

Piddle Valley CE VA First School School Travel Plan January 2013

Head teacher: Mrs Tracy Jones

Address: Piddletrenthide, Dorchester, Dorset, DT2 7QL

DCSF number: 835/3670

Our School

Piddle Valley First School is a Voluntary Aided Church of England School located in the village of Piddletrenthide. Our school has a stunning rural setting in the heart of the Piddle Valley. Access to our school is off Piddletrenthide village High Street, the B3143 road. Christianity is at the heart of everything we do. We educate children from the ages of 2 year 9 months to 9 years. Our school role is currently 76 children, the maximum number of children which our school can admit in any one year group is 23. Our school is currently organised into three mixed age range classes, Robins, Buzzards, and Owls.

The original school was founded in 1848 'for the education of children and adults or children only of the labouring manufacturing and other poorer classes in the Parish of Piddletrenthide'. The present building was built in 1999 and benefits from modern, light and spacious rooms. Our access and facilities for able and disabled people is excellent.

Outside, we have created a garden in which the children have their own special class areas for growing flowers and vegetables; and there is a large pond for environmental work. The school is built around a central courtyard which is used by the Pre-School as an enclosed area for outdoor play and as a garden for growing vegetables and flowers. A covered area was created as part of the previous travel plan to encourage families to walk or cycle to school with an area in school in which to wait.



All families of children attending Piddle Valley CE VA First School automatically become members of the 'Friends' Association. There is a breakfast club which opens at 8.00am and an after school club until 6.00. The Piddle Valley Kids Club is an independent charity, located on our school site in the school hall and in the foundation base rooms and courtyard. Ofsted has commended our community links. Piddle Valley CE VA First School is one of 18 schools within the nationally acclaimed Dorchester Area Schools Partnership (DASP)

Our Mission and Vision Statement

'Learning together to achieve our best.'

Our school is founded on Christian values, principles and beliefs. All our school community – children, parents, staff and Governors – are valued for the unique qualities which each member contributes. We celebrate the efforts and achievements of all.

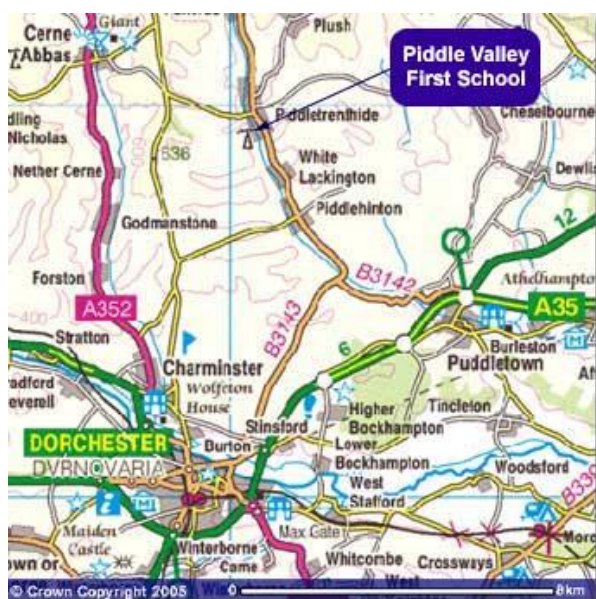
In partnership with parents we aim to support and develop the individual skills and talents of all our children. Our objective is to encourage them to become fulfilled and well-rounded human beings, with the self-confidence to take up the challenges of the wider world.



