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SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN **2006**

INTRODUCTION

This travel plan, like the School's previous travel plan, has been prepared by a the School's STP Committee, a team of parents, representatives of the governors and parents' association of the School, with the cooperation of the Headteacher of the School, Mrs Chailleux.

The STP Committee understands that the purpose of the travel plan is to reduce the number of car journeys to and from School, encourage walking to School or use travel options other than the car. The travel plan aims to raise awareness about travel issues and pollution.

The School drafted its first travel plan in March 2003. Since then, it has received parking dispensation permits from Camden Council which have enabled the School to encourage car share and to appeal to parents to park respectfully of its neighbours. The School has been allocated 44 permits for the school year 2006-7 and will receive 22 permits next year. Therafter there will be no permits.

PART 1

The School

1. Description of the School

DFES Number

2026385

Headteacher

Mrs Chailleux

Number of pupils

195

Number of persons who work in the School

17 (28 including sub-contactors)

Age of pupils

2 ½ to 11

School type

Independent nursery and primary school

Members of the STP Committee are:

Mrs Françoise Chailleux (representing the School staff),
Mrs Florence French (representative of the board of governors),
Mrs Marie Remy, Mrs Laurence Biragnet and Mrs Benedicte Ricci and Mrs Quitterie Jorrasson.
(representing the Parents)

The travel plan co-ordinator is Florence French.

Contact for STP Committee

ffrench@ileauxenfants.co.uk

Description of the School

The School is an independent school which is part of a network of French schools in London operating under the supervision of the French government. Most of its teachers are seconded by the French education sector. Although the majority of its pupils are French, the School has a diverse social and cultural intake. The School follows the French curriculum.

The School has one head teacher, 13 teaching staff and 3 admin staff (excluding catering and caretaking contractors).

The school day starts at 9am (doors open at 8:50) and finishes at 4pm (12am on Wednesdays). There is a pre-school care for working parents which opens at 8:20 and a post-school care which

closes at 5:45pm.

Location of School and transport links

The School is located in Camden, at 22 Vicars' Road, NW5 in an area which is residential mixed with some light industrial units.

Train: The school is a 10 minute walk from Gospel Oak Silverlink train station.

Tube: The closest tube stations are Kentish Town and Chalk Farm on the Northern line, which are a 20 minute-walk.

Bus: Bus routes 24 (from Central London) and 46 (from Swiss Cottage and South Hampstead) stop on Malden Road (5 minutes walk).

A map showing the location of the School is attached as annex 1

The roads surrounding the School tend to be quite busy at rush hour although there are many traffic calming measures in the area. There is no pedestrian crossing in the vicinity of the School, or in front of the School. The School is situated in a parking control area (zone CA-L).

Pedestrian and school entrances

The School consists of one building with direct access to the pavement. *(A photo of the School is attached as annex 2).*

Facilities

The School has no outdoor space and therefore has no car park and no cycle storage. It has no space for storage lockers or shower facilities.

School's catchment area

As it is the only French school located in North London, its catchment area covers the whole of North London areas: Brent, Camden, Islington, Hackney, Haringey, Barnet,...

A list of postcodes of residence of pupils is attached as annex 3 (excel sheet).

Apart from the classrooms and canteen (which would be difficult to sub-let), the School has no space which it could let to the local community use.

2. Ethos of the School

The School is actively committed to the health and safety of its pupils and staff and all required policies are in place for their well being (Health and Safety Policy which includes a school trips policy, child protection policy, anti-bullying policy, etc...). The School's policies can be viewed on the School's website or copies obtained from the School.

The head teachers works closely with Chartwells, the School's caterers, to ensure the pupils healthy eating. The pupils have a hot meal at lunchtime.

The School is not involved in the Mayor's environmental award or tfl safety and citizenship scheme or Camden junior citizen scheme. But the environment is regularly taught as part of its

curriculum (recycling was the main School project in 2003/4). The School recycles its rejects whenever possible.

The School has no problem with truancy.

