

School Travel Plan : Royal Alexandra and Albert School

June 2010

Gatton Park
Reigate RH2 0TD

[view location map](#)

Tel: 01737 649000 Fax: 01737 649002

Web: www.raa-school.co.uk

Dept. for Education and Skills identification number: 936 4623

School Roll, January 2003: 343 pupils

School Roll, January 2004: 368 pupils

School Roll, January 2005: 497 pupils

School Roll, January 2006: 644 pupils

School Roll, January 2007: 631 pupils

School Roll, January 2008: 706 pupils

School Roll, January 2009: 756 pupils

School Roll, January 2010: 783 pupils

Age range of pupils, as at June 2010:

Youngest Pupil: 7 years old

Oldest Pupil: 16 years old

About The School

The Royal Alexandra and Albert School is a state boarding school which also has day pupils and day boarders. The school is situated in Gatton Park in Reigate which is a large country park. There is an access road to the school from the entrance to the park on Rocky Lane (see map). Pedestrian Access can also be gained from Gatton Park Rd through Gatton Park via a steep hill (see map) and a path. Rocky Lane is a winding country road through farmland and the road is only just wide enough for two cars to pass each other. It is a recognised "rat run" and a minor accident 'blackspot'.

The school is unusual in that it is one of only half a dozen maintained schools in the country which are large boarding schools. The school population is comprised of boarding students who live on the school grounds during term time; day boarders who come to school between 7.30 am and 8.30 am and leave at between 6.00 pm and 8.00 pm each day and day pupils who arrive at the school at 8.30 am and leave at the end of the school day which is 3.30 pm. There are over 100 staff living on the site.

Places are allocated mainly on the basis of proximity. Whilst historically many day boarders came from some distance away, in the last few years the catchment area for day boarding places at the school has shrunk considerably. To gain a place in September 2010, a Year 3 child has to live less than 1.1 miles from the school and for Year 7 the figure is even lower at 0.8 miles.

With the introduction of a sixth form and the cooperation between local 14-19 providers, a number of our pupils are attending courses at other schools (and vice versa). Pupils are currently transported by minibus and from September 2010 an extended golf buggy, seating 7 pupils, has provided transport through Gatton Park to the pedestrian entrance to the school. These journeys will be completed on foot from the pedestrian entrance on the A242. This will heavily reduce the need for minibus transport.

Due to the unique nature of the school it serves a large area. In most cases the boarding pupils reside some distance away but we are aware that some of our day pupils live a considerable distance away from the school too.

At present 50% of pupils are boarders and therefore already walk to school. The school is looking to increase the total number of pupils attending and specifically increase the number of boarders as the school expands. Given that half our pupils live on site the travel plan does not just emphasise reducing car journeys but also on improving safety and journeys within the extensive school grounds.

As the school expands and demand for places from local children increases, there will be more children walking to school. There will also be more journeys on foot as a result of the new Sixth Form.

The school gives a high priority to healthy lifestyles and as well as ensuring that children have well-balanced meals at school, we encourage a high level of participation in sport. We would like to take this a stage further by encouraging more children to walk to school and a safe crossing on the A242 will remove one of the main barriers to walking.

'As The Crow Flies' Journey Distances To Our School

Over the last few years we have had an increased number of applications for day boarding places and as a result, the catchment area for the school has reduced such that applicants now need to live within about mile of the school to have a chance of gaining admission.

Day boarding places are allocated primarily on proximity so we have an increasing number of pupils who live within walking distance of the school.

We have data to show that in 2006 only 2% of pupils lived within 2km of the school. We do not have comparable data for 2010 but we are finding that more and more pupils live within walking distance as a result of the shrinking catchment area;

MAXIMUM DISTANCE FOR THE OFFER A PLACE (MILES)		
Admission Year	Year 3 entry	Year 7 entry
Sept 2010	1.1	0.8
Sept 2009	1.3	1.1
Sept 2008	3.7	2.3

Who's Involved In The Travel Plan

The main contact on behalf of the school is Mrs Diana Bromley, Bursar.

