

Holbeach Academy

School Travel Plan



Park Road
Holbeach
Spalding
PE12 7PU

Policy Date: March 2022
Review Date 1: September 2022
Review Date 2: March 2023

Why this Travel Plan?

Definition:

“A Travel Plan is a document put together by a school or a group of schools which sets out a package of short, medium- and long-term measures to encourage more children, young people and staff to choose alternatives to the car when making the journey to school”.

It signifies an all-round commitment to develop safer routes to school. The need for travel plans has arisen due to growing concerns over:

- Increasing congestion associated with the ‘school run’ – since the mid-1980s the percentage of children that are driven to school has more than doubled, whilst walking has diminished significantly. The growth in school-related vehicular trips has a negative impact with respect to peak hour congestion.
- Pupil health concerns concerning inactive lifestyles – the encouragement to increase healthier travel options is an important step to promote wellbeing, health and reduction in obesity levels.
- The need for pupils to gain “road sense” and independence.
- Road safety issues and concerns partly generated by school run related traffic.
- Air quality and climate change - national government acknowledges that the problem of traffic congestion and pollution must be tackled at the local level. Travel Plans encourage schools to play their part by reducing the impact of staff and pupil travel behaviours on the environment and encouraging healthier forms of transport such as walking and cycling.

Aims

The aims of this travel plan are:

- To increase awareness amongst pupils, parents and staff about the health, environmental and social consequences of their travel choices
- To reduce traffic congestion around the school gates.
- Increase the number of children walking and / or cycling to school.
- To improve safety on the journey to school by reducing car use.

- To increase the number of pupils participating in road safety education.
- To review the School Travel Plan on a regular basis.

School Introduction

Location

UAH was formed in 2011 and is situated on the edge of the rural small market town of Holbeach in South Lincolnshire.



Pupils

The school currently has 1,358 pupils of which 251 are 6th formers. The planned expansion of the school will see pupil numbers expand to just over 1520 by 2025.

Current Pupil Nos by Year Group	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Year 7	223	211	235	239	240	240	240
Year 8	212	212	210	240	240	240	240
Year 9	206	210	207	214	240	240	240
Year 10	192	204	207	208	214	240	240
Year 11	172	190	195	206	208	214	240
Year 12	168	187	154	144	155	170	180
Year 13	126	111	108	100	120	130	140
Year 14	0	10	2	7	0	0	0
Whole School	1299	1335	1318	1358	1422	1474	1520
11-16 Totals	1005	1027	1054	1107	1142	1174	1200
Post 16 Totals	294	308	264	251	280	300	320

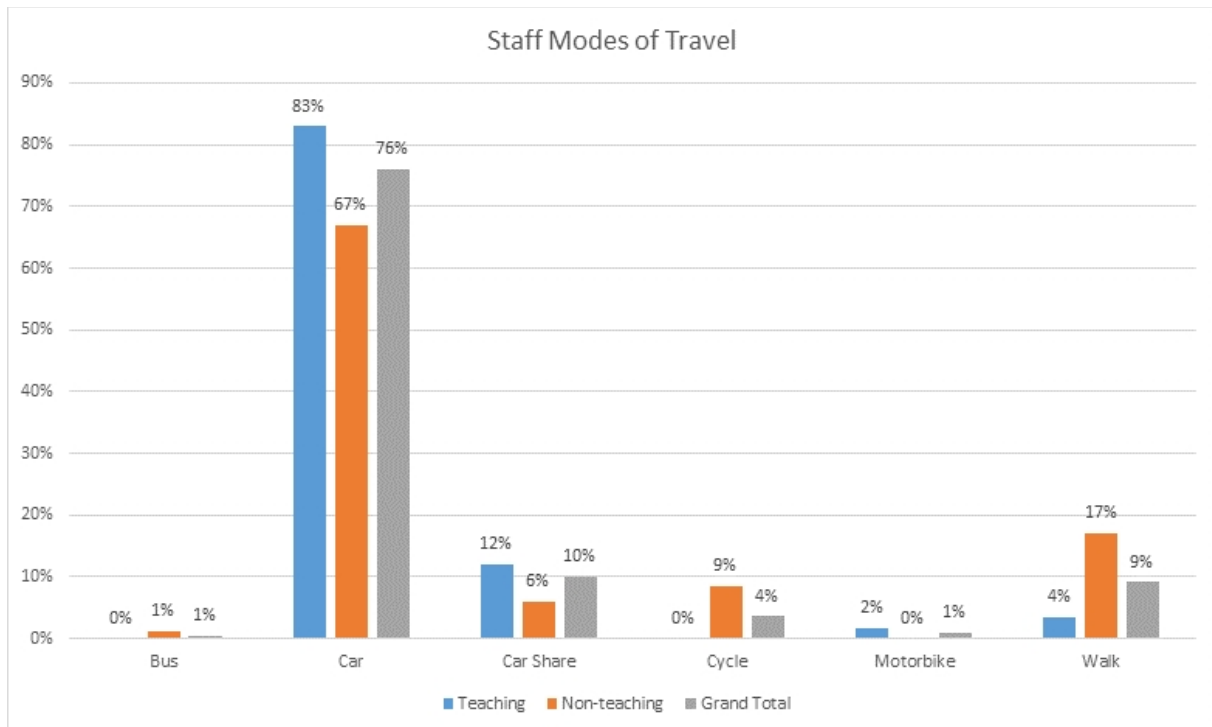
The Academy is a non-selective school in a county with a highly selective system. Our pupils travel from a wide radius of up to c15 miles by various modes of transport which are principally, school buses, parent/pupil owned cars and motorcycles, cycling and walking.