3. What the School has already done

- The School has taken part in one walk to school week (16 pupils took part in June 2006) (stickers as rewards) (*a list of participants is attached as annex 4*)
- Discussions on transport alternatives have been introduced by our English teachers since 2004 as part of the English curriculum. Our English teacher sent her curriculum package to Camden Council in 2004. This year, she asked the children to draw the way they would like to go to school in the context of the environment. Some drawings are attached as annex 15.
- The School's web site contains a map of the School area and details of how to get to School by public transport. It also has web links to tfl and Camden cycling and walking in London web pages. *A photocopy of web site transport page is annexed as annex 5.*
- The School distributes Camden's leaflets to children as and when they are received;
- Every year, the School informs parents about the STP and, in September 2006 it has only distributed parking vouchers to families who have organised a car share. The priorities for distributions are decided by the STP Committee. The priorities are decided in the following order:
 1. families who have organised a car share (a permit for each),
 2. families who have at least 3 children in the car (in priority to those who live furthest from the School);
 3. families of pupils who are 3 years old if there is more than one child in the car (priority to those who live furthest from the school).
- It also encourages parents to use other form of transport when possible.
- If parents come by car, they are asked repeatedly to park legally and respect the local area (A reminder on parking is usually sent during the course of the school year). *Examples of past reminders are attached as annex 6;*
- The PA and class rep helps organise parents car sharing with the publication of a car-share help page in their address directory (*A copy is attached as annex 7*);
- A free child care session which opens at 8:20 am has been introduced to enable parents who work to drop their children off early. This relieves the flow of traffic around 9am. A paying child care after 4pm is organised by the PA and operates four evenings a week (the School being always closed on Wednesday afternoons);
- The School promotes an independent private mini-bus service called Ecole Express. It is not the School's own mini-bus service. The School also uses this service for school outings when it cannot use public transports. The service can be expensive for some

families (app £200/month/child) (A letter from Ecole Express is attached as annex 8 with a copy of sample invoice)

- We encourage parents to park some distance to avoid congestion near the School. The PA has particularly been helpful by informing parents where they can park away from the School. The distance is however limited to the zone CA-L for those who have parking permits. *Copy of the APE email sent to parents in January and November 2006 is attached as annex 9.*
- We have, so far, identified a drop off point 10 minutes walk from the School (Lido car park in Hampstead Heath which is a paying car park) from where parents could park and walk and/or organise walking bus. We may identify another drop off point in the future. We took a survey, last June, to see if parents would be interested in operating a park-and-walk scheme. This scheme is not in place. We anticipate that, parents willing, it could be put in place the next couple of years. For this reason, our targets envisage putting in place the park and walk scheme from the Lido (or other point identified) in 2008.
- School trips, when possible, are done by public transport for the older children. For safety reasons, the School management usually prefers under 8/9 pupils to take mini-buses/rented coach.

Cycling

The School has decided not to promote cycling as an alternative means of transport because it considers its pupils are too young to travel by bike and because of the busy traffic in the School vicinity. In addition, the School has no outdoor space and so no possibility to install bike racks. The School has asked Camden Council to install a couple of u-racks on the pavement outside the School for its cycling staff. This has not yet been done although it has been approved by the relevant officer.

Curriculum

Road safety is part of the French state education curriculum which the School follows. *A copy of the French road safety curriculum is attached as annex 10.*

In the French education system, a road safety training and examination takes place when children are 12/13. This course would therefore take place at the French Lycée Charles de Gaulle where most of the School's pupils transfer aged 11.

The School will consider road training for its older pupils (10/11 years old) in the next year.

PART 2

Issues at the School

1. Survey results

Every year since 2003, in May/June, the STP Committee has monitored the way families come to the School. The last survey consisted of a written questionnaire to all families which took place in May 2006. Out of 193 pupils in the School, parents of 164 pupils responded to the survey. The results were sent to Camden Council.

The first survey took place before the School put in place its first school travel plan and there is therefore no data before 2003.

On the whole, we have found that parents who are in a position to walk will walk to the School and a large number of parents have organised a car-share. As at 9 June 2006, out of 87 pupils who came by car, 28 came by car share, 17 by public transport, 34 walked, 23 came on the School bus and 2 cycled (parents of 164 pupils responded to the survey sent). The figures have been similar over the last 3 years although there has been an increase in car share.

All staff comes to the school by public transport or walking.

We have found that analysing surveys could be quite difficult as a large number of children use a mix of transport solution during the week (for example car in the morning and public transport in the afternoon, car share on some days, etc...)

The results of the last and previous surveys (which have been sent to Camden Council at the time they were taken), are attached as annex 11.

November 2006 questionnaire

We have also asked parents to answer a questionnaire in November 2006 in which we asked the following questions:

- Whether the parking permits have encouraged them to operate a car share and whether, if applicable, they would like to increase their car share. On the whole more than half (of those who responded) said that the permits were not the reason why they did a car share but that they were useful as they enabled parents in charge of a larger number of children, particularly nursery children, to park more safely nearer the school. Most parents who car share do so everyday and can't take more children in their car, a couple of families have reported that they could not find a car share in their area.
- Whether they would be interested in using the private company Ecole Express if it operated in their area. The majority (19/36) said that they would not be able to use it because of the cost, particularly if they have more than one child.
- Whether they would participate in the walk to school week (WoW). Only those who

walk to school regularly would participate, the rest (28/47) replied that they lived too far to walk. *The questionnaire and its analysis are attached as annex 12.*

2. Problems and issues for the School

The problems and issues for the school have been discussed initially by the STP Committee and were then presented to parents at PA meetings.

- As the only French School in North London, we cannot discriminate admissions on geographical grounds as there would be no closer schooling alternative for French families who live in North London. We are also obligated by the French government to take on francophone families who live in North London, all other French schools being established in South-West London. The Headteacher does however take the proximity to the school as a factor when considering admissions.
- The School is not located particularly near a tube station (25 minutes walk for nursery children) and more than half of our children are under the age of 7, some with younger siblings. This makes it very difficult to convince parents to choose public transport over the car. The Silverlink train service is often late and is crowded.
- The mini-bus service is expensive so it is difficult to encourage families to use it. It tends to serve the most popular routes and some children (some of which are 3-4 years old) are picked up very early in the morning on some routes. The company which runs the mini-buses is independent from the School and decides its own routes depending on demands from parents.
- The School has **no outdoor space** at all to put bike racks or where children can wait before or at the end of the school day. Members of staff who cycle to school have to carry their bikes to the second floor where the school has the only available storage space (cupboard) to store bikes. There is only space for a couple of racks on the pavement due to be installed by the Council in March 2007.
- There is no pedestrian crossing in front of our School and Vicar's Road can be quite busy in the rush hour (particularly when it is market day on Queen's crescent). The lack of crossing, which ranks highly as a concern for parents as well as protection barriers and better lighting have been raised by parents and teachers at the School Council of 7 November 2006 (*copy extract attached as annex 13*). Raising these issues with Camden Council has been included in our action list for this school year.
- The School mini-bus service is already the recipient of regular parking fines and will need a special parking allowance in a couple of years' time when there will no longer be parking vouchers. Its owner has already warned the School that, with the level of fines, it may not be able to continue to serve the School (the School does not have its own car park). There is the issue of child safety if the buses cannot park close to the School (some drivers have groups of children under 4/5 years)(*a letter from Ecole Express is attached as annex 8*)
- The new law on the use of car boosters for children under 1,35m means that for parents

with smaller cars, it is difficult to take more than 2 small children in the back as the car can only fits 2 boosters. If parents wish to put a child in the front seat, there is no guarantee from car manufacturers that the airbag will not inflate even if disconnected.

- The feedback from parents on park and walk from the Lido is not encouraging. The School may have to locate another park and walk point.

PART 3

Evidence of consultation and involvement

This new travel plan was drafted by the STP committee in September/October 2006. Copies of the draft were sent to the PA, the members of the School Council and the Board of Governors and a copy was available for consultation by parents at the School in October 2006. The School's Council approved it on 7 November 2006. The PA approved it on 8 November 2006 and the board of governors on 5 October 2006. All parties gave the STP Committee authority to finalise the School travel plan for the purpose of its delivery to Camden Council in December 2006.

Older children (from age 9/10) discussed traveling to school with their teacher, in particular their views how they would prefer to travel to school were noted. *A copy of the children's class surveys is attached as annex 14.*

An excel sheet (also emailed to the Council) (annex 3) includes each child's postcode, actual means of travel to school and preferred means of travel to school 3.

Extract of minutes of the PA meeting, the School Council and the Board of governors meetings are attached as annex 13.

PART 4

What the School would like the plan to achieve

1. The School's objectives

- **Reduce further the number of car trips made to the school**
- **Encourage those who live close enough to walk to school**

- Promote **health and safety** of children and staff (in the context of the STP, promoting walking and road safety)
- Promote **road safety** for children and local community
- **Information on sustainability:** Keep the School community aware of sustainable transport and local authority actions in this regard

2. The School's targets

- **Reduce the number of car trips:** continue the actions undertaken by the School since 2003, reduce the number of car trip by, in particular, encouraging car sharing to increase car share from 20% (June 2006) to 25% by 30 June 2008 (hands survey held in June);
- **Increase the number of pupils walking to School** from 34/195 to at least 45 /195 by 31 December 2008 (including park away and walk) (hands surveys);
- **Road Safety:** Continue to promote responsible parking ; organise a road safety course for 10/11 years old; ask Camden Council to put a zebra crossing (done), protection barriers outside the School (done);
- **Keep school community informed on sustainable issues** (Council and other publications.)

Note: ALL Staff either walks or uses public transport, hence no objectives relating to school staff.

PART 5

How are the targets going to be achieved?

1. Action Plan

Targets	What	Action needed	When	Who
Increase number of pupils walking	Organise/promote Camden walk to School weeks.	Notes and mails to parents. Distribution stickers/ include pupils who could “park and walk” if live far.	May/ October every year	FF/PA
Increase number of pupils walking	Promote walk to School Wednesdays	Notes and mails to parents. Distribution stickers	From 1 st April 2007	FF/PA
Information on sustainability	Keep school’s web site up-to-date with Camden/other campaigns	Review of website/get new info from Camden Council	ongoing	FF
Reduce number of car trips	Inform new parents of STP objectives	Notes to parents	By 30 September each year	Head/PA
Reduce number of car trips	Continue Pre-school child care	Organise carer	1 st September-1 July each year	FF/Head
Reduce number of car trips	Continue Post school child care	Organise carer and insurance	1 st September-1 July each year	PA
Reduce number of car trips/ increase number of pupils walking	Parking away from School	Notes and maps emailed to parents	By 30 September each year	PA
Road safety	Promote legal parking	Notes to parents	By 30 September each year	FF/Head
Information on sustainability	Information on STP and other environmental issues	Write newsletter article	Easter issue each year	PA newsletter

Reduce number of car trips/increase number of pupils walking to School	Set up Park and walk from Lido. Increase numbers from 0 to 20 pupils.	volunteer parents/ rota volunteers/ do risk assessment/ provide safety jackets/	Set up by 30 September 2008. Operation by 31 December 2008	PA/class reps
	Organise walking bus from NW3 and NW5		Set up walking bus by 30 September 2007. Operation by 31 December 2007	PA/Class reps
Road Safety	Road safety course for 10/11 year old	Contact Camden Safety Team for Schools for course / check costs/get subsidy for cost	By 30 June each year	Head
Reduce number of car trips	New Travel plan on web site/ at school	Web site	As soon as approved by DfES	FF
Road Safety	Ask Camden for new Zebra	Letter to Camden Council/find person to contact at council (Safety engineer?)	As soon as plan is approved by DfES/ by June 2007	FF
Cycling (staff- already cycle but need to keep bike inside school building for safety)	Bike racks: ensure bike racks (2 racks)approved by Camden are installed	Contact Dave Stewart at Camden Council	Done. Racks to be installed end March 2007.	FF
Road Safety	Buy fluorescent jackets for pupils	order	done	Head
Reduce number of car trips	Create new postcode map to identify more car shares for consultation by parents	Ask Camden for large scale map of area (excel form of postcode already sent) and use pin board in school entrance. Index	30 September each school year (new parents)	FF/PA

		of addresses by area or routes/get help from Camden (software?)		
Road Safety	Installation of protection barriers outside school, better lighting	Ask Camden Council Safety Team School for better lighting and protection barriers outside School/identify who to contact	30 June 2007 Note: Now done. Request refused by Council for, inter alia, budget reasons/not priority*.	FF

* We have decided not to request crossing through STP funding because we are unable to quantify the impact of the zebra crossing would have on the reduction of car journeys (Probably does not have impact on number of car journeys, it addressed the separate issue of road safety for the children). As the Council pointed out that a zebra would reduce the number of parking spaces for residents, we are also concerned about residents' objection.

2. Monitoring

The School will continue annual surveys of:

- Pupils in class(by show of hands)
- Parents by questionnaire.

The surveys will take place in June every year.

The School understands that a progress report needs to be presented to Camden Council and the Board of Governors every year and that the STP will be reviewed every 3 years.

The STP Committee will ensure that the monitoring will take place and keeps a portfolio of all the work undertaken since 2003.

The persons involved in this STP are listed on page one.

Approved by:

This plan was approved by the School Council on 7 November 2006.

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Mrs Françoise Chailleux

Head teacher
Date:

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Mr Benoit Belhomme
Chairman of the Board of Governors
Date:

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Mrs Marie Remy
President, Parents' Association
Date:

.....
Mr Simon Bishop
School Travel Advisor,
Camden Council
Date:

.....
On behalf of the Department of Transport

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On behalf of the department for Education and Skills.

FF
10/06