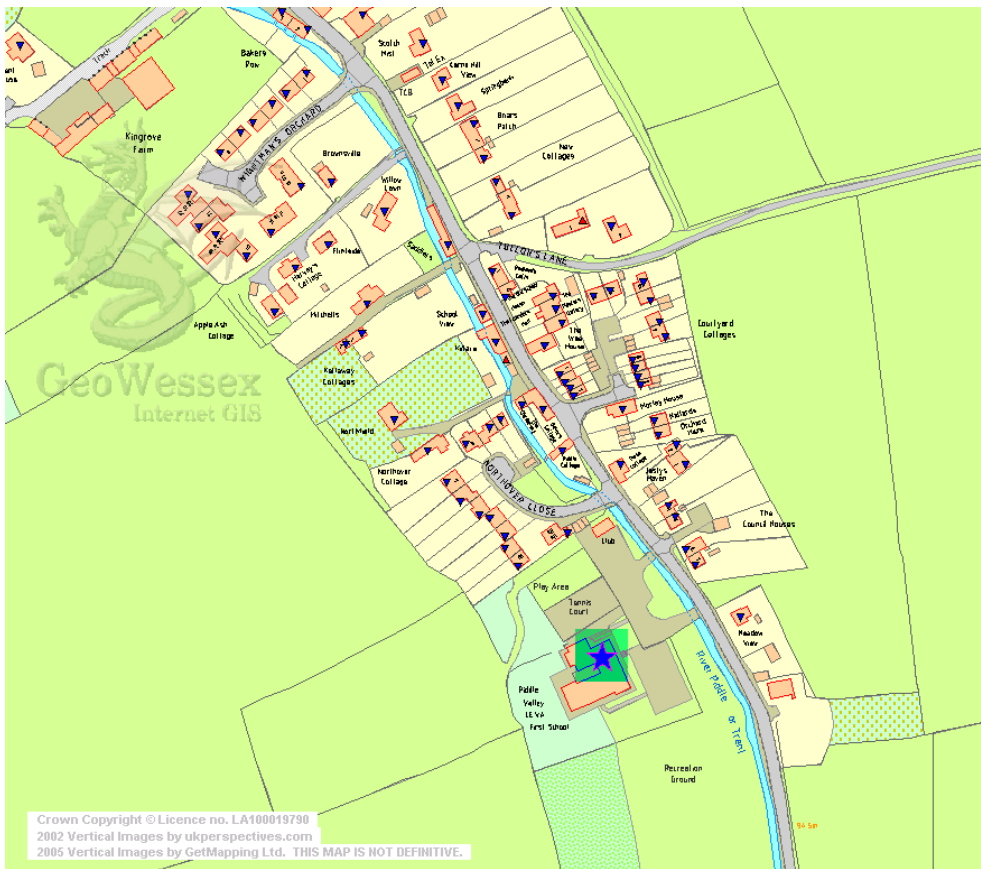
School Admission Area

Our school serves the entire Piddle Valley from Piddlehinton, Piddletrenthide to Alton Pancras and including the villages of Plush and White Lackington. In addition approximately 35% of our children live out of catchment area, mostly in Charlton Down and come to Piddle Valley through parental choice. This makes our school both unique and maintains our viability as a small school.

Location of our school



Our school in the village



School Site Map (As created by Year 4)

To be added soon.

Travel Issues –

These travel issues have been raised through the consultation on our school travel plan, the travel surveys and recent comments by school staff.

- Access to our school is over two bridges off Piddletrenthide High Street (B3143). The south bridge is for vehicles to enter, the north bridge is for vehicles to leave. Pedestrians can also enter our school site from Northover Close. The school bus has to park on the village road due to the shape of the bridges. Bus children are escorted to and from school over the bridge.
- We have a car park in front of school which has space for staff, visitors and parents to park. In the travel surveys, some parents advised that there is not enough room and there is double parking on some school days. Parents also advise, that apart from a couple of road spaces in Northover Close there is no where else in the village for parents to park. A risk assessment has been carried out on our car park.
- Piddletrenthide village stretches along the busy B3143 and parents told us in their survey that there is a lack of pavement in the village. The pavement is narrow and so is the village Street. Lorries and tractors go through our village at speed. Many parents and staff believe that it is unsafe for children to walk through the village. In their travel survey 30 children said they lived too far away to walk to school. Most children liked to join in with Walk to School / Walking Bus events, saying they were fun and they got exercise. Where possible staff support these events.
- In the travel surveys there was no demand from parents or staff to cycle to school. Some children said they would like to cycle to school and have bike racks, but many children also said it was too far to cycle to school and the roads were too busy. As a result, we will investigate purchasing a small cycle / scooter rack for our school grounds.
- 35% of our children come from outside of the school catchment area and live several miles away. For these children, parents advise the only way to get to school is by car. Our catchment area is rural and spread out.
- There are limited places in the village where parents could park their cars and walk to school.
- Although a school walking bus is organised half termly / monthly there are issues with safety and adult / child ratios are necessarily high and high visibility jackets are worn. There are stretches of road with no pavement.
- In the travel survey, some parents advised that car sharing is a good option. Children and parents from Charlton Down village regularly car share. Parents mentioned in the survey that the road from Charlton Down gets icy and is not gritted.
- The school bus is not used so much in the mornings but is fuller in the afternoons. Some parents think it is not safe for children to wait in the roads for the school bus at the designated bus stops at the roadside, in the mornings, often with no paved area and children have to leave early and spend a long time in transit between schools.

