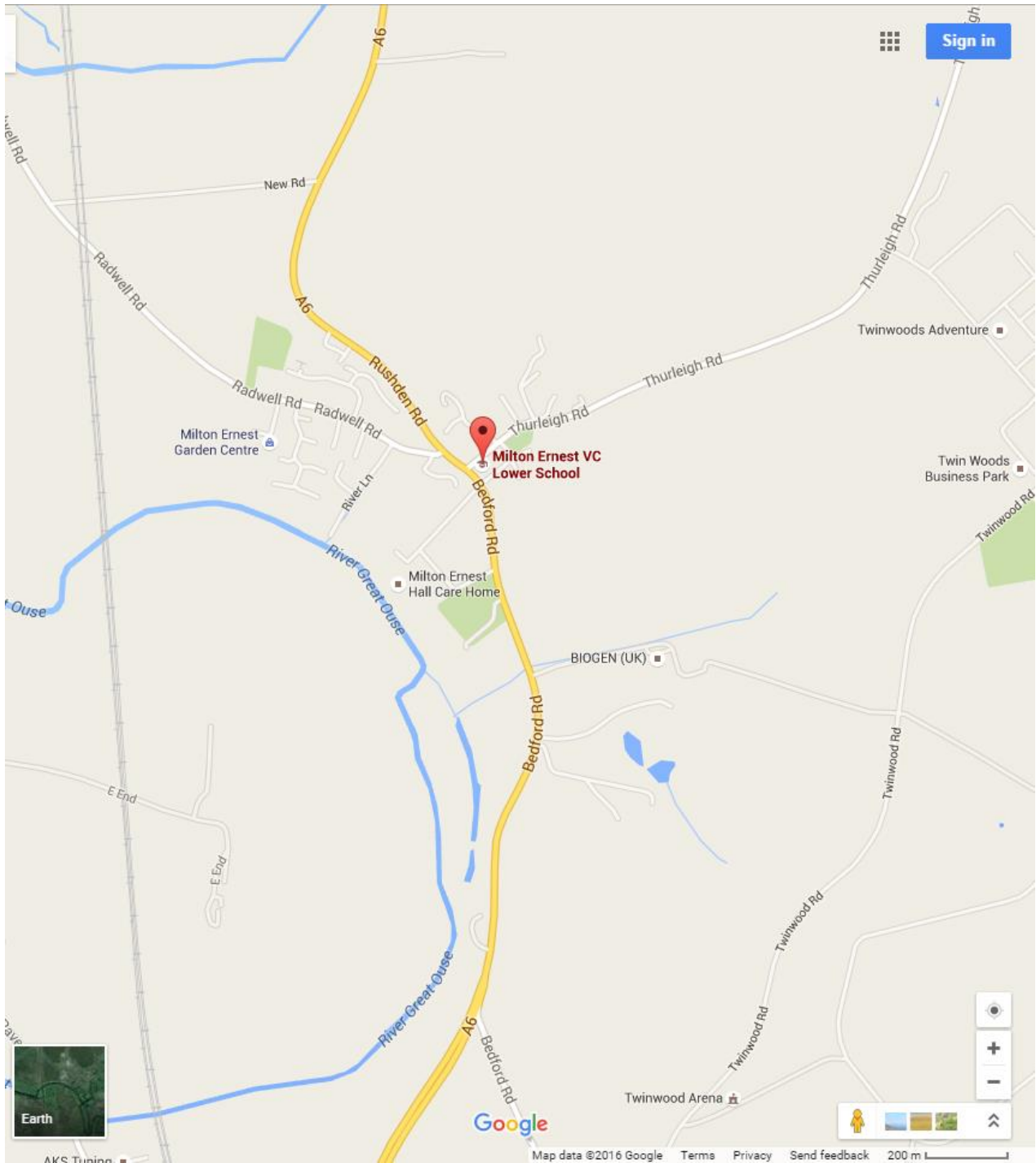
Buses: There is an M50 bus which runs every hour on weekdays between Bedford and Higham Ferrers, calling at Milton Ernest.

Trains/Tube: N/A

Roads: There is the main A6 just outside the School and Thurleigh Road adjacent to the School.