Consultations So Far

The school has completed a number of Travel Surveys in the last few years and the most recent was completed in April 2010. Previous surveys (and our 'Partnership with Parents' initiative) have highlighted the need for a minibus service to bring pupils to school from Redhill, Merstham and Banstead. We have set up two minibus services to pick up children from these areas and these are well used by parents. Consequently the number of car journeys has been reduced. We continue to monitor parent's views and will consider introducing more minibus services if there is sufficient demand. The Survey also highlighted the need to improve safety for pupils walking to school and who need to cross the A242 Gatton Park Road. If there were a safe crossing, it is reasonable to believe that fewer parents would drive their children to school.

We will ensure all relevant parties sign off this plan.

Headteacher or designated STP Co-ordinator Mr Paul Spencer Ellis

Governor Mrs J Keegan

Surrey CC Community Travel Advisor

Surrey CC Head of Transport for Surrey
Surrey CC Head of Schools and Learning

The approvals will be valid until the next review.

Travel Improvements In Place

We have had an improvement to pupils' routes made at Rocky Lane, in 2003, which was School Related Road Markings.

We were awarded £ 8,412 for our School Travel Plan in the 2005 round of DfES grants. We used this funding to good effect – the funding was used as contribution to improve path from Gatton Park Road; create safer pedestrian routes within the grounds eg improved signage and increased pavement areas.

You can see a list of the specific actions we've completed at the end of the Schedule of Actions below.

How Our Pupils Travel

We have undertaken numerous surveys of how pupils travel to the school. Of course, the method by which our pupils travel varies from summer to winter and from day-to-day so you shouldn't take it as an absolutely precise measurement. You can see more background information about surveys and means of transport by following this [SRS facts and figures web link](#).

April 2010 Survey

[Type of survey](#): Ad hoc survey using SurveyMonkey, number of responses: 99

	%	2010
Car	83	83
Cycle	4	4
Walk	4	4
School Minibus	8	8

March 2008 Survey

[Type of survey](#): Ad hoc survey using SurveyMonkey, number of responses: 106

	%	2008
Car	97	104
Cycle	1	1
Walk	2	2
School Minibus	n/a	n/a

January 2007 Survey

[Type of survey](#): schoolcensus, number of responses: 299 Number of pupils surveyed: 299
[View a pie chart of the results](#)

Mode	No. of Pupils As A Percentage	
Moped or Motorbike	0	0%
Car Passenger	297	99%
Taxi	2	1%

November 2006 Survey

[Type of survey](#): schoolcensus, number of responses: 56 Number of pupils surveyed: 620 [View a pie chart of the results](#)

Mode	No. of Pupils As A Percentage	
Moped or Motorbike	0	0%
Car Passenger	50	89%
Public Transport	6	11%

February 2005 Survey

[Type of survey](#): Survey of Staff, number of responses: 47 [View a pie chart of the results](#)

Mode	No. of Pupils As A Percentage	
Walk	38	81%
Car Driver	6	13%
Car Share	3	6%

December 2004 Survey

[Type of survey](#): unknown, number of responses: 321 [View a pie chart of the results](#)

Mode	No. of Pupils As A Percentage	
Moped or Motorbike	0	0%
Car Passenger	256	80%
Train	15	5%
Other	50	16%

Pupils Say How They Would Like To Travel: as we are trying to improve safety and encourage the use of 'green' transport, we've tried to gain an idea of the potential for change at our school. So we asked pupils how they would prefer to come given the choice; the results give us a rough idea of potential.

Survey year: 2005.

Mode of transport	% of pupils who would prefer to use it
Walk	1%
Cycle	3%
Train	3%
School Coach	3%
Car Share	4%
Car	77%
Other	9%

Notes: Others refers to Plane.

Schedule For Next Travel Survey:

A schedule for the next travel survey has not yet been set.

Schedule of Issues, Objectives, Targets and Actions

1. Issues Identified

Issue

1. The number of parents travelling by Car to school due to wide area served by the school
2. Our responsibility to minimise the traffic bringing the pupils and staff to the school
3. 83% of parents bring their own children by car to the school and cause congestion in Rocky Lane and Gatton Bottom
4. Our need to reduce school traffic which causes congestion in Rocky Lane at the traditional school start and finish times of 8.30 am and 3.30 pm. The effect of this problem has been significantly reduced by the expansion of day boarding with the extended school day.

2. Objectives

	Objective	Ref. Num of Related Issues
1.	Encourage sustainable travel modes	2,3,4
2.	Reduce car trips	1,2,3,4
3.	Increase green travel awareness	1,2,3,4
4.	Reduce congestion on Rocky Lane in the periods 8.00 - 8.30 am and 3.30-4.00 pm.	4
5.	Increase awareness amongst pupils, staff and parents about the environmental safety and health and social consequences of their travel choices	1,2,3

3. Targets

	Target	Ref. Num of Related Objectives
1.	Increase car sharing by 10%	1,2,4
2.	Increase amount of pupils cycling/walking by 15%	1,2,4,
3.	Decrease use of taxis from local stations by boarding pupils by encouraging them to share taxis by 15%	1,2,3,5
4.	Decrease use of taxis from airports by boarding pupils by encouraging them to share taxis by 10%	1,2,3,5

4. Actions

1. To promote the 'sustainable travel habit' throughout the school. This to be done via induction packs; noticeboards, Headmaster's letter, Induction pack, Website, school intranet/internet; general local travel information eg timetables etc.

Ref. num of related target(s): 1,2,3,4

Person Responsible: Admissions Target Date: ongoing action

2. Survey the parents every two years about the travel modes bringing pupils to school. ** This is an ongoing action.

Ref. num of related target(s): 1,2,3,4

Person Responsible: Marketing Target Date: ongoing action

3. Make travel plan available to staff (using the Intranet), parents (through end of term letter and on the school website) and pupils (through PHSCE) and on our website.

Ref. num of related target(s): 1,2,3,4

Person Responsible: Marketing and School Office Target Date: ongoing action

4. Investigate expanding the use of school minibuses for pupil journeys to and from nominated collection and drop off points within easy distance of clusters of pupils' homes.

Ref. num of related target(s):

Person Responsible: Marketing Target Date: Completed the introduction of two services, ongoing review for other services.

5. Investigate possibility of using rail in preference to private car if school minibuses were to provide link from Redhill & Reigate stations.

Ref. num of related target(s):

Person Responsible: Target Date: Completed

6. Investigate possibility of implementing a formal car share database to enable potential car sharers to match journeys as members of a private group within Surreyshare.com

Ref. num of related target(s):

Person Responsible: Marketing Target Date: September 2010

7. Investigate the possibility of offering interest free loans to employees for the purchase of cycle equipment.

Ref. num of related target(s): 2

Person Responsible: Bursar Target Date: September 2011

8. Investigate the improvements to the park needed to promote walking and cycling. **Jan 2008 - reported that improvements have been made eg promoting mountain bike, hosts local Mountain Bike Association. However more improvements need with regard to cycle storage.

Ref. num of related target(s): 2

Person Responsible: Bursar Target Date: Action completed - cycle storage upgraded.

9. Continue to seek an increased number of boarding pupils.

Ref. num of related target(s): 2

Person Responsible: Headmaster Target Date: September 2011

10. Improve safety at the pedestrian entrance to the school on the A242

Ref. num of related target(s): 2

Person Responsible: School and Local Authority Target Date: September 2011

11. Once safe pedestrian access at the A242 entrance has been put in place, launch an initiative to establish walking buses.

Ref. num of related target(s): 2

Person Responsible: Marketing/PE Department Target Date: September 2012

The School Travel Plan will be reviewed and revised to reflect new developments in education and any consequent changes required to transport provision.