Arriving at School - opening time is 8.45 am

Parents are requested that their children arrive in school between 08.45 – 9.00 and generally do not arrive any earlier. However, Kids Club does provide breakfast and before school care at a cost within the school premises from 8:00am onwards.

Meeting children at the end of the day - closing time is 3.15 pm

At the end of the day we have children travelling home by bus, by taxi, being collected by parents and attending our After School Clubs. Because of this complexity, children travelling by bus and taxi meet in the hall with a teacher who then escorts them to the correct place and ensures seat belts are fastened. The school asks parents collecting children to personally meet them at their classroom doors. This helps us to match child to parent/carer. Parents are asked to let the school know of any changed arrangements at the end of the day. If another adult is collecting a child, or if a child is going home with another family, parents are asked to telephone the School Office with these altered arrangements.

Kids Club provide after school care and provision at a cost until 6:00pm each day.

School Bus Transport

School bus transport is important to our school community. Fourteen children travel by school bus each day and five come by taxi. Dorset County Council provides free transport to enable a pupil to attend the normal

appropriate school where the walking distance is as follows:

Pupils under eight years at the beginning of the educational year and who live 2 miles or more away. Pupils over eight years and under sixteen years at the beginning of the educational year and who live 3 miles or more away from school.

It is the policy of the County Council to allow children living within the required walking distances to occupy spare seats on school transport on payment of a charge and on the understanding that the concession can be withdrawn if the seat is required by an entitled child. Parents are asked to contact the school office if their child wants to take a spare seat.

Special Education Needs Pupils / Community use of school

We have 17 children with special education needs. No additional transport is provided for these children. A number of organisations use the school from time to time, such as the Piddle Valley Community who meet to discuss the parish and neighbourhood plan and The Bridge Trust also meets regularly in our school. 'Tiddlers' Pre-School group meets within the school on a weekly basis. The school hall is let for many additional community events.

Travel Links

There is no railway service near Piddletrenthide village and no public bus service which children, parents and staff could use to get to school. Piddletrenthide stretches along the busy B3143 High Street and there is no pavement along half of the village. The pavement provided is narrow and so is the village High Street. There are no cycle routes leading to our school or in the village. We hire the Dorset Area Strategic Partnership minibus or hire a coach to transfer children on trips. Children will walk to fields at the back of school for nature lessons.

Summary of Children's, Staff, Governors and Family questionnaires.

We had the following number of responses:

- 19 returns from Staff and Governors
- 23 returns from families as a whole
- 75 returns from children (survey in school time)

The conclusions drawn from all of the information are that:

- Many adults and children would prefer to walk or cycle to school but find this difficult due to the volume, speed and type of traffic that uses the local roads during peak times.
- Many parents do drop their children off at breakfast club and/or collect from after school club due to the time and location of their own employment. This reduces options for car sharing.
- Many families do walk to school using the off road pathways when the weather is good and would do so more often if a permanent surface was in place.
- Many adults and children do take part in walk to school session as the ratios on these days are high and they are accompanied by Community Police Officer Vicky Hedges.
- The majority of families would prefer to walk and cycle and are aware of the impact of CO2 emissions on the environment.

