



THE COOMBES
CE Primary School

'A farmer went to sow his seeds' (Mark 4 3-8)



The Coombes Church of England Travel Plan

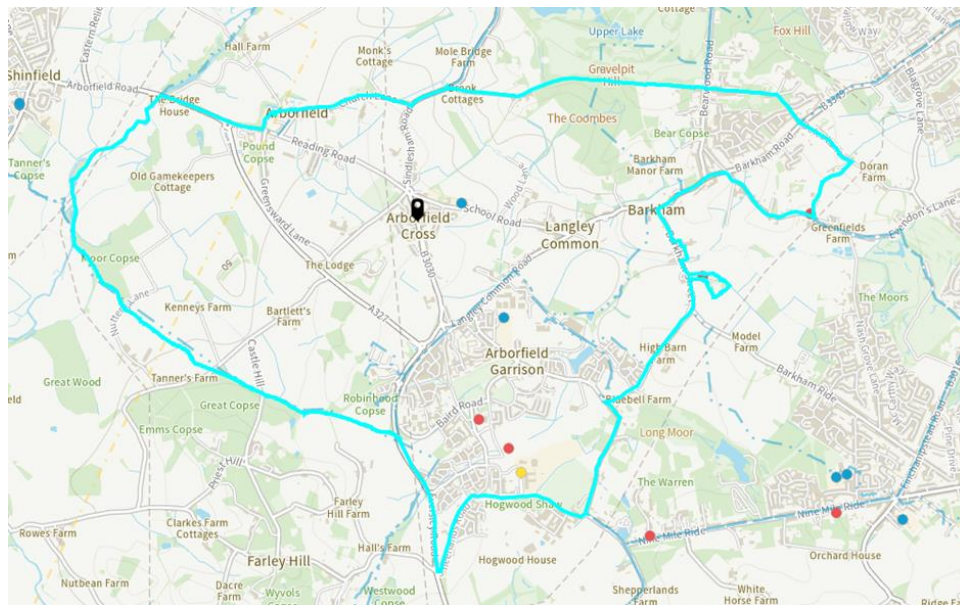
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Approval by:	LGB	Issue Date:	Nov 2025
Based on Model Policy?	Yes	Next Review Date:	Nov 2026

1.0 Introduction

The Coombes CE Primary School is located on School Road, Arborfield Cross, to the southwest of Reading, with catchment shown in the map below. We attract children from Arborfield, Shinfield and Wokingham. The school currently has 365 children on roll between the age of 3 and 11.

At The Coombes we are very fortunate to be surrounded by beautiful countryside and many walking and cycling routes. Many of our children walk, scoot or cycle to school which we actively encourage. The Coombes has cycle/scooter racks located outside the KS1 & KS2 buildings.

As a Rights Respecting school, we want our community to feel safe, therefore we have developed this plan to provide information to families on how to travel to the school safely. Please read this document carefully and consider your travel options to school.



2.0 The Purpose – What is a Travel Plan?

A Travel Plan is a document which encourages people to travel to our school in a sustainable, active and safe way. The travel plan supports walking, scooting and cycling as the most sustainable forms of transport. Although walking, scooting and cycling are a good choice for the environment and improves air quality at the school gates, there are lots of other benefits too, including:

- Fitness - Leaving the car at home and walking, scooting or cycling to school will provide great health benefits for all family members.
- Road safety skills - Being able to make the journey on foot or bike will provide ideal opportunities to learn essential road safety skills that many young people who are driven by car are lacking.
- Social skills - Walking to, or from school, provides a great opportunity to talk to either friends or family members about what pupils have been up to, or possibly, any problems they may have.
- Safety - More people walking, scooting and cycling means less cars on the road and at the school gate, making a much safer environment for everyone.

This document has been created to make the expectations, The Coombes CE Primary School holds in relation to travel to their site, clear. It is the responsibility of parents/ carers to read and understand this information. Anything that is not clear can be discussed with the school.

3.0 Action Plan

This document is a living document that is reviewed and updated annually. The overall aim of the plan is to create safer journeys for those travelling to and from The Coombes CE Primary School.

Action	How to achieve this	Responsibility
Encourage responsible parking. Promote safe, sustainable, and active travel to school. Monitor travel to school.	Communication with parents over appropriate parking locations to create a safer school gate environment.	HT/Email
	Tap into existing resources and participate in events such as The Big Pedal, Walk to School Week, Road Safety Roadshows, Bikeability, etc.	School staff
	Complete annual survey via data collection sheet to review travel patterns to school.	HT/School Operations Manager/Office Manager

4.0 Travel Surveys

Every year The Coombes CE Primary School collect data on how children travel to school. We are aware that active travel such as; walking, scooting and cycling is on the decline and driving levels are increasing. This is particularly noticeable in the autumn term and in inclement weather.

5.0 Map of the school grounds

Below is a map of the school grounds. Parking for staff is located in the **pink areas**. The **blue area** shows the drop off zone for parents; please do not leave your car unattended here, please do not stop on the 'Bus Stop' road markings. The **red line** shows the pedestrian crossing opposite the main gate. Please do not park on the double yellow or zig zag lines so that children have a safe place to cross with full visibility of oncoming traffic. If parking in residential areas near the school, we ask that you always park considerately, keeping drives and access routes clear. The **yellow area** shows the scooter and bike racks in the KS1 playground. The KS2 scooter and bike racks are found in the courtyard area outside of the main entrance to the KS2 building.



There will always be congestion around the school, especially around drop off and pick up times, so we politely ask you to plan your route from home using all available paths and crossing facilities to help us reduce traffic in this region. The Royal British Legion, located minutes away from school, is a designated park and stride location to reduce congestion at the school gate. We actively encourage you to park there and make the last few minutes on foot or bike to the school gate.

6.0 Advice for travellers



Tips to keep you safe when **walking** to school.

- Plan your route to school at home first. There are many path networks within the area with many crossing facilities – zebras, pelican and islands, try and make use of these and plan a safe route.
- Find a good place to cross. This should be away from parked cars and have good visibility in both directions.
- Be bright and be seen, the more you stand out the more drivers will see you and slow down.
- Be aware of possible future developments on the relief road or in the general area, this may mean the presence of heavy vehicles and building works.
- Be careful of driveways and narrow entrances - Stay alert and always pay attention. Avoid talking to others or using a mobile phone while crossing.

Crossing the street safely

- 1) Stop at the curb or edge of the street.
- 2) Look right, look left then right again.
- 3) Wait until no traffic is coming and begin crossing.
- 4) Keep looking for traffic until you have finished crossing
- 5) Walk, don't run across the street.

Tips to keep you safe when **cycling and scooting** to school.

Where children can do so safely, we actively encourage children to bike or scoot to school. Please feel free to bring your bike or scooter and make use of our storage facilities. However, the school cannot take any responsibility for any bikes or scooters left here so you will need to bring a lock.

- Please wear a helmet and wear something bright and reflective

- Ride in a position you can see and be seen
- No cycling or scooting in the playground and consider other pedestrians around the school gate
- Maintain your bike. Check your brakes and tyre pressure, some good guides can be found online.
- Be considerate of others on the paths around the school, use your bell on your bike if necessary to warn pedestrians you are there.

If you are taking the car, you can help by:

- Planning ahead and giving yourself plenty of time to account for any unexpected delays. Please give yourself time to find a responsible place to park.
- Park and stride – parking 5 or 10 mins away from the school will hugely help in tackling congestion.
- Keeping your speeds low
- Do not park on yellow lines or other parking restrictions, in front of people's driveways or on grass verges.
- When parking at the school, please think carefully about where you are parking. Please make sure your car is not causing any road safety concerns for others by blocking crossing opportunities or reducing visibility of the road.
- Do not park in front of the dropped kerbs on School Road. This is where pedestrians are encouraged to cross, and it is difficult for them to do that if cars are parked in the way.

Parking is not available directly outside the school entrance.

7.0 In Summary

We recognise that parking at the school is limited. It is vitally important that, with the realisation that the roads around our school are increasingly busy, we must all play a role in keeping everyone safe. We know families have their own priorities; work, childcare, school, clubs and activities. The car can play an important role in society, but the school do not accept safety being put at risk to satisfy individual convenience.

For us, safety will always come first. Thank you for reading our travel plan. Please share it with your children. We ask that you make safe travel decisions when travelling to and from our school.