



## School Travel Plan - September 2024

Signed off by:	Name:	Date:
Principal	Mark Allen	16/9/24
Chair of Governors	Nigel Leeder	16/9/24

Next review date: September 2025

## **Introduction**

The School Travel Plan for Trinity Academy St Edward's (TASE) sets out how the Academy will deliver a sustainable travel plan, with the specific aim to reduce the number of staff, students, parents and visitors using individual car journeys to and from the Academy site. The Academy wants to encourage the use of more sustainable modes of transport such as cycling, walking and public transport by default. This document should be read in conjunction with the Local Travel Plan for South Yorkshire. This will be available in Summer 2024 after consultation following a mandate from the Department of Transport requiring all LAs to review and update their statutory Local Transport Plans to align with current national and local priorities. Whilst this was written before such plans were published, it will be updated in light of this document when published.

How staff, children and young people travel to the Academy is an important issue in Barnsley, mainly due to levels of congestion and pollution and ambitions for a greener town. The health of children and young people in and around St Edward's is also of concern, as local and national figures show that obesity levels and respiratory illness are still too high.

The travel plan provides a clear strategy and set of actions on how the Academy will promote sustainable travel to staff, students, parents and visitors. The plan also identifies barriers through the consultation with stakeholders, highlights appropriate initiatives to develop, monitors progress and reviews any further actions that will be necessary.

The Academy will work with the Council to develop initiatives that will support the travel plan, such as pedestrian and cycle crossings, traffic calming measures and 20mph zones, which are the legal remit of the local authority to implement.

## **Trinity Academy St Edward's Context**

Trinity Academy St Edward's Travel Plan reflects the commitment in promoting and encouraging smarter travel choices amongst its staff, students, parents and visitors, with a view to reducing reliance on the individual car journeys for Academy-related travel.

The Academy is located on Keresforth Close in Barnsley, as illustrated in figure 1 below. It provides a secondary phase of education, with an annual intake of 180 students. The overall student numbers of the Academy, after 5 full years of operation, will be 900 students. Additionally, over the first 5 years as the Academy gets up to operational strength, there will be circa 100 staff on site.

The Academy has the majority of students coming from the local area, but there are a number of students who travel across town to attend the school. The Academy has been in operation for 3 years now but has been based at an alternative site in central Barnsley and so the journey for many students will change and therefore the mode of transport could also change.

On a typical day, the school is open between 6:30am and 9:00pm, depending upon community use after school hours, noting lessons are between 8:30am and 3:45pm. There are regular extra-curricular and enrichment events and clubs for students following the school day. Occasionally there are '*productions*' but these are not on a regular basis. Several established partnerships with local clubs and coaches will operate within these

times, as set out in the Academy's Community Use Policy. There will be weekend community use as well, from 9:00am to 3:00pm.

The most used mode of transport for students to and from the Academy (see table 1 below) is walking, followed by cars. It is important to note the Academy does not require a dedicated school bus.

Figure 1 - Site overview



The site is accessed via Keresforth close. The pedestrian and vehicle ingress and egress from the Academy is well served by Keresforth Close which was widened to cater for the opening of the school, with good access to the A633 which leads out towards the M1, which is less than 5 minutes drive away.

The school is geographically close to another large secondary school although the access from the road is from a different road and so there is unlikely to be a convergence of traffic caused by the opening of the school in 2024. Additionally, the main roundabout serving the A633, and subsequently the school, has been developed by the Council and opened in 2023 with a new road layout and traffic easement measures.

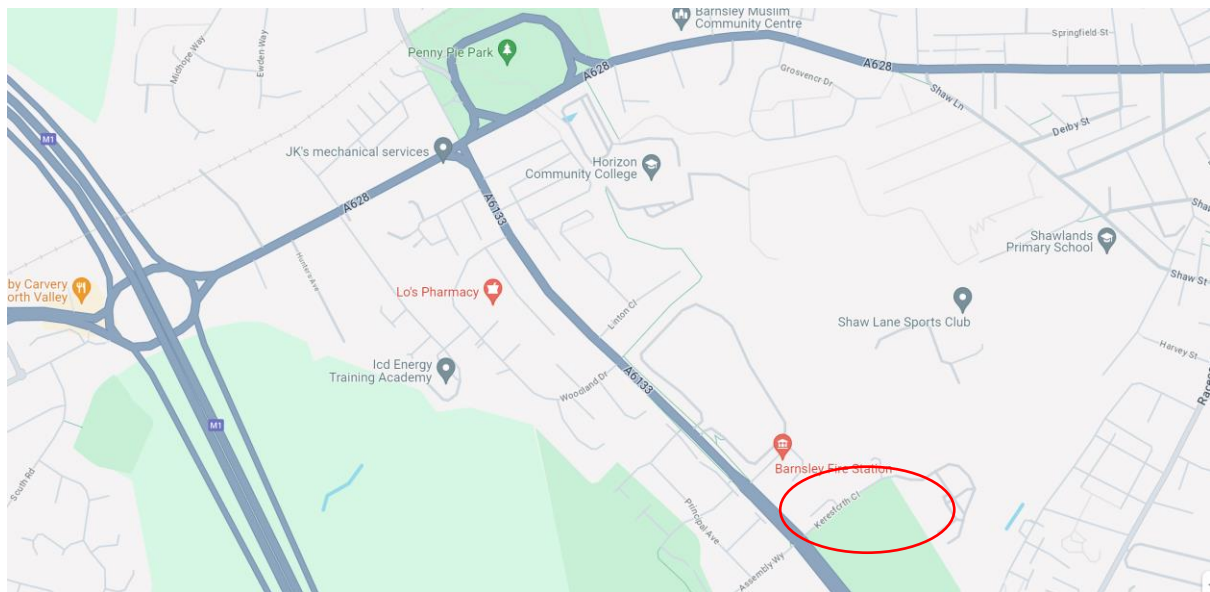


Figure 2 - Road network linked to the Academy

Figure 3 shows the vehicle usage in Barnsley over time and also how it was affected by the Coronavirus pandemic. The graph demonstrates that vehicle use has risen again post-Covid, although hadn't, in 2022, reached the heights seen in 2019.

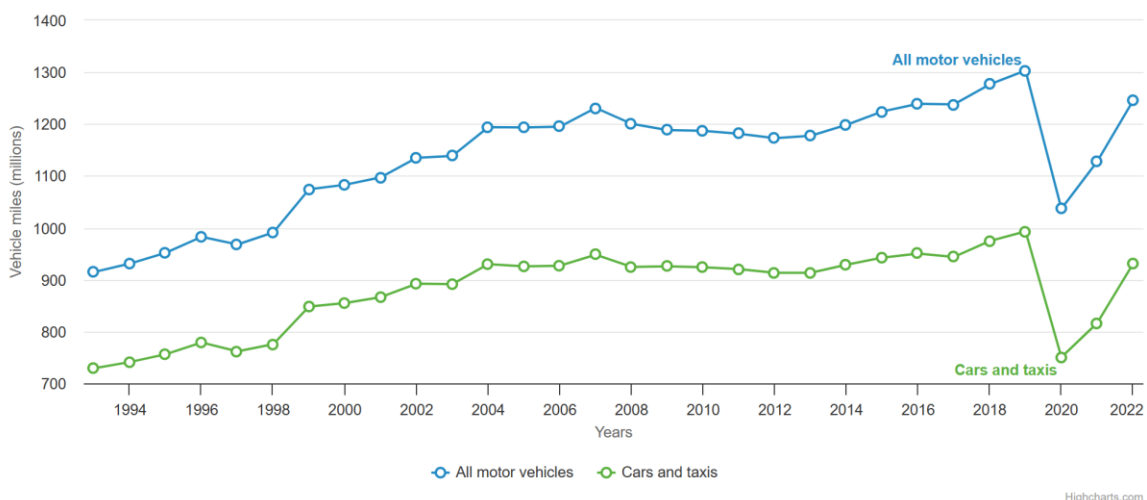


Figure 3 - Annual Traffic by Vehicle St Edward's

Additionally, below is a map (Figure 4) that shows the distance and distribution that children surveyed have to travel to the Academy. Our latest Y7 cohort (Sept 2024) have a maximum travel distance of **1.8km** from the site. This data shows that over the time we have been opened more children get a school place that live within a short distance from the school and this we hope will promote more children walking or cycling to the site.

Figure 4 – Distance children have to travel

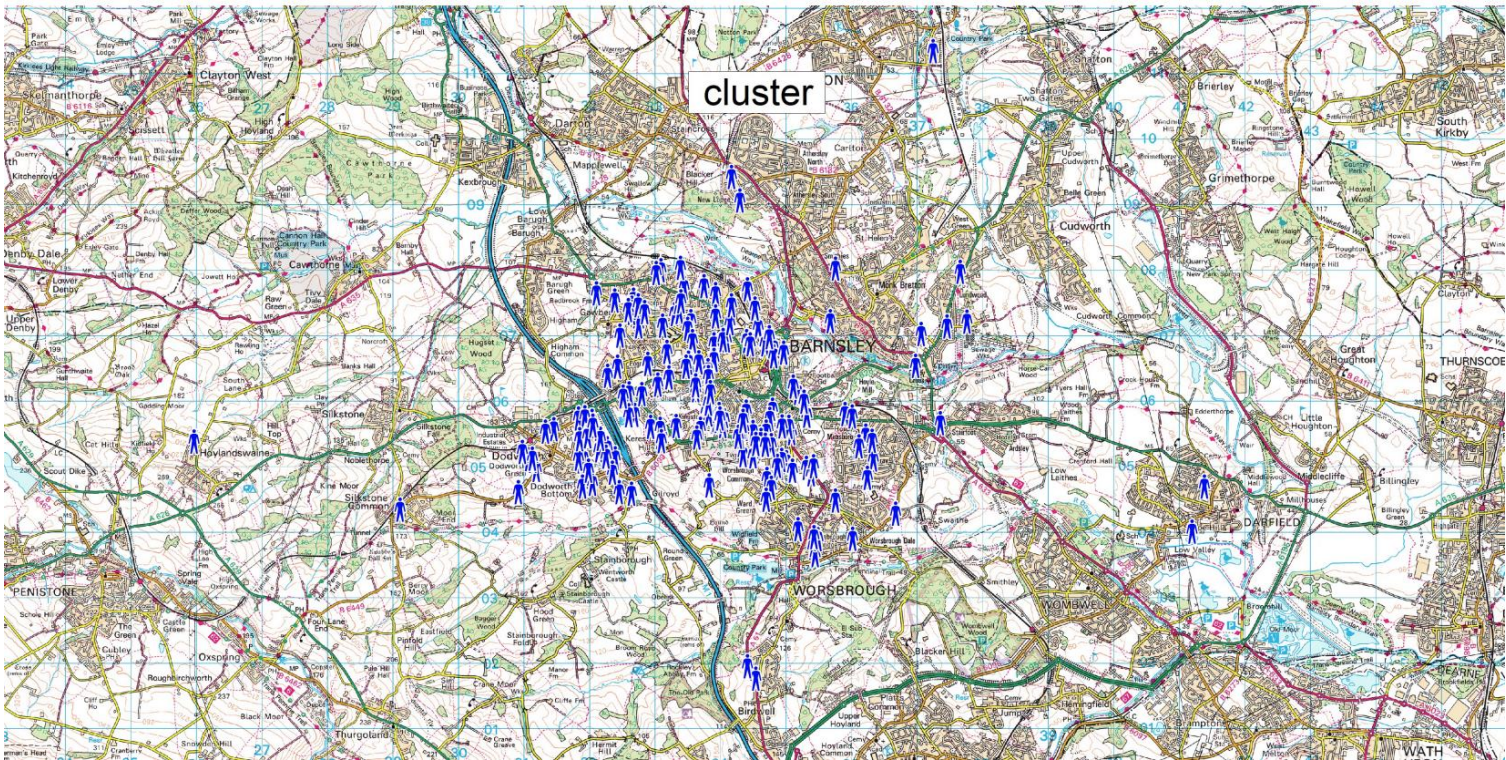


Table 1 below provides the modal split of students travel to and from the Academy. This is an annual survey and as demonstrated many parents do not respond. We complete this survey bi-annually and so will keep the table updated internally.

Mode of travel to the Academy	Student Numbers
Walking	88
Cycling	6
Public transport	76
Car	126
Car share	21
No response	403
<b>Total</b>	<b>720</b>

Table 1 - Student modal split

Mode of travel from the Academy	Student Numbers
Walking	137
Cycling	6
Public transport	85
Car	86
Car share	13
No response	403
<b>Total</b>	<b>317</b>

As can be seen from the student modal split data from the parents who filled in our survey, the majority of our children get dropped off by a car in the morning, but then more walk home after school. This is probably down to parents dropping off on the way to work or with other siblings. We have a small group of students who cycle; however, this will increase with the new facilities we have at the new site. There is a similar number of children who use public transport to travel to and from school.

In terms of staff travel mode to and from the Academy, the majority do arrive in cars (see table 2 below), but the Academy encourages car sharing to minimise the number of single occupancy vehicles. Staff do have access to the electric car scheme, which was launched in September 2022, and there are spaces for 8 electric cars to charge on site, including 2 disabled electric bays. The electric car scheme is part of a move to more sustainable transport.

Table 2 Staff travel to and from the academy

Mode of travel to and from the Academy	Staff Numbers
Walking	4
Cycling	0
Public transport	2
Car	68
<b>Total</b>	<b>74</b>

The Academy will have a total of 78 car parking spaces which will all be accessed from the Keresforth Close entrance. This will include a total of 5 accessible spaces. Also included in the 78 spaces are the 10 electric vehicle parking spaces (32 amp) to futureproof the car park.

In addition, there will be 66 drop-off spaces. These were installed at the request of Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council after their assessment of the need and impact of traffic on site. These spaces will be available in the morning and after school for drop-off and pick-up. The school leadership has put in place measures as far as is reasonably possible to manage this provision, although may need to call on support from LA traffic officers should problems occur.

The school gates will be kept open from 7:30am until 8:30am to allow staff to freely access the car park without backing up onto the highway. This will be based on being open prior to students arriving.

A one-way drop off system is in operation for parents in a morning to minimise any waiting. After school, parents can access the parking spaces 15 minutes before the end of the day. Once all spaces are full, a similar system to the morning will be in operation via a one-way system. Parents may end up in a queue going up Keresforth Close. Staff have worked closely with local residents on Keresforth Close and cones are used to block off any access to private parking. Regular communications to parents are made to request considerate and lawful parking in and around local housing estates. Early assessment of this system after 2 weeks of term demonstrate that it is workable without a negative impact on the local community and traffic network. A few adjustments have been made already to the positioning of duty staff and in communications with residents, but the early signs are positive.

Bus routes that serve the Academy have been reduced prior to the academy opening. Concerns were raised by parents, local residents, BMBC and the school about this. The timings of the local routes are not conducive to effect support for our students getting on a bus via the Interchange and they are arriving after the start of the school day.

### **Consultation with stakeholders**

**Overall Aim: To reduce the number of staff, students, parents and visitors using individual car journeys to and from the Academy site.**

While developing this travel plan the Academy has consulted with local stakeholders to assess the modal split of transport being used, the impact of the modal split and how it will influence the travel plan. The consultation information, along with the data outlined above, will be used to construct the strategy and actions to achieve the aims of the plan.

The consultation took place prior to the summer via BMBC and during the first term of the Academy opening. It consisted of surveys, stakeholder feedback and monitoring during the first few weeks.

### **Conclusion and action plan**

Whilst a good proportion of students walk to school, the next largest mode of travel is by car. Parent feedback is that in the reason is ease, as well as having to drop off other children.

Some parents state children can't walk as it is not safe or too far. A large majority stated they cannot use public transport due to the lack of services.

As the school year goes on, we anticipate more Y7 children walking or seeking their own mode of transport which should reduce the number of cars accessing the site in the morning and after school. Poor weather has a significant effect on these numbers.

### **Action Plan**

*The Academy action plan to support the move to sustainable travel and reduce the impacts of the individual's commutes to and from the Academy by:*

- *actively supporting the local authority's sustainable education travel strategy so children to have the best start in life, encourage active lifestyles, improve air quality and ensure that children and young people are safe by ensuring the curriculum covers the topics.*
- *actively engaging with the local authority's Travel teams ensuring that their training and promotional material/events feature in the Academy's Personal Development curriculum. We will also seek out support from SYPTE.*
- *developing, delivering and monitoring the Academy contribution to the Trust's 'Earthshot' programme, at its heart is the sustainability of the planet, including how we travel, carbon offset activities, actively reduce pollution in and around the Academy site, promote in and to the surrounding area social responsibility for the planet. There is a clear and accountable programme for students, staff, parents and visitors in this initiative.*
- *actively engaging with internal and external organisations that promote safe and sustainable travel to support walking, cycling and using public transport to and from the Academy and shift down the use of single car journeys. We will be holding a 'cyclability' sessions in school to ensure children appreciate road safety issues.*
- *promotion of walking and cycling to and from the Academy for all users who are 2 miles or less away through regular campaigns with students, parents and staff and shift down the use of the car for parents' drop off and pick up. The Academy is surrounded by several residential areas where there is a significant density of students who already walk to and from home to the Academy, as identified above in the modal split. The pedestrian network in the vicinity of the Academy is very good, with all routes well lit and public order crime is low according to Police UK (Police UK, 2022. St.Edward's East. [online] Police UK. Available at: <<https://www.police.uk/pu/your-area/west-yorkshire-police/St.Edward's-east/?tab=crimemap>> [Accessed 3 October 2022]);*
- *where students and staff live over 2 miles from the Academy, we will actively promote the use of public transport in favour of individual car journeys, by over time monitoring the levels of use and targeting intervention to nudge families and staff to use the public network. If a car journey is absolutely the only way a member of staff or student can get to the Academy, we will promote safe carsharing - noting the Academy's legal responsibility for safeguarding children.*
- *management of peak times of transit to and from the Academy (ie drop off and pick up time) is subject to a management plan that operates a one-way system for the car*

*park to minimise back up of traffic onto the public highway. At pick-up time we will encourage parents to use all available parking bays and wait in a queue for their child. If the queue does back up to Broadway we will divert all further arrivals away from the area. Staff will be on duty at several points before and after school to assist.*

### **Monitoring and evaluation**

The Academy Local Governing Body (LGB) will have oversight of the Travel Plan for both reviewing the contents, monitoring the delivery of the actions, and receiving reports relating to travel incidents.

The Principal will be responsible for ensuring the Academy Travel Plan is updated on an annual basis, including:

- providing monitoring of the actions;
- making revisions to the plan in light of information generated in the previous academic year and any changes in the volume of staff, students, parents and visitors to the Academy and any new initiatives the Academy undertakes;
- providing an annual report to the LGB;

Where appropriate this report will be shared with key partners, such as the local authority.