Suggestions to improve travel to school / CO2 emission included:

- More parents to car share, so that individual cars are providing transport for more children.
- Families who are entitled to use County transport use the facility reducing unnecessary journeys, reducing CO2 emissions and also saving themselves fuel costs.
- Improved bridle path / improved pavement.
- Increase in number of 'walking bus /walk to school' mornings, especially during the drier months of the year.
- Continued pressure to reduce heavy vehicles using local roads and enforce the speed limit, thus making it safer for families to walk / cycle to school.
- More cycling proficiency training to enable older pupils to cycle safely.
- A school cycle / scooter rack in the school grounds.

Additional suggestions from the children included:

- Allowing children to ride their horses into school.
- TVs on the bus to make it more appealing.
- Sponsorship to walk to school.
- More walking bus / walk to school mornings with singing.
- Having class topics on road safety, walking to school and the environment.

Objectives of our school travel plan**1. Sustainable travel to school aims**

- Parental, pupil and staff, Governors and volunteers questionnaires
- Feedback on aims of travel plan
- Encouragement of car sharing
- Encouragement to use the school bus if entitled
- Purchasing of a bike / scooter rack
- Discussions with Community Police officer on raising awareness over speed restrictions and use of the Valley roads.

2. To continue to promote a healthy lifestyle for our school community

- Monthly 'walking buses' with reference in school newsletters and local News and Views magazine
- Liaison with traffic police
- Whole school Summer Term Healthy living mini-topic to maintain the Olympics sports focus

3. To encourage safety awareness for children in PSHE and cross curricular activities

- Streetwise safety centre for Year 2 pupils
- Whole school safety days, including road safety
- Road safety poster

School Travel Plan Actions

	List of Actions	Target Date (Month/year)	On Going Progress/ Monitoring	Lead Action By (name)
Consultation				
1	To arrange travel surveys and draw up a draft school travel plan	Jan 2013	Achieved Travel surveys of the children, parents and staff were arranged in November. A draft travel plan was drawn up in December	Head teacher
2	To consult with pupils, parents, staff and governors and agree a school travel plan	Jan 2013		Head teacher
Walking To School				
3	Continue to organise walking bus / walk to school mornings. 2x half termly (monthly)	Half termly	Regular Walking Bus/ Walk to School was supported by the whole school community and our Walk to School activity was featured in the local newspapers	Children Parents Staff Governors

				Mrs Hudson CP Vicky Hedges
4	Establish link with The PPC to raise awareness of the condition of the bridle path and investigate creation of an all-weather surface	May 2013		Assistant Headteacher School Council
School / Public Bus Usage				
5	To encourage parents to use the free school bus provision to and from school if entitled.	review termly February 2014	Regularly include in newsletters and office to liaise with families	Mrs Warne
Cycling To School				
6	To promote cycle training opportunities for pupils	As training events arise	To promote organised Cycling proficiency events via parent newsletters	Children Parents
7	To purchase a small cycle / scooter rack for the school grounds	Apr 2013		Head teacher Governors
Children's and School Council Actions				
8	Year 4 children to draw maps of school grounds Children to write poems about travelling to school/healthy lifestyles School council to discuss the travel plan and make any suggested additions	April 2013 April 2013 February 2013		Children School council
Health, Fitness & Environment				
9	We have committed to the Healthy Schools Scheme. Overall Healthy Schools gives a broad based improvement plan on the development of the Citizenship curriculum in all phases of school life.	review Dec 2009	A Healthy lifestyle involves a commitment to healthy eating and raising awareness in children of good and bad eating habits. Some of the key concepts which we have developed under this heading include: providing free access to drinking water at all times; stipulating healthy snacks only at break time (fruit, vegetables fresh or dried, or cheese); and sun awareness (amphitheