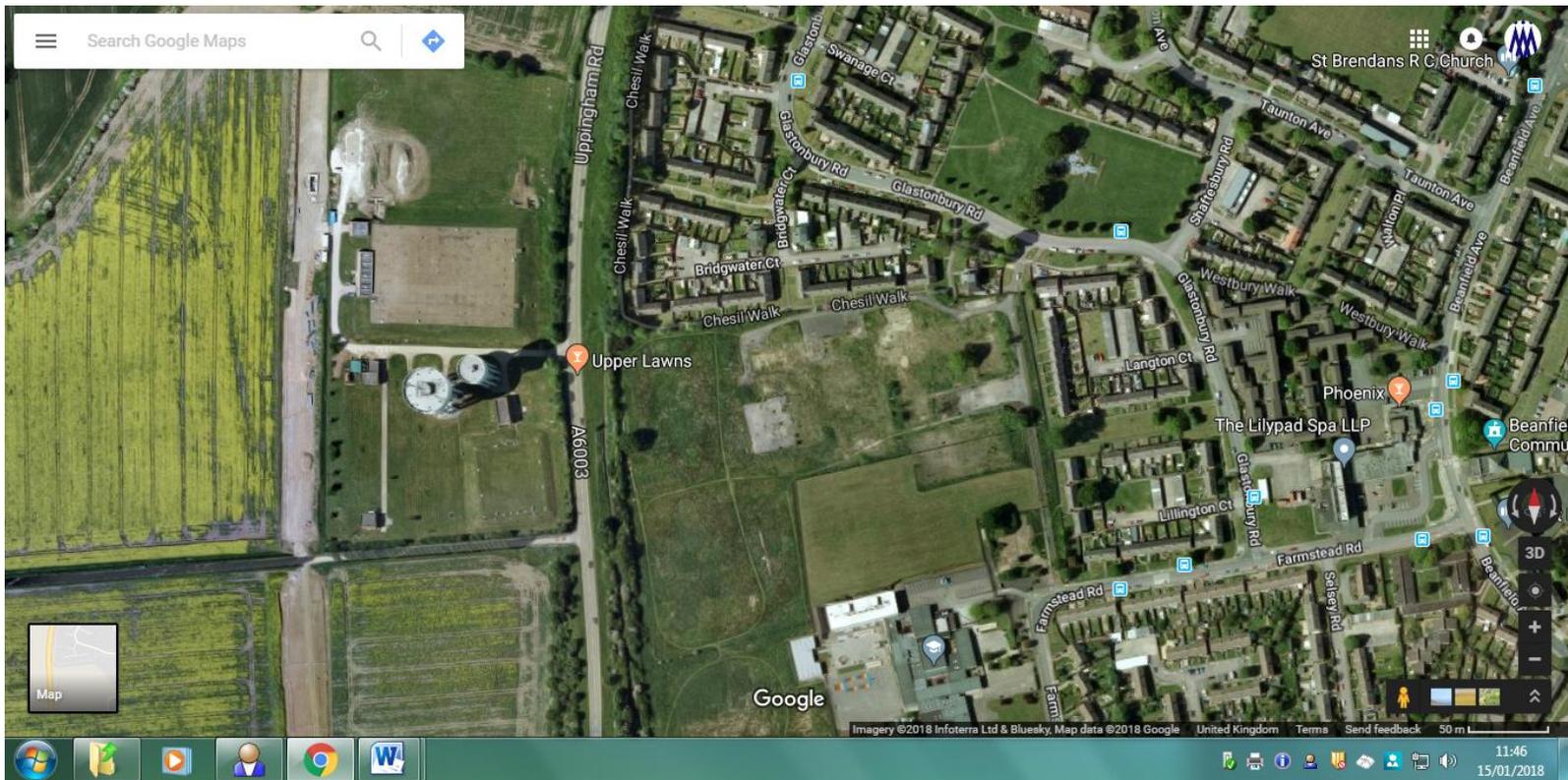


Red Kite Special Academy Travel Plan September 2020



Corby

Corby is a town and borough in the county of Northamptonshire, England.

It is located 23 miles (37 km) north-east of the county town, Northampton. The borough had a population of 61,300 at the 2011 Census. Figures released in March 2010 revealed that Corby has the fastest growing population in both Northamptonshire and the whole of England. The Borough of Corby borders onto the Borough of Kettering, the District of East Northamptonshire, the District of Harborough and the unitary authority county of Rutland. The town was at one time known locally as "Little Scotland" due to the large number of Scottish migrant workers who came to Corby for its steelworks. Recently, Corby has undergone a large regeneration process with the opening of Corby railway station and Corby International Pool in 2009 and the Corby Cube building opening in 2010. This is home to Corby Borough Council offices and also houses a 450-seat theatre, a public library and other community amenities.



Borough of Corby shown within Northamptonshire

Transport

Roads

The town is located along the A43, A427, A6003 and is 6 miles (9.7 km) from the A14 at Kettering. Corby lies within two hours' drive of four international airports: Birmingham, Luton, Stansted and East Midlands. Being a new town, Corby's road network is different from that of older towns. There are several dual carriageways, most of the principal roads have wide reservations and high speed limits and pedestrian crossings over them are often underpasses. However, Corby is only connected by dual carriageway to one neighbouring town, Kettering (the A6003). All other roads into the town are single carriageways.

Buses

Corby rail-link bus

Corby is served by six bus routes under the Corby Star brand name. Service X4 connects the town with Peterborough, Oundle, Weldon, Danesholme, Kettering, Isham, Wellingborough, Earls Barton, Northampton, Roade, Grafton Regis, Milton Keynes and London. It is also operated by Stagecoach. National Express coaches also provide long-distance connections to the north and Scotland. Plans to build a new bus station in Corby are being considered by the council following the closure of the old bus station in August 2002.

Rail

Corby railway station opened on 23 February 2009.

Following a number of years when the town had no railway station, a new facility opened on 23 February 2009. East Midlands Trains runs hourly services to London St Pancras via Kettering and Wellingborough. There is also a limited peak time service running north to Oakham and Melton Mowbray.

Schools in Corby

Currently there are five secondary schools in Corby: Brooke Weston Academy, Lodge Park Academy, Corby Business Academy, Kingswood Secondary Academy and the newly opened Corby Technical School. Corby Business Academy has a special unit for children with severe special educational needs. All four schools have sixth forms for post-16 students.

Corby has 17 primary schools, of which two are Church of England schools, three are Roman Catholic and one for children with severe behavioural and emotional difficulties.

Brief Description of Red Kite Special Academy School

Red Kite Special Academy School is a Community Special School providing up to **110 places** for children aged 4 to 18 years with a broad range of special educational needs. Children may have moderate, severe or profound and multiple learning difficulties as well as additional needs, such as physical difficulties, medical conditions, sensory impairment, speech and language difficulties and autism.

Facilities at the school include a hydrotherapy/swimming pool, soft play room, sensory room, physiotherapy occupational therapy space and a fully equipped medical room. The school has surrounding grounds which include designated play areas.

Facilities at the school may also be used by other groups from the community. These include pupils from other special schools and mainstream schools who come to use the hydrotherapy pool and professional and parent led groups who use the school premises for meetings etc.

Due to the needs of the pupils staffing levels are high. When the school is at full capacity in September 2020/January 2021 there will be approximately 60 classroom staff (including Head Teacher and Deputy Head), 3 administration staff, 1 Site Supervisor, and 4 cleaners. There is a small canteen on the premises which is staffed by 1 personnel.

Many professionals from other agencies also visit the school. These include physiotherapists, speech therapists, occupational therapists, social care and health workers, educational psychologists, teachers for the visually impaired and hearing impaired.

The school is on a campus with Maplefields and Beanfields Schools. This means there is a heavy concentration of traffic at school start and end times. The 3 schools have been collaborating to look at possible solutions.