3.11. School Map





3.12. Catchment area:

- Catchment area for the School is Milton Ernest.
- We currently have 32 (63%) pupils who travel from outside our catchment area into school.
- It is proposed that the current catchment will apply whilst the school is expanded.



1:25,698



Milton Ernest Catchment Area

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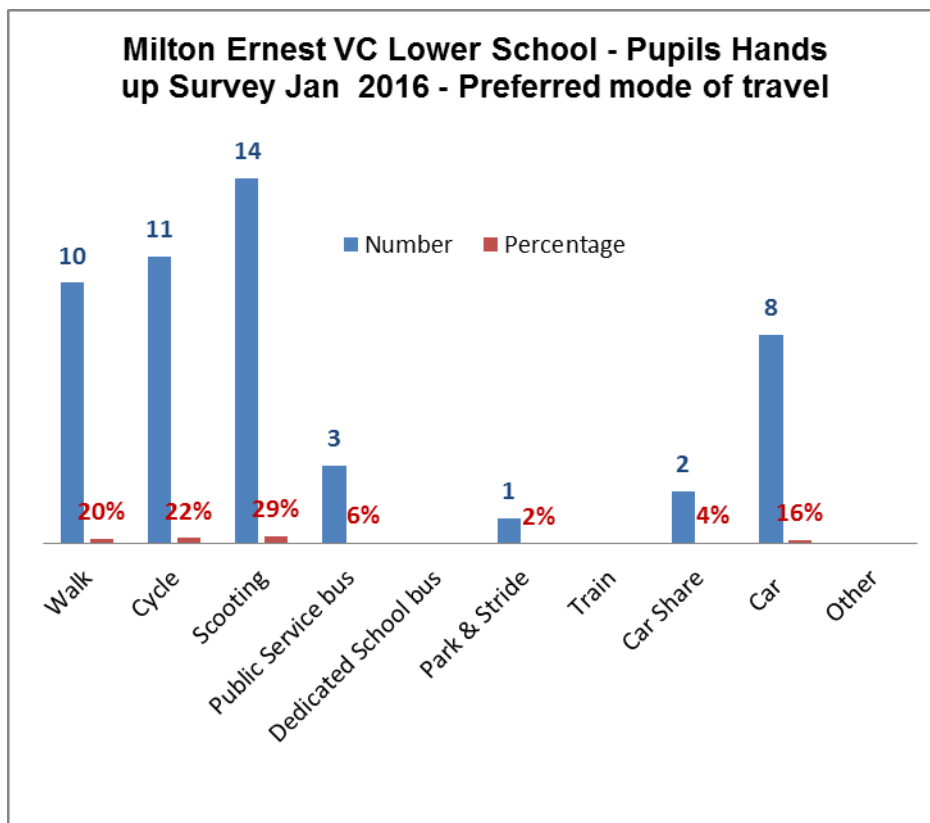
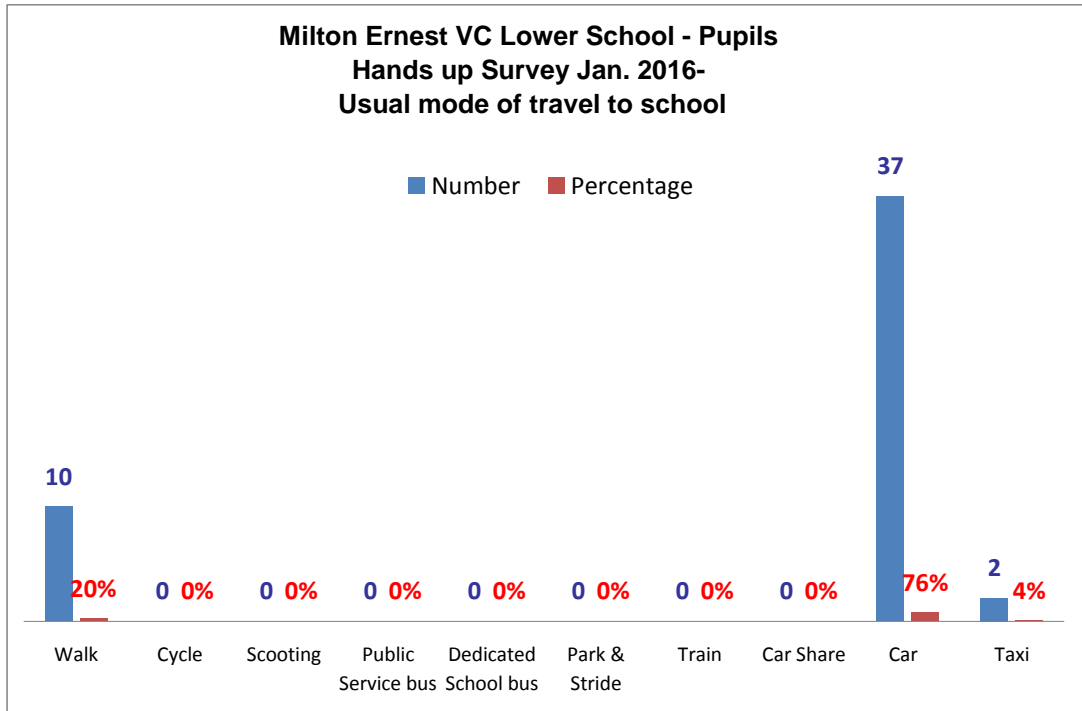
4. Survey Results

