

THORNTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN

CURRENT POSITION

The school is located on the junction of Leaventhorpe Lane and Thornton Road, Thornton, Bradford.

Thornton Grammar School is an 11 to 18 Secondary School with 1500 students currently on roll; it employs 118 teaching and ancillary staff.

School opening times are: 8.30 am - 3.00 pm. Students arrive from 8.15 am and after school activities continue until 4.30 pm.

The Sports Recreation Centre remains open until 11.00 pm and weekends.

TRAVEL PATTERNS

Students travel from:

Area	Post Code
Allerton	BD15
Clayton	BD13
Denholme	BD13
Girlington	BD8
Horton Bank Top	BD7
Lidget Green	BD7
Queensbury	BD13
Thornton	BD13
Wibsey	BD6

Most staff travel to school by car. There are parking spaces for 174 cars on school campus. Sixth Form students are encouraged to park at Thornton Recreation Centre. Parking on Leaventhorpe Lane, directly outside school is discouraged.

Approximately:

- 40% students travel to school by public transport, including school specials.
- 40% students travel by private car
- 7.5% students walk to school
- No students cycle to school
- A small number of students travel by taxi

SCHOOL SPECIALS:

- 992 Thornton Grammar School - Clayton
- 993 Thornton Grammar School – Hollingwood Lane – Yellow MyBus
- 994 Thornton Grammar School – Odsal
- 995 Thornton Grammar School – Clayton – Yellow MyBus
- 996 Thornton Grammar School – Moore Avenue
- 997 Thornton Grammar School – Clayton
- 998 Thornton Grammar School – Clayton
- 607 service bus travels between Bradford Interchange – Thornton Village

The majority of students travel to school unaccompanied.

All buses now drop off at the specifically constructed bus bay
Two buses collect at 14:30 at the bus stops on Leventhorpe Lane.

All 7 buses have names dedicated drivers.

TRAFFIC PROBLEMS – ROAD USERS

Thornton Road:

- Has a speed limit of 30 mph, but traffic frequently travel in excess of this. The school's Physics department measured traffic speed in tests and monitored 90% of vehicles travelling above the speed limit
- Is a main route out of Bradford City centre to Thornton village and beyond. Traffic is heavy at all times, particularly during peak times, 7.30 am – 9.00 am and 4.30 pm to 6.00 pm
- Is a wide-open road, which encourages overtaking. Parked cars at both sides cause hazards for travelling cars and pedestrians.
- Parents frequently park on double yellow lines and even use the main junction as a turning circle.

Leventhorpe Lane:

- Is a narrow road, with the driveways of Thornton Grammar School and the Sports Recreation Centre, and private house-owners sited at the top end of Leventhorpe Lane with the junction of Thornton Road
- Is used at the beginning and end of school by seven school special buses, local residents, parents and local through traffic

CAR PARKING

- The school encourages parking on Thornton Road by both school users and parents when leaving or collecting students before and after school. This adds to traffic and crossing difficulties.
- Parking restrictions (zigzag) lines are immediately outside the school entrance on Leventhorpe Lane
- Car Parking for staff is adequate, however car parking facilities has led to a lack of playground area. The Recreation Centre car park has now been extended to allow greater ease of staff and public parking.
- Parking by parents at the end of school is a particular problem
- Parking for after school events, Parents Consultation Evenings etc, also causes particular difficulties.

CROSSING ROADS

Thornton Road:

Students alighting from the 607 service bus in a morning from Thornton village have to cross Thornton Road. Those students travelling into Bradford at the end of school must also cross Thornton Road to use the 607 service bus.

- Crossing Thornton Road is extremely difficult bearing in mind the volume and speed of traffic (especially at morning peak times)
- Adequate crossing island with “zebra” crossing areas marked on the road
- Parked cars can cause blind spots.

Leventhorpe Lane is extremely hazardous at the end of the school day due to:

- Parked cars by both local residents and parents
- The volume of students at the end of school day
- Arrival and departure of School Specials
- There is no pavement at the end of Leventhorpe Lane on the upper side, causing additional problems
- The pavement directly outside school is used as a bus stop, adding to congestion.

BUSES

- Additional problems are caused by buses not arriving on time for the end of the school day
- Badly positioned bus stops on Leventhorpe Lane.

SAFETY ISSUES

- Students crossing both Leventhorpe Lane and Thornton Road
- Car parking on Leventhorpe Lane and Thornton Road
- Speed of traffic travelling on Thornton Road and on Leventhorpe Lane.

PREFERRED POSITION

OBJECTIVES:

- To improve the quality of provision of public transport
- To provide a safe environment for pupils accessing the school by reducing congestion and improve road safety
- To ensure that the provision for setting down and picking up pupils by car is managed more efficiently
- To slow the speed of Leaventhorpe Lane down to 20mhp.
- To allow all school special buses to park in the dedicated layby areas on leaventhorpe Lane.
- To ensure that parking facilities for the school are adequate
- To improve pupil, staff and parent awareness of travel issues
- To improve relations with the wider community, securing good behaviour of all pupils on the journey to and from school.

BENEFITS TO THE SCHOOL

- The school would benefit from an efficiently managed arrival and departure of students using public transport
- Students use of public transport would be safer
- Students would be at less risk from road traffic accidents and would have increased knowledge of road safety
- Relations with the wider community would improve.

STRATEGY TO ACHIEVE THESE OBJECTIVES

The issue of transport will be considered by:

- Senior Management
- Governing Body
- Mr Lloyd (Behaviour Support Manager)
- Friends of Thornton Grammar School – Road Safety Working Party (Representatives of SMT, Parents, LEA and Police)
- Students School Council
- Partnership with Public Transport

Action will be taken to achieve the objectives of the plan in terms of:

- To form a working party consisting of staff, parents, LEA representatives, police and members of the local community
- To canvass the views and support of parents, initially through letters and meetings
- To work with First Bradford and the LEA School Transport to improve the school special bus service

- To develop the PSHE curriculum in Years 7, 8 and 9 to include road safety issues
- To improve the road safety issues on school premises immediately outside the school – bus bays, car parking for staff, Sixth Form students, parents and visitors

THE PLAN WILL BE PUBLICISED:

- Through letters to parent and local residents
- Local press
- Meetings – feedback to committees and local groups
- School web site

IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN

PRIORITY MEASURES:

- To solve problems of over crowding on buses in negotiation with First Bradford
- To complete bus bays and improve bus stops
- To work with the Council and Police to limit parking on Leventhorpe Lane
- Working Party to gather results of questionnaires and formulate an action plan
- To liaise with Police with a view to implementing traffic calming measures on Thornton Road

COSTS?

FUNDING

- Thornton Grammar School Transport scheme funding to complete
- Council funding – Highways

TARGET DATE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:**January 2001**

Responsibility for achieving targets:

Mr J Weir – Headmaster

Mr C Truelove – Deputy Headmaster

Mr D G Lloyd (Behaviour Support Manager)

MONITORING PROGRESS

All measures taken will be reviewed half-termly by:

- SMT
- Thornton Grammar School Governing Body
- Thornton Grammar School Health & Safety Working Party

The views of all those involved in the School Travel Plan will be sought regularly.

REPORTING ACHIEVEMENT

Progress will be reported through established means of communication with the school community: Letters to parents, scheduled meeting of FOTs, Governors and staff and the school web site.

PLAN EVALUATION

The plan will be evaluated through a survey of the school community on the impact of the initiative.

Information about student travel arrangements and travel health & safety issues will be collected.

The aim of this information is to develop further proposals to demonstrate continuous improvement in the outcome of the School Travel Plan in support of the councils overall transport policy objectives.