

Christchurch Learning Centre

Travel Plan

September 2011

Travel Plan

Christchurch Learning Centre

Christchurch learning Centre is a Local Authority Pupil Referral Unit which provides educational packages for young people who have become disaffected from school for a variety of reasons. A large percentage of referrals to the Centre are associated with behavioural difficulties. The Centre provides packages for a continually fluctuating cohort but averages a maximum of 20 pupils per morning session and 20 pupils per afternoon session. A proportion of the pupils will either have a Statement of Special Need or will be undergoing statutory assessment. A proportion of pupils will also be involved with the CAMHS or other outside agencies to support their development. We accept referrals predominantly from the Christchurch locality but also offer support to pupils in the Ringwood, Ferndown, Winborne, Verwood and Highcliffe areas, for these pupils school transport is provided.

The centre has 15 staff members both full and part-time and 2 administration staff. We also work closely with other professionals such as Educational Psychologists, Behaviour Support Service, ESWAS, School Nurse, Shaddows, SENSS, Sexual Health Workers and Community Police Officers. We have 10 designated parking spaces and 1 disabled space. During staff meetings or training parking is insufficient.

We are situated close to the centre of Christchurch in a predominantly residential area with a main road (Stour Rd) to the front of the building and a minor road (Auther Rd) to the rear of the building. The Centre is also in close proximity to Christchurch train station.

Current Situation

Morning sessions begin from 08:45 – 12:15, afternoon session begin from 12:15 – 03:15. There are a number of methods that pupils travel to the centre; walking, cycling, public transport, school transport or parent transport. If the centre initiates an activity off-site, school transport is arranged to transport pupils to and from the activity.

Main Travel issues

- Car parking facilities – we have a large team of staff who are in school each day; school events, visiting parents or visiting professionals present additional difficulties.
- Access into and out of the school grounds is made difficult due to residential parking on Auther Rd which is very narrow making it difficult to manoeuvre in and out of the gates. Visibility out of the gates is very poor.
- Access to the school grounds has limited footpaths – very narrow, un-raised footpaths increase the risk of traffic injury.
- School transport pick-up and drop off at the main car park directly opposite the front doors – Pupils have little or no awareness of personal safety and will be at risk of injury whilst entering and exiting the premises.

Result of Travel to School Survey

During the Spring Term 2011, we carried out a survey of parents and pupils. Candidates were encouraged to indicate how they currently travel to school, how they would prefer to travel and what were their concerns about travelling to and from school.

Objectives

Christchurch Learning Centre is working with the Locality Team and Safer Schools Officer to raise awareness of travel issues and safety.

Our objectives are to;

- Increase awareness of safety, environmental, social and health impacts of travel choices amongst parents, pupils and staff.
- Promote independent travel to and from school
- Provide public transport passes rather than school transport.
- Provide road-safety awareness through the safer schools support.
- To encourage staff to car pool or use alternative methods to travel to school.

Action Taken So Far

Activity	Details
Decrease the number of children using school transport	The Children Out of School Service have identified criteria for school transport. Those pupils who reside within a 3 mile radius of the centre and have no physical/emotional disability are required to independently travel to school. Those outside 3 miles are encouraged to utilise public transport but where this is inappropriate, school transport is provided.
Promote independent travel by cycling	A bike rack has been purchased and installed to provide a secure place to leave bicycles and scooters.

Targets

By the end of 2012

- Increase the number of pupils who independently travel to school.
- Increase the number of public transport passes to replace school transport.
- School transport to park in marked bays.
- Provide structured road awareness and safety programme for all pupils and parents.
- Additional bike racks.
- To liaise with highways and traffic officers to create safer entry and exit systems for vehicles using the car parks.

Plans for Evaluation, Monitoring and Review

Christchurch Learning Centre will monitor and review the travel plan, in line with the school policy review process.

Senior Management Team will:

- Meet in the Autumn Term to up-date the Travel Plan.
- Report to the Management Committee on the progress of the plan.
- Provide an up-date report for parents and carers.
- Collect evidence of the progress made towards the achievement of the Travel Plan.

Consultation

In the development of the Centre's Travel Plan, we have consulted with the following people and groups:

- Governors – Summer meeting 2011
- Parents and carers - through questionnaires - Annual
- Pupils - through mentor sessions, PSHE and questionnaires - Annual
- Staff – through staff meetings - Termly
- Local Authority – School Travel Plan advisor - Annual
- Safer Schools Officer - Annual