Travel/Transport issues faced by the school

- The school has a wide catchment area for children with special educational needs (covering the north of the county of Northamptonshire and some from outside the county). This, together with the needs of the children (physical, medical, learning difficulties), means that most SEN pupils require transport to school.
- 100% non-ambulant status and mitigating factors surrounding this means that children need to be escorted off the bus/car to the school, gates; this is factored in with the wide access and wide parking bays.
- Fewer parents than usual in a mainstream school context access the site (currently 38% of children come by car)
- **Only up to 20 (by September 2022) more pupils to be admitted as part of new works**
- Loss of car parking due to 6th form block will not impact due to increased number of parking bays over and above requirements for the main build - as requested by the EFA.
- The majority (62%) of the pupils with special educational needs travel to and from school by school bus.
- A number of pupils travel on transport in wheelchairs or specially adapted buggies. This adds to the time for loading and unloading vehicles, in particular at the start and end of the day. This factor has an impact on the queuing time for buses and taxis but due to the space available at the front of the school vehicles will **not** have to wait out on the road until they can gain access to the loading bays.
- There are 10 disabled parking spaces within the school grounds to allow families to park if they are collecting children themselves; **car park spaces for staff still remain plentiful with only a very few spaces being lost due the new unit. Many staff car share.**
- In order to keep access clear for the school in case emergency vehicles need to come in (ambulances are regularly called for our pupils) there are 2 areas of hatching near the entrance gate. This further limits the queuing space for vehicles.
- Access to Site - Pedestrian access to the academy is via two gates (one is open all day and the other is operated by an intercom system.) Vehicle access is adequate for staff arriving before and leaving after the busiest times. New build design has incorporated substantial car parking spaces eliminating the problem of additional staff having to park on the road side. The build will be safety focused, with a secure gate and walk

way in place, with no open space into the reception outdoor area. A video link to the main office will enable staff to control the electronic gate for pedestrian and vehicle access.

- **The new sixth form unit is on the school site and will initially educate 10 additional pupils. The drop off and pick up system will remain the same as for the main school using the loop system and parking onsite in the disabled bays.**
- The journey to school is an important part of the school day for our pupils and sets the scene for their learning during the rest of the day. We aim to work closely with the bus/taxi drivers and escorts but we are not their line managers as they are employed by the LA or on contract to the LA. This can lead to difficulties in the management of children on the bus, journey times and safety issues of unloading/loading. One member of the school team has responsibility for travel issues and liaises with the LA where appropriate.
- Educational visits are important for our pupils as they require a practical and experiential curriculum. The school has access to 1 specially adapted minibus which is used for educational visits and for integration purposes.
- Visits to local places of interest e.g. shops, church, local Care Home are usually made on foot.

How children would LIKE to travel

This factor is irrelevant to our pupils as most live too far away or would be unable to walk/cycle to school and many are transported by buses, but as part of the PHSE curriculum and raising awareness of road safety we do ask them questions as appropriate.

Targets and Proposed Measures

Target	Proposed Measures	Timing	Costs	Lead Person	Review date
<p>1. We will liaise closely with LA transport to set joint targets regarding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maximum travel time • safety code for transport in the school grounds (entrances and exits, use of loading/unloading bays, keeping hatched areas clear) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head to discuss with LA representatives/special School Heads regarding travel times • Issue safety guidelines to drivers/escorts/parents and remind regularly 	September 2020		DL	<p>Annually</p> <p>End of each term</p>
<p>2. We will, in partnership with parents/carers, generate individual travel plans for all pupils on school transport who have significant needs. These will be shared with bus drivers and escorts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write individual travel plans as required • Distribute and update these • Review at statutory review in consultation with parents 	Assistant Heads and PA to oversee	Within a week of a child starting	DL and Assistant Heads	Annually for each child
<p>3. We will ensure the safety of pedestrians entering and leaving the school premises/grounds during the day and evening.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outside lighting at front, side and rear of school • CCTV coverage • Safety guidelines as in target 1 	Sept 2020		DL	Annually

<p>4. We will work collaboratively with Maplefields and Beanfields Schools and the police to reduce parking issues in the local area</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heads of the 3 schools to meet regularly in consultation with police • Communicate with parents/carers/visitors regarding these issues through letters, newsletters, report to Governors 	<p>Oct 2020 – after school has been opened so issues can be discussed</p>		<p>DL</p>	<p>Annually or as needed</p>
<p>5. We will continue to focus on the importance of Road Safety and Health and Fitness as part of our PSHE curriculum. This includes developing independence wherever possible and safe.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSHE scheme of work reviewed and amended if necessary • Supplement current resources with road signs, traffic lights, crossing patrol dressing up etc for use at playtime and in structured PSHE lessons • Develop social independence/communication work where older pupils (as appropriate) learn the skills to use public transport 	<p>Ongoing through Curriculum</p>		<p>PHSE co-ordinator</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Annual rev of this aspect of curriculum</p>
<p>6. We will achieve our Bronze Healthy Schools Award in 2019</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSHE co-ordinator to work closely with nursing staff to effect the achievement of Bronze Award. This includes close involvement with the School Council. 	<p>January 2021</p>	<p>Cost to be checked</p>	<p>Nurses MW PSHE Co-ordinator</p>	
<p>7. We will continue to ensure the safety of all pupils and staff when travelling on the school minibuses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All minibus drivers have MIDAS accreditation • Minibus Policy reviewed regularly and shared with all staff • Minibuses checked daily and 	<p>Sept 2020</p>	<p>Training - £80 per person + cover</p>	<p>DL</p>	<p>Annually</p>

	<p>weekly according to regulations and serviced on a regular basis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mini buses to be borrowed from Trust initially 		Running service costs		Annually
8. We will reduce the percentage of staff using a car to travel to work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey of current staff journeys • Discuss with staff at a whole school staff meeting • Make staff aware of www.travelsmartuk.com 	Sept 2020		DL	Annually
9. We will include the School Travel Plan in the School Improvement Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STP forms part of new SIP 	Sept 2020		DL	Annually
10. To hold competitions to produce materials to spread road safety message to all parts of the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular competitions/activities held under auspices of the Academy Council supported by other agencies e.g. Police (PCSO), 	January 2020 then termly		PHSE coordinator	Termly
11. The new sixth form unit will be monitored to assess any extra issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head to discuss with LA representatives/special School Heads regarding travel times • Issue safety guidelines to drivers/escorts/parents and remind regularly 	January 2021	N/A	DL	Termly

Working Group

This consists of Headteacher, Senior Leadership Group, Governors (Health & Safety Committee), Site Supervisor, School Council. There will be consultation with the LA, police and Beanfields and Maplefields Schools

Monitoring

The STP will be monitored by the lead person assigned to each proposed measure.

Review

The STP will be reviewed on a termly basis by the Head Teacher and other members of the Working Group.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Letter to parents with questionnaire

Appendix 2 Parent questionnaire

Appendix 3 Student questionnaire

Appendix 4 Staff questionnaire

Appendix 1 – Letter to parents (originally sent)

Dear Parents/Carers

Academy Travel Plan

Safe routes to school – Survey of parents' views

I am sure that you share our concerns about the amount of traffic on the roads and the dangers that travelling to and from the academy can pose to the children. At Red Kite Special Academy. We want to work with the whole academy community to do our utmost to alleviate these dangers, especially with the possibility of the Academy expanding to two forms of entry.

Therefore an Academy Travel Plan is being produced to try and improve the journey to and from our academy. It is hoped that the Travel Plan will address as many concerns as possible, including pedestrian safety and the problems that may arise of car parking and congestion.

The ultimate aim of the Academy Travel Plan is to create an environment that encourages more people to walk to and from school (if possible) and to improve the journey for those who use cars, bicycles and scooters.

Please help us by completing the accompanying Academy Travel Questionnaire and return it to school by Friday 2nd October.

Many thanks

Head Teacher

Appendix 2 – Parent Questions

Academy Travel Plan

Parents' questionnaire

1. Do you experience any of the following problems?

(Please ring as many options as necessary)

Speed of traffic – too fast

Parking at school

Speed of traffic – too slow (i.e. congestion)

Parking near school

Too much traffic

Other (please give details)

2. If more suitable parking was available, would you be prepared to 'park and walk', i.e. park a short distance away from the school and walk the rest of the way?

Yes, great idea

No, I would rather park by the school

Maybe sometimes

Not practical

3. Would you consider using a car sharing scheme?

Yes

No

4. Please give details of any particular places which you think are unsafe:

Location (Street name if possible) Problem (e.g. no safe place to cross)

1.

2.

3.

5. Can you suggest any particular improvements to make travelling to and from the academy safer or more attractive?

6. Any other comments about transport and the academy?

Thank you for completing our survey

Appendix 3 – Student questionnaire (as appropriate)

Children's Questionnaire – to be completed by show of hands/class discussion

1. How many children are in your class today?

2. How do you normally travel to the academy?

Method of travel	Number of children
Walk with an adult	
Walk alone/with friends	
Car	
Bus	
Cycle	
Other	

3. How would you like to travel to the academy?

Method of travel	Number of children
Walk with an adult	
Walk alone/with friends	
Car	
Bus	
Cycle	
Other	

4. What do you not like about walking to the academy? (Choose as many options as you want)

Sometimes it is raining or cold	
Too far to walk	
Roads are too busy, I don't feel safe	
The traffic moves too fast, I don't feel safe	
Other	

5. What would make walking to the academy better?

Cleaner pavements	
Less traffic	
Slower traffic	
Wider footpaths	
Better street lights for when it is dark in winter	
A school crossing patrol	
Safer places to cross the road	
Nothing – just too far to walk	
Other	

Appendix 4- Staff Questionnaire

The journey to the academy should be a safe, pleasant and healthy activity, with opportunities for staff to benefit from daily exercise and to set a positive example to pupils. The academy is in the process of developing an Academy Travel Plan to find ways to encourage more pupils and staff to walk, cycle or use public transport for the journey to and from the academy.

This questionnaire will help us to look in more detail at the academy journey and will give us some ideas for encouraging more walking and cycling, and reducing car journeys. This will make the academy journey safer, healthier and more enjoyable for everyone. It is important that all aspects of the transport situation are investigated and academy staff are an important part of this process.

It would be helpful if you could take the time to complete this questionnaire.
Please circle the appropriate responses.

1. **How far away from the academy do you live?**

Less than one mile	(1½ kms)	Two to three miles (3-5 kms)
One to two miles	(1½ - 3 kms)	Over three miles (over 5 kms)

2. **How do you usually travel to and from the academy?**

Walk	Bus/Train	Car share
Cycle	Car/Taxi	Other

3. a) If you travel by car, how many empty seats are there in the car?
b) Would you consider car sharing with other staff occasionally?
- Yes No Maybe
- c) Do you feel it would be feasible to walk, cycle or use public transport?
- Yes No Sometimes
4. **What would make walking to the academy better or encourage you to walk?
(tick up to 3 things that are most important)**

Better pavements

Where?

Better lighting

Where?

Safer places to cross the road

More cycle lanes

Where?

Cycle training

A safer place to store bikes

Showers and changing facilities

Lockers to leave belongings in

Other, please specify

**6. What would make going to the academy by bus/train better or encourage you to?
(circle up to 3 things that are most important)**

Bus stop closer to home

A suitable route

A shelter at the bus stop

Cheaper fares

More buses/trains

Cleaner, smarter buses/trains

Bus stop closer to school

Other, please specify

6. How would you choose to travel to the academy?

Walk

Bus /Train

Cycle

Car/Taxi

Car share

Other

8. Please add any other comments you wish to make regarding travel to and from the academy.