The rural nature of South Lincolnshire combined with the edge of town location of the academy and lack of rail infrastructure dictates that road transport accounts for the vast majority (c70%) of all school travel trips. The most recent pupil survey of travel modes, taken in March 2022 is shown in the table below:

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Staff

The latest staff travel survey results (03/2022) for the 196 staff members (teachers and non-teachers/support and site staff) is shown graphically below:



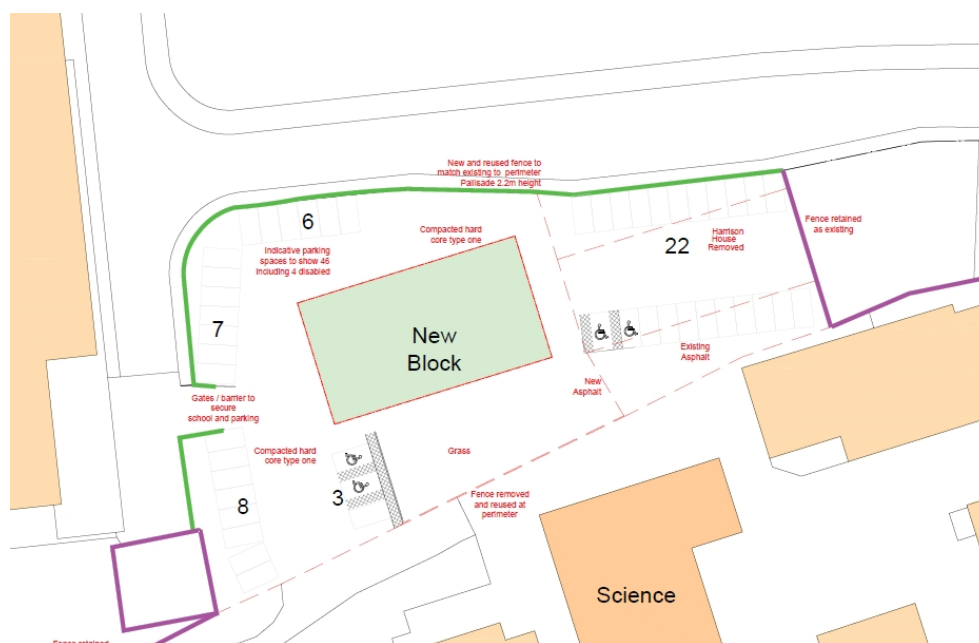
Arrival

There are facilities where wet clothes can be left to dry. Pupils and staff have adequate lockers available to provide secure space for personal items such as clothes, bikes helmets and lights. Showers are available for staff if they have cycled to school.

Car Parking

As with many school sites, the availability of on-site parking spaces have been limited. However, a planned increase in parking associated with the new T-level block will ensure that there is increased on-site parking. This second phase allows for additional parking. However, parking spaces on local roads together with the on-site capacity enables current demand for vehicular spaces to be met. There are separate car and pedestrian entrances. Car movements on the school site do not currently cause concern, although they are closely monitored as part of our Health & Safety audits (Citation).

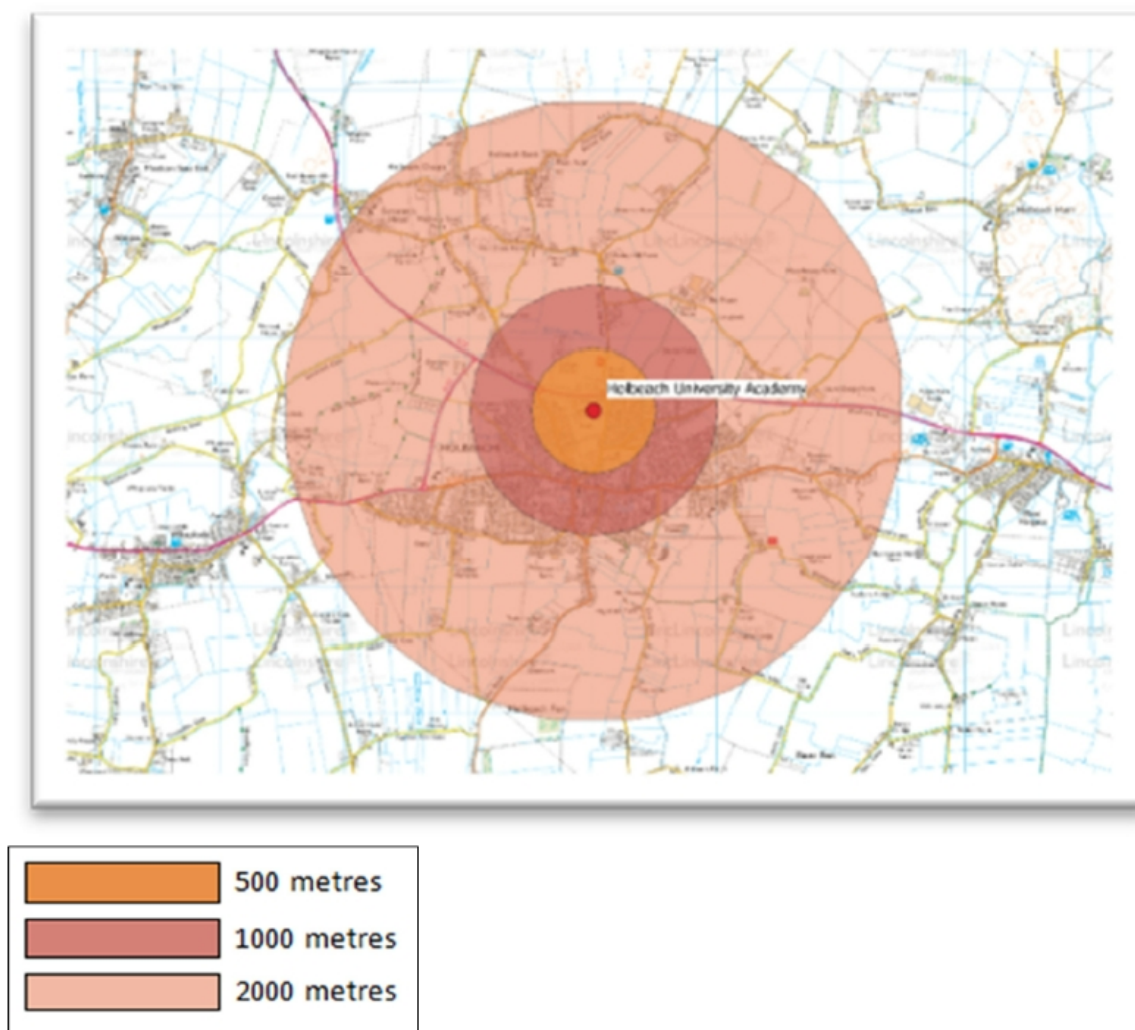
Upon completion of the new Maths Block, Harrison House (temporary structure) can be vacated and demolished and the car park and playground works can commence as the next phase of the T-Level Block scheme. This will increase staff parking, currently 98 staff parking by 46 bays to 144 bays including 4 marked disabled parking spaces (see map below). We will examine safe options in the locality for staff and older pupils to 'Park and Stride' to school.



Access by Foot

The school is located within a large residential area and there is a good network of footpaths and cycle ways which are in good general repair. The walking catchment of UAH is shown in the map below. Essentially safe walking routes exist within the urban catchment of Holbeach town and many potential routes to the North are unsafe for younger unescorted pupils, particularly those which entail crossing the heavily trafficked A17 route.

The school will continue to promote walking to school as a healthy and environmentally friendly option where appropriate. Additionally, the school will continue to promote 'walking buddies' as a means to safer walking to school.



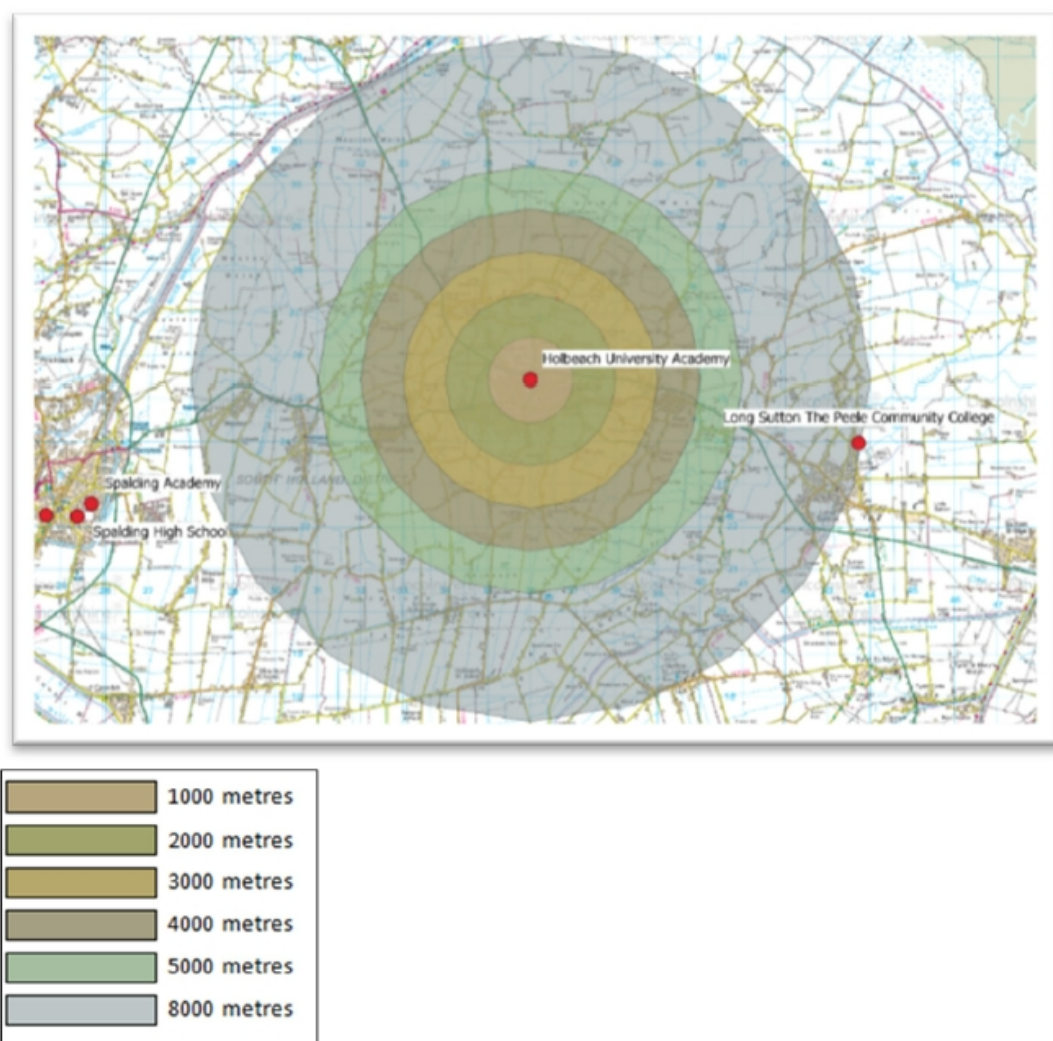
Cycling Access

Cycling is allowed and there are 116 secure cycle points with an additional 16 recently installed, having been moved temporarily. A programme of cycle training and maintenance is about to be launched (delayed due to the Covid pandemic) for which funding from the local community has been received. This will ensure that pupils are funded to receive cycle helmets, lights and high visibility clothing to encourage safe cycling to school.

The school will continue to promote cycling to school as a healthy and environmentally friendly means of getting to the academy site. We will also, as part of our involvement in the local Holbeach Transport Strategy, lobby for improvements to the current very limited cycling

infrastructure in the town and continue to urge incremental improvements to benefit our growing student population.

The cycle catchment for UAH is shown on the map below:

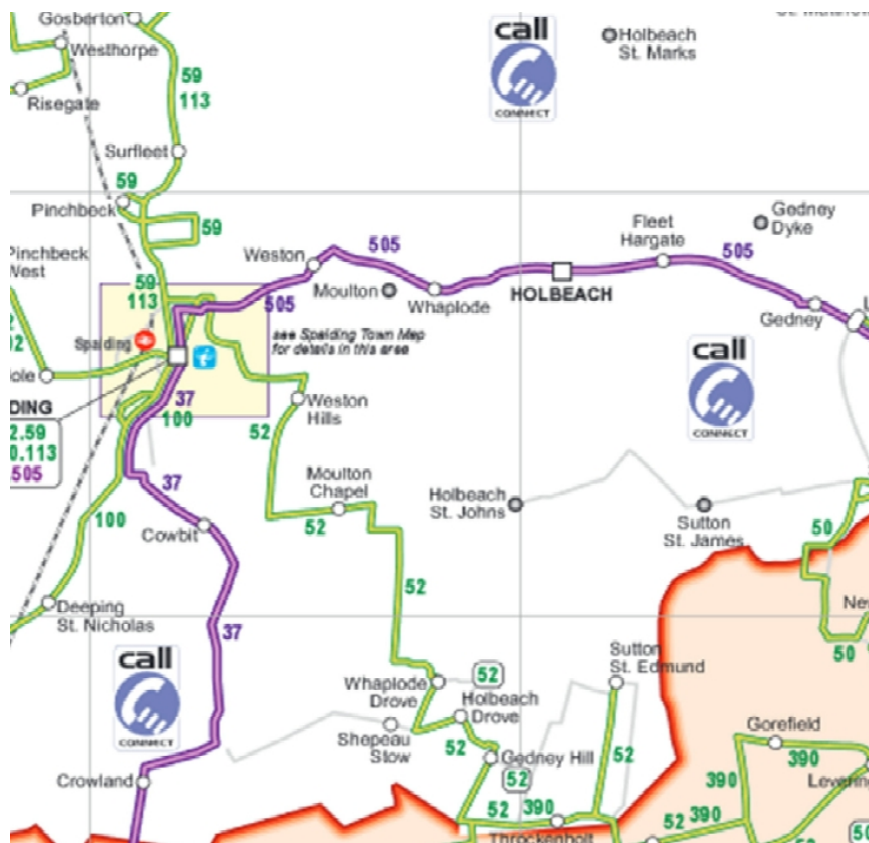


Public Transport

Rail – Holbeach does not have a rail link. The closest rail station is at Spalding (8 miles away).

Bus Routes – There are limited public service bus routes which pass the site. The 505 service (see below) is heavily used and the most used service and this route includes a halt at the academy during relevant school times. There is a small local Call Connect service operational in the area. Most pupils living three or more miles away from school are entitled to free transport to school by school bus or taxi. We have liaised with the coach company to add an additional coach service at busy school times.

As a result, a large number of pupils arrive and depart from the site each day by using dedicated school buses. An extract (below) from the Lincolnshire County Council Bus Map demonstrates the sparsity of public transport provision in the town.



MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS EXCLUDING BANK HOLIDAYS

route number	505	505	505	505	505	505	505	505	505	505	505	505	505	505	505	505	505
King's Lynn Bus Station bay B	-	0640	-	0740	-	0845	0915	0945	1015	1045	1115	1145	1215	1245	1315	1345	1415
King's Lynn Hillen Road	-	0646	-	0746	-	0853	0923	0953	1023	1053	1123	1153	1223	1253	1323	1353	1423
West Lynn Ferry Square	-	▼	-	▼	-	▼	▼	0958	▼	1058	▼	1158	▼	1258	▼	1358	▼
Clenchwarton School	-	0651	-	0751	-	0858	0928	1003	1028	1103	1128	1203	1228	1303	1328	1403	1428
Terrington St Clement Church	-	0702	-	0802	-	0909	0939	1014	1039	1114	1139	1214	1239	1314	1339	1414	1439
Walpole Cross Keys School	-	0708	-	0808	-	0915	0945	1020	1045	1120	1145	1220	1245	1320	1345	1420	1445
Sutton Bridge Hotel	0648	0713	0735	0813	-	0920	0950	1025	1050	1125	1150	1225	1250	1325	1350	1425	1450
Long Sutton Bus Interchange	0637	0723	0744	0823	-	0930	1000	1035	1100	1135	1200	1235	1300	1335	1400	1435	1500
Long Sutton Limewalk	0658	0724	0745	0824	-	0931	1001	1036	1101	1136	1201	1236	1301	1336	1401	1436	1501
Gedney Albert Avenue	0700	0727	0747	0827	-	0933	1003	1038	1103	1138	1203	1238	1303	1338	1403	1438	1503
Gedney St. Mary Magdalene Church	0703	0731	0750	0831	-	0936	1006	1041	1106	1141	1206	1241	1306	1341	1406	1441	1506
Fleet Hargate Old Schoolhouse	0705	0733	0752	0833	0908	0938	1008	1043	1108	1143	1208	1243	1308	1343	1408	1443	1508
Holbeach Bus Interchange (Co-Op)	0713	0742	0759	0842	0916	0946	1016	1051	1116	1151	1216	1251	1316	1351	1416	1451	1516
Holbeach University Academy	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	-
Whaplode The Darjeeling	0718	0751	0808	0851	0924	0954	1024	1059	1124	1159	1224	1259	1324	1359	1424	1459	-
Moulton Harrox Square	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	0959	▼	▼	▼	▼	1229	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	-
Moulton Bell Lane	0720	0754	0811	0854	0927	1002	1027	1102	1127	1202	1232	1302	1327	1402	1427	1502	-
Weston Church	0723	0758	0815	0858	0929	1004	1029	1104	1129	1204	1234	1304	1329	1404	1429	1504	-
Springfields Outlet Centre	▼	0807	0824	0907	0935	1010	1035	1110	1135	1210	1240	1310	1335	1410	1435	1510	-
Spalding Bus Station Bay 1	0734	0817	0839	0917	0943	1018	1043	1118	1143	1218	1248	1318	1343	1418	1443	1518	-



