

# School Travel Plan

September 2022

## ***Our School***

Grays Convent High School is a highly successful and voluntary aided girls secondary school situated in a pleasant residential area of Grays. The school has 650 pupils aged 11 – 16 years and a staff of 70 including teachers, Learning Support Assistants, ancillary and catering staff.

The school has occupied the current site at the end of College Avenue, Grays for over 100 years. The school's only access is in College Avenue. This entrance is a shared vehicular and pedestrian access point.

Due to the location of the school at the end of a narrow cul-de-sac and the proximity of St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School and Quarry Hill School, there is significant congestion at the beginning and end of each day. This congestion occurs in College Avenue, Bradleigh Avenue and neighbouring side roads.

Cars often park on Bradleigh Avenue at its junction with College Avenue. Parents are encouraged to avoid dropping off and collecting their daughters in College Avenue. Those who drive are encouraged to make use of the drop off zone on Bradleigh Avenue.

## ***Mission Statement***

At Grays Convent we recognise the value of each individual as a gift from God to the world. We are a Catholic school founded by the La Sainte Union Sisters and our ethos is one of unity, prayer, worship, service and work. We strive to follow the example of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary by enabling learning to take place in a caring and accepting community. We are blessed by Jesus the Good Shepherd, try to follow him in everything that we do, and in doing so make the most of our God given talents. We are one with God.

School motto : Nous sommes un avec Dieu (We are one with God)

Vision : Developing and empowering young women to discover and realise their full potential.  
Inspiring ambition, achieving excellence.

## ***Good safety practices at Grays Convent School***

### *School Transport*

- There is no public transport to the school. Most pupils travel to school by bus, train or car and some walk to school. Pupils use public buses from bus stops on Southend Road and in Grays. They also use trains from Grays train station. Pupils are encouraged to leave school by walking along the pavements of College Avenue.

### *School Vehicle*

- The school has a minibus that is kept in a garage when not in use. Staff take the MIDAS minibus test before driving it. All pupils wear seat belts and are made aware of emergency procedures in the event of an accident.

### *School Trips*

- Risk assessments are carried out prior to educational visits. Safe behaviour is expected of the pupils. They are expected to remain seated when on coach journeys. Coaches booked for educational visits are requested to park in Bradleigh Avenue and not try to enter College Avenue. This is in line with residents' wishes.

### *Extra Curricular Activities*

- An extensive range of extra curricular activities take place after school. Car sharing by parents takes place. The school playground is used as an overflow car park for events including the annual drama production and parents' evenings.

### *The School Entrance and its vicinity*

- This is a shared vehicular and pedestrian entrance. At the end of the school day, members of staff are on duty to facilitate the safe and orderly exit of the pupils. Staff are positioned at key points along College Avenue and its corner with Bradleigh Avenue. SLT staff also walk further down to Quarry Hill School and to the bus stop on Southend Road.
- To enhance the safety of all pupils, our parents are strongly discouraged from dropping off or collecting their daughters at the school gates. Some parents from St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School park or drop off/collect their children in College Avenue. This adds to our safety difficulties.
- In order to ease congestion there is a staggered departure of pupils with KS3 being walked out of the school by their teachers at 15.20 and KS4 being walked out of the school by their teachers at 15.25

### *Bicycles*

- Concrete cycle blocks are available for standing bicycles. Cycle to school week is promoted in the month of September.

### *Pupils Leaving School*

- Pupils are not allowed out of school for any reason unless they have permission signed by their Head of Year. Names are recorded in a 'signing out' book. Permission is only issued to pupils with a note from a parent.
- No pupils leave the school at lunchtime. Pupils who are ill and need to return home are collected by a parent.

### *Railway Safety*

- A group of pupils travel to and from school by train, using the line from Grays to Fenchurch Street. They are encouraged to stay together as a group and use the level crossing with great care.

### *Dangerous Behaviour*

- A member of the Senior Leadership Team is on duty in College Avenue at the end of each school day to support duty staff and ensure pupils remain on the pavement. They also walk down to Quarry Hill School and to the bus stop on Southend Road.
- Heads of Year and Senior Staff deal with pupils who have been reported by pupils, staff or the general public for dangerous behaviour.

### ***Travel Safety in the Curriculum***

#### *PSHE/Citizenship*

- All KS3 pupils have PSHE/Citizenship lessons. This covers elements of travel safety and health issues such as environmental problems relating to car use, the dangers of smoking, and drug abuse. Personal safety is also discussed.
- KS4 – see Assemblies below.

#### *Assemblies*

- Senior staff regularly remind all pupils of the need to avoid being dropped off and collected by their parents in College Avenue and about appropriate behaviour on the school coaches/buses.
- From time to time, safety issues are discussed by SLT and HoYs in assemblies. E.g. Safe crossing of roads, travelling home in small groups or with a friend where possible.

### ***Problems at the site***

- Continued problem of cars dropping off and collecting pupils in College Avenue which sometimes results in a driveway being temporarily blocked.
- Continued problem of too many cars parked in Bradleigh Avenue and surrounding road. This is inconvenient for residents.
- Physical injury to staff as a result of poor driving and maintaining road safety for pupils by showing them across the road
- Verbal assault of staff who often have to manage the traffic and direct traffic as well as deal with angry parents and resident
- Potential injury to students due to crossing the road in College Avenue and Bradleigh Avenue

### ***Actions***

- Staff on duty
- The school works closely with PCSOs who enforce relevant parking laws
- Reminders about safety, not parking in College Avenue etc. given in the school newsletter, by the Headteacher at whole school assemblies and in letters prior to events.
- CCTV covers the front entrance of the school and the playground area used as a car park.

### ***Aims for the Future***

- Demonstrate a need to reduce car use to and from school. Parents to be encouraged to consider car sharing.
- Reduce the number of parents/carers parking or dropping off their daughters in College Avenue.
- To improve pedestrian routes to school transport pick up points.

### ***Plan of Action***

- Reduce number of car parking in College Avenue and surrounding residential roads through encouragement of car sharing.
- Continue to maintain good standards of pupil behaviour.
- Engage with Thurrock Council, local residents and St. Thomas of Canterbury school. Liaise with St. Thomas of Canterbury school regarding use of the gate on College Avenue.
- Update the school travel plan on Modeshift STARS.

### ***Consultation Process***

The School Travel Plan takes into account the views of the local community through meetings involving the Headteacher and Assistant Headteacher of Grays Convent High School, the Headteacher of St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School and representatives from residents of College Avenue. It has been discussed with our School Council and a member of the governing body takes a pro-active liaison role.

The school has worked with Thurrock Council, St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School and a committee of College Avenue residents to install yellow lines and 'School Keep Clear' markings in certain areas of College Avenue and Bradleigh Avenue.

### ***Review Process***

The School Travel Plan will be reviewed annually by the Assistant Headteacher. Progress towards meeting the original targets will be evaluated and new targets set where appropriate.

Mr P. O'Hanlon  
Assistant Headteacher