4.1 Pupils Hands Up Results

Responses: 49

Response Rate: 98%

Data Collection Date: January 2016



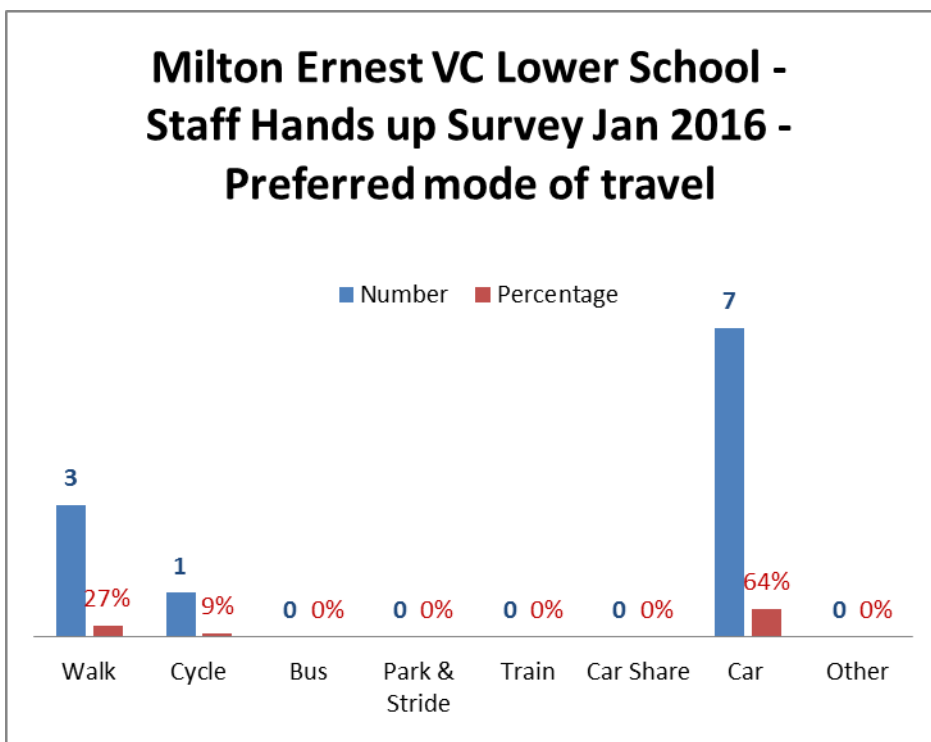
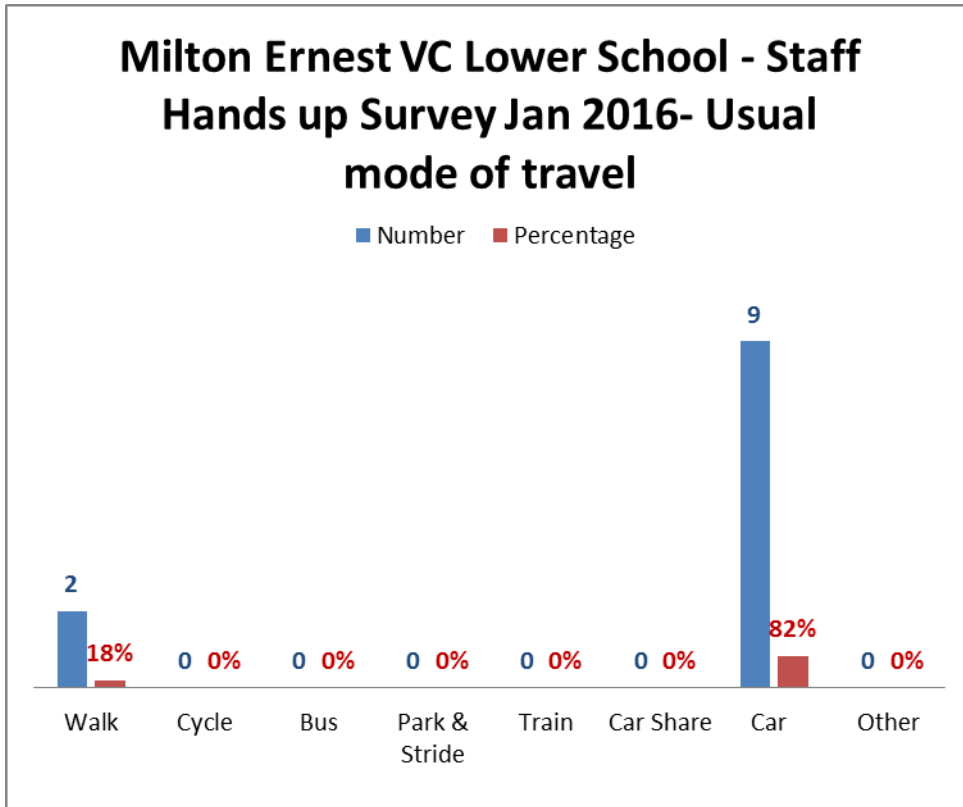


4.2. Staff survey Results

Responses: 11

Response Rate: 85%

Data Collection Date: January 2016





Comments from Staff Hands up Survey

Travel between schools during day needs car

Live 11 miles away so not an option!

Potholes & mud make cycling/walking difficult.

No buses available at times required.

Overall summary of survey/behaviour change:

82% of staff travel by car. Lack of suitably timed public transport and distance from school minimises the options open to them to choose alternatives, however those closest to the School do walk whenever possible.

Parents' Survey

Please refer to Appendix 1 for full details, key points as to why parents/carers currently choose to drive their children to school:

- Fits in around pick up & drop off for work
- Live in Bromham too far to walk/cycle
- Just started school therefore getting used to.
- Drop off 3 children at various schools
- Too young to travel alone
- Have to drop youngest at Nursery after
- Live other side of Bedford
- Safer crossing of A6, lack of cycle path
- We live 20 miles away
- We live 4 miles away



5. Travel and Transport Issues – Identified in the Staff, Pupil & Parent Questionnaires.

Details of the issue/concern	How was the issue identified	Possible solutions?
Potholes creating an issue if cycling.	School Staff and Parents	Bring serious potholes to the attention of the Parish Council & Highways Agency.
Distance live from school – too far to walk or cycle.	School Staff and Parents	Encourage use of bus if live Bedford side of School. Provide copies of bus timetable in Reception lobby at school.
Reduce number of car users.	School Staff and Parents	Encourage car sharing wherever possible.
Keep children away from A6 as much as possible	School Staff and Parents	Draw a route map to the school from the other side of the A6 to be given to new parents for information illustrating village footpaths avoiding the main roads as much as possible.



6.Objectives and Targets.

We intend to take the following actions based on our hands up survey data to promote sustainable travel:

6.1. New Objectives March 2016 till April 2017

I. Promote the health benefits of sustainable travel to the whole school community by utilising the school Games Committee and its work on Healthy Living in Schools.

II. Continue to promote the importance of road safety education, reinforced every time the pupils cross Thurleigh Road to use the Village Hall.

III. Aim to maintain number of single car occupancy travel to the school after proposed school expansion.

IV. Promote use of car share and use of local buses wherever possible.

6.2. New Targets March 2016 till April 2017

I. To have Year 4 children receive bikeability training by April 2017.

II. To have 100% of Year 4 children receive Road Safety Education by April 2017.

III. Take part in Bedford Borough's Annual Stepping out Safely young road user programme targeted at Reception & Year 3 children by April 2017.



7. Consultation and Collaboration –

Code	Activity	Details
 S1	The school has an STP working group (should include student representatives)	This is already in place and will be meeting twice per year.
 S2	Conducted consultation with parents: Evidence of questionnaires, survey results	Refer to Appendix, carried out in January 2016.
 S3	Whole school community involvement: Evidence of minutes of meetings with governors, staff, management team and school council	To be a termly agenda item at each of the meetings.
 S4	Pupil involvement: evidence of pupils work relating to the plan (e.g. updating plan, run travel initiatives, survey analysis, posters, monitoring of WoW)	Organising Walk on Wednesday Giant Walking Bus Assemblies Talks to classes Walk to School Activities Surveys
 S5	The school has carried out in depth research/alternative consultation methods (e.g. walking/cycling audits with pupils, mapping exercises)	Local area surveys and problems for key members of the community Research for preparation of school expansion Feasibility study with proposals for improved parking and enhanced safety considerations.
 G3	Safe and active travel is part of the School Improvement Plan/ School Development Plan.	Impact of active travel on pupil achievement, attendance and punctuality. To be included on the SDP from April 2017



8. MILTON ERNEST VC LOWER SCHOOL ACTION PLAN March 2016 to April 2017

8.1. Planned Initiatives – to promote sustainable travel modes and road safety for proposed school expansion.

Initiative Type/Aim	Action Ref	Action	Lead	Target date for completion	Funding Source
Walking Actions – To encourage more pupils/parents/carers walking safely to and from school.	W3	Local walking reward scheme. We will reward each child that walks to school in one week during May 2016.	LV + 2 SC reps.	31.05.16	E19 – Purchase stickers, using School Budget
	W4	Take part in National Walk to School Week. Organise an Assembly promoting safe & active travel to and from school.	LV	31.05.16	N/A
	W5	Take part in National Walk to School month, organised by Living Streets.	LV	30.11.16	N/A
	W7	Continue to take the children out into the local environment; this could be for a nature walk or to explore the neighbourhood incorporating some elements of Road Safety & Active Travel.	LV	30.04.2017	N/A
Cycling Actions- To promote safer cycling to the school community	C2	Provide a cycle rack ready for use by children & staff.	JE	30.04.2017	E12 – Arrange purchase & installation, utilising School Budget.
	C7	Cycle Reward scheme. We will reward each child that cycles to school in one week during June 2016	LV	30.06.16	E19 – Purchase stickers, using School Budget
Road Safety Actions – to create greater awareness of road safety education	R1	Cycle Training for children, we will continue to take part in Bikeability Training offered by the Borough.	KW	30.04.2017	N/A
	R3	Balance Bike Training – Pre-school reception years training using balance bikes.	RG/CW	30.04.2017	N/A
	R5	Stepping Out Safely – Continue to take part in the pedestrian skill training offered by the Borough using their resources.	KW	30.04.2017	N/A
	R9	Road Safety Assembly – As part of Walk to School Week we will organise a Road Safety Assembly.	JI	30.04.2017	N/A
	R11	School invites experts, like the Police, to talk to children about personal safety.	KW	30.04.2017	N/A
	R17	There has already been a successful request for installation of a 20mph zone outside the school, which is currently in	LV	31.08.16	N/A



Initiative Type/Aim	Action Ref	Action	Lead	Target date for completion	Funding Source
		operation.			
Smarter Driving Actions – promoting responsible, considerate and legal driving	SD1	School will promote car sharing amongst staff and parents where possible.	LV	30.04.2017	N/A
	SD6	Highway code is promoted to School staff and parents. Highlighting Highway Code Sections 238-252 “waiting and parking” to parents.	LV	30.04.2017	N/A
Promotional Actions – promoting active and safe travel to whole school community	PR1	Newsletter – The School promotes schools sustainable travel and road safety activities, reminding parents to park considerately of local residents & other road users.	LV	30.04.2017	N/A
	PR6	The School will publish a Policy encouraging safe & sustainable travel. Copies of these will be made available to parents too.	LV	30.04.2017	E22 – Funded from School Budget.
	PR9	Road Safety to be regularly included in school Assemblies promoting active & safe travel.	LV	30.04.2017	N/A
	PR12	Induction evening for new parents will include an item encouraging them to think of sustainable travel & explore the options available to them.	LV	30.04.2017	N/A
	PR13	The School Travel Plan will be uploaded onto the School website.	LV	30.04.2017	N/A
Curriculum Actions – promoting active and sustainable travel via the curriculum	CU2	The School teaches the health benefits of safe and active travel. This is incorporated into our curriculum & assemblies.	JI	30.04.2017	N/A
	CU3	The School teaches the environmental benefits of active and sustainable travel.	JI	30.04.2017	N/A
	CU7	Road Safety is included as part of the School’s curriculum.	LV	30.04.2017	N/A
Partnership Actions	P1	School works with PCSO in Riseley, who comes into the school for assemblies.	KW	30.04.2017	N/A



8.2 Completed Initiatives –

In the last few years we have regularly included an item in the school newsletter in which we remind parents of the need to focus on sustainable travel to and from school, asking them to consider car sharing wherever possible, or cycling if at all possible. This will continue.

We have continued to arrange for the children in Year 4 to attend the Captain Safety Roadshows, creating greater awareness for them of road safety.

We have continued to make provision for the Bikeability cycle training to take place annually, increasing the children's road safety awareness.

We have continued to take the children out into the village for nature walks, incorporating road safety training as part of the exercise.



9. Sign off and Formal Approval

Our next hands up surveys will be on: January 2017

Our Annual Progress reviews will be completed in: April 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021



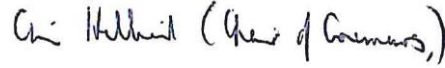
The persons responsible for ensuring that the annual review will be actioned is : Lisa Virnuls

When reviewing our School travel Plan we will take into consideration any issues arising from new developments in education and transport since the original STP was completed with specific emphasis on the proposed school expansion and extension of the school age limit.

Sign off and formal approval of STP

School signatures

Approval of the school travel plan by the school travel plan champion confirms the school's management (including but not limited to the Head Teacher and Governors) have read, understood and agreed to the contents of this document. Milton Ernest Lower School further acknowledges that they have committed to achieving all targets highlighted in their action plan and to the annual review and monitoring of the plan.

KAREN WINTER	
LISA VIRNULS	
CHRIS HILLIARD	 Chris Hilliard (Chair of Governors)
Parent Governors (Optional):	N/A
Other Stakeholders involved (Optional): e.g. Police, bus operators etc.	N/A

Council signatures

The following signatures confirm that the document has been Quality Assessed checked by representatives from Bedford Borough Council.

School Travel Plan Officer: Funmi Atolagbe 



Appendix 1.

**Milton Ernest VC Lower School – Parents/Carers Questionnaire
Date: January 2016**

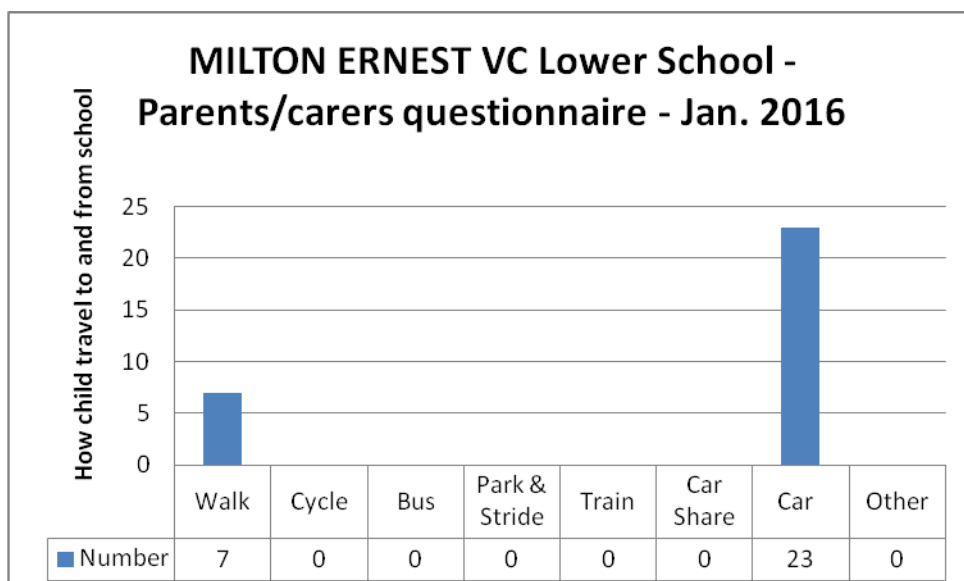
Number of responses: 23

- Parents/Carers postcode and number of children they have in the school :

The parents/carers that completed the questionnaire live in the following postcodes: MK44, MK43, MK41, NN10, MK40, MK42 and NN9.

On average, most of the parents have 1 or 2 children coming to the school.

- How child usually (i.e. at least 3 days a week) travel to and from school –



- **Important factors that affect choice of travel of child/ren –**
 - Availability of car : 11
 - Availability of public transport options: 2
 - Personal safety pf child: 8
 - Road safety of child – road safety education: 13
 - Child’s preference: 2
 - Distance from home to school : 13
 - Other comments:



Environmental impact
Travel onto work from dropping off.
Road safety A6
Car to school, walk home
Important to set example & walk

- **Travelling by Car:** What prevents child using other sustainable modes of travel?
 - A. Lack of safe route: 6
 - B. Convenience/Time: 11
 - C. Too much traffic: 2
 - D. Lack of cycle storage: 0
 - E. Too far to walk: 9
 - F. Other comments:

Fits in around pick up & drop off for work
Live in Bromham too far to walk/cycle
Just started school therefore getting used to.
Drop off 3 children at various schools
Too young to travel alone
Have to drop youngest at Nursery after
Live other side of Bedford
Safer crossing of A6, lack of cycle path
We live 20 miles away

- **If you drive your child to school, where do you usually go immediately afterwards:**
 - Back home: 6
 - To work: 14
 - To shops: 0
 - Other: 0

- **Travelling by car: What would encourage you to consider changing the way your child travels to and from school e.g. walking or cycling?**

When the children are older will review.
Nothing, prefer to use car & be with family
Change in job! When not working, do walk
On days with no time constraint, we walk
If we move house closer to school
Shorter distance



- **Walking and Cycling: If your child already walks, or cycles, what could make their journey safer?**

Already safe: 0
 Cycle routes: 0
 Safer crossing places: 5
 Safer paths: 2
 Cycle helmet & reflective clothing: 1
 Other comments:

A6 crossing closer to school would help

- Are there any places on the journey to/from school that you think makes them dangerous for children walking and cycling and reasons why they are dangerous?

Crossing A6 at Oakley end.
Dangers of Thurleigh road crossing put me off allowing children to cycle or scoot
Parents drive too fast in & out of Village Hall car park not watching children
Crossing Thurleigh Road to School from Village Hall car park is very busy
A6 very busy road even though red light some cars don't stop
A6 speeding in 30mph zone & Thurleigh Rd speeding
Crossing A6 when coming in from Clapham
A6 very busy road so not suitable for cycling as no cycle path.

- Parents/Carers opinion on other related travel issues:

Lollipop lady & get more locals to walk to school
Better if children could cycle on path as roads too busy, or a School bus.
No. of school bags, PE bags etc too much for child to walk with some days.
Parking in Village Hall car park is nightmare & likely to going to get worse
Too young to travel alone & no school bus
Need zebra crossing outside school