Road Safety Education

Road safety is currently taught, primarily through PHSE lessons and special assemblies.

Travel Information

Travel information is available for new pupils.

Holbeach Travel Strategy

The academy Principal has participated in the ongoing Holbeach Travel Strategy, which has identified the key transportation issues affecting the town – these matters impinge on UAH and are summarised in the tables below. This will become more important as the planned housing developments for Holbeach are delivered.

Analysis of the proposals indicates that a significant increase in pedestrian and cycle routes will make sustainable travel to school a much more attractive option for all local members of the school community. Furthermore, as housing provision in Holbeach increases, it is highly likely that the radius of UAH's catchment will reduce as places are filled by children that live more locally. The expected outcome of this is that an increased proportion of the academy's pupils will be able to walk and cycle to school more easily.

Some of the challenges identified



Holbeach's **population is increasing**, including young people and the working age population.

Average earnings in Holbeach are below regional and national averages.

Education and skills levels are below national averages.

Levels of **employment and unemployment** vary within Holbeach.



Retailers in Holbeach struggle to compete with more varied retail offers in neighbouring towns, especially Spalding, Boston and Wisbech. Holbeach residents do a **very small proportion of their shopping in the town**.



The main industries in South Holland tend to be **relatively intensive users of freight transport**.

Recent construction of the roundabout at **Peppermint Junction has improved traffic conditions** through Holbeach, reducing the amount of through-traffic, especially lorries.

Away from the A17 and A151, all through-traffic and most local trips must pass through the Market Hill Junction in the town centre, which **operates at capacity in morning and evening weekday peak periods**, leading to queues and congestion.



Holbeach has **no rail service** and only **one scheduled bus service** to Spalding and King's Lynn. CallConnect only operates six days a week, 12 hours a day.

There are **barriers to movement in some residential areas** of Holbeach. Many pedestrian and cycle trips are routed through the town centre, especially the Market Hill Junction.



Numbers of ultra-low emission and electric vehicles owned in South Holland are very low and there are **no public electric charging points in Holbeach**.



Broadband and mobile connectivity is relatively poor in South Holland, restricting access for residents and businesses to the full range of opportunities the internet and mobile technologies provide.

Carbon emissions attributable to transport are rising in South Holland as a proportion of all emissions.

Communities surrounding Holbeach are **more deprived** in terms of barriers to housing and services, relative to other neighbourhoods in England, with a **significant reliance on private car travel**.



The number of **households without a car is increasing**, which presents barriers to accessing employment and services.

Holbeach is **far removed from the motorway and trunk road network** with long-distance and local traffic sharing single carriageway roads in and around the town.



Cycling infrastructure such as cycle lanes, quiet cycling routes and cycle parking **facilities are limited in and around the town**.

Road safety needs to be improved. In particular, there are high numbers of accidents at some junctions, including Market Hill.

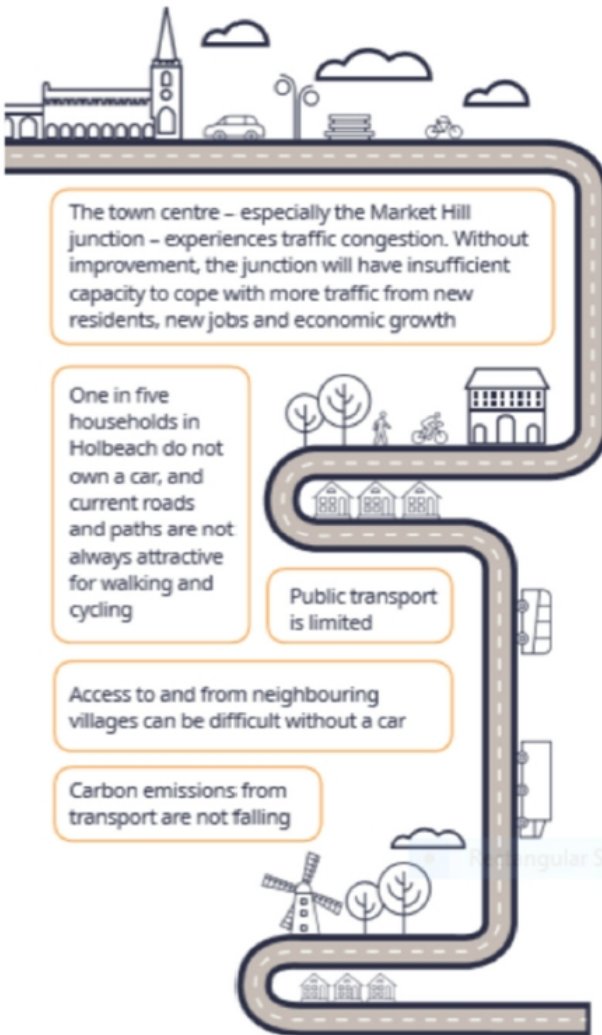
There are **no evening bus services**. Accessibility to employment in Holbeach and elsewhere is limited by the current timetable.



Walking and cycling activity levels are lower in South Holland than in other areas of Lincolnshire and nationally.

Over 1,800 pupils attend school in Holbeach. **Trips to and from schools in and near to the town generate amounts of traffic**.

Most people in the area travel to work by car or van. Around half of commuting trips wholly within Holbeach are made by car.



Opportunities



The number of **businesses and enterprises in South Holland is increasing more quickly** than across Lincolnshire as a whole.



Planned developments provide an opportunity to **gain funding from third parties for transport improvements.**



Improved access between Holbeach and surrounding communities – and towns such as Spalding and Boston – **by public transport would enable access to employment** and other opportunities further afield.



Around half of commuting trips wholly within Holbeach are by active modes (cycling, walking), which is above national averages and constitutes a good basis for increasing further and encouraging a shift away from the private car.



There is an opportunity to **develop a comprehensive cycling and walking network for Holbeach**, to support a significant increase in travel by active modes.



Air quality is relatively good in Holbeach and there is currently no Air Quality Management Area.

Maps of the School Site

The local area map is shown below.



Summary of Survey Findings and Consultations

The main points we have learnt are:

We have surveyed our students and staff in the current academic year and will continue to use this mode of measurement to assess improved outcomes emanating from our Travel Plan Action Plan.

We have found that a high percentage of pupils and staff (83% - 03/22) travel to school by car or other motor transport, this is a reflection of the school's wide recruitment area and lack of reliable public transport in this rural district. That car sharing is very limited (10%, although a 2% increase upon the last survey), that bus routes are along a single route and train services are non-existent in the town. We will examine the allocation of dedicated car-sharing bays and nearby potential places for 'Park and Stride' to school.

However, some 32% of Pupils and staff resident within the local town do walk or cycle to school and this may be built upon from application of our action plan, education and encouragement to adopt healthier modes of travel.

The Holbeach Travel Strategy has identified limitations in local transportation modes that limit greater cycle and walking access for outlying villages. We will continue to be involved in the ongoing development of local transport strategies and promote the needs of our academy's pupils and staff in respect of sustainable travel methodology. The Executive Principal was involved in the initial planning meetings that surrounded the planning for the new housing developments.

The A17 main road to the north of the academy is difficult to cross and other potential walking routes to the south, east and west outside the built-up area of Holbeach are of limited usefulness to pupils, although the new plans surrounding the housing developments are set to improve this.

Expansion of the town should provide funding for greater provision for both walking and cycling within Holbeach, which will provide opportunities for the UAH to promote these modes of travel to and from school. These developments have been delayed by the pandemic, but they are now beginning to shift.

The academy will put in place a modified and detailed action plan to promote and expand sustainable travel where it is appropriate and will utilise aspects of the school curriculum/school day to emphasise the health and environmental reasons for doing so.

The academy has re-registered with Modeshiftstars.org and will utilise the resources available to implement and improve our sustainable travel plan policies and programme. Progress against the targets of the travel plan have been and continue to be severely hampered by the effects of the closures, distance learning and other effects of the COVID pandemic. These plans are now being enacted as the academy returns to normal operation.

Action Plan

The academy will set up a reinvigorated school Travel Planning Group (TPG) comprising, staff, pupils and parents to review current arrangements and produce a short- and medium-term action plan of activities and initiatives to promote healthy and safe travel to school.

Our current Academy Travel Action Plan is attached at Annex A. This has been delayed by the pandemic, but still forms a central of the delivery of our plans.

The relevant and achievable actions/initiatives which the school would like to like to start will include;

To encourage sustainable travel:

- Arrange a Walk to School Week event for those pupils and staff for whom it is appropriate.
- Allocate a number of dedicated car-sharing parking spaces.
- Investigate expanding on-site cycle storage - completed.
- Recruit more volunteers to help with cycle training - completed.
- Participate in Modeshift stars programmes and use their resources to promote our action plan – re-started following hiatus caused by the pandemic.

To promote road safety:

- Use online road safety materials to raise awareness.
- Expand cycle training – planned for June 2022.
- Increase the involvement of county council and police traffic safety personnel in school assemblies – completed annually.

To raise awareness:

- Keep the local paper aware of work done by the school.
- Publish the Travel Plan on the school website.
- Have a School Travel notice-board.
- Have school travel on the agenda for Governors, SLT and pupil council meetings.

Promotion of the Travel Plan

Members of the school and the general public should be made aware and involved in developing the school travel plan. This can be done by:

- Placing a summary of the plan in the school prospectus
- Provide copies of the plan to new pupils and their parents
- Produce a STP section in the academy newsletter updating parents and pupils and the wider community
- Provide relevant information at open evenings
- Internal promotion making use of the school travel plan notice board

Monitoring and Review

We will monitor and review our school travel plan on an annual basis in the summer term for publication by the start of the new academic year each September.

Annex A – Action Plan

S = Short term
M = Medium term
L = Long term

AIM	ACTION	TIMESCALE	BY WHO	TARGET	RESOURCES/ FUNDING
1 (a) Increase travel Awareness	Confirm school travel plan and make it available to all staff, pupils, parents and school community. Publicise STP with a special launch.	S	Consultant	Produce a school Travel Plan Launch Event	
	Keep the School Community updated on the school Travel Plan progress and initiatives.	On-going	Principal, Heads of Year, TPG	1 newsletter article per term. An item on staff meetings agenda	Some Resources
	Develop a school travel notice board	S	SLT	Jan 20	Some funding & Resources
	Promote National Walk to School Week	M	TPG	1 a year	
	Promote National Walk to School Week	S	SLT	Jan 23	Some funding & Resources
(b) Increase Travel awareness in Classroom activities	Build awareness into curricular and extra-curricular activities. e.g. an annual travel mode survey in geography lessons	M	Teachers	Ask School Travel Co coordinator about lesson plans available.	
2 (a) Encourage Sustainable Travel	Hold a poster competition to promote sustainable travel on the school journey.	M	TPG	Select a poster and display it around the school	A Prize for the winner
(b) Cycling	Hold cycle training courses and produce cycling maps for	Ongoing	TPG	More children trained in safe cycling	

	school community use.				
	Investigate expanded installation of cycle racks/ provide secure cycle storage.	M	LCC	Install Racks for both teachers and pupils to use	Funding from external bids and school.
(c) Walking	Identify and recommend safer walking routes to school - produce a leaflet and encourage pupils and parents to use the routes	M/ L	TPG		Posters , letters to parents
	Review changes to the school buildings/grounds to improve segregation between vehicles and pedestrians.	M	SLT	Arrange a meeting with Lincs council's traffic engineer	Capital funds
(d) Public Transport	Increase publicity of public transport to staff and pupils. -school travel notice board to include timetables -train pupils in reading timetables, using buses -rewrite timetables so easy to read - Make sure parents / pupils are fully aware of school bus arrangements		Linc Council Public Transport Unit	Attractive Display Inform Parents	
(e) Car Sharing	Promote car sharing to staff Promote car sharing to parents living in the same area - develop a car sharing notice board - allocate dedicated car share parking bays on the school carpark - identify potential 'Park and Stride' locations nearby. - regular information on lifts in Newsletter	M/L	TPG/SLT		Resources

(3) Improve Safety	Work on measures to reduce the amount of vehicles driving to school and encourage responsible parking (away from the school site).	S/M/L	TPG	Include travel policies in school prospectus	
	Investigate physical traffic management measures to improve route to school, improve crossing points - send in your STP to Lincs Council Roads Department	M/L	Lincs Council TPG	Gain Funding to implement physics measures	Funding from Linc Council
(4) Monitor, evaluate and review	- Decide a Strategy to monitor progress. Assess new work areas and overcome problems. - Regular staff and pupil travel surveys in May & Oct annually to measure changes in modality.	On Going	Working Group	Keep the STP up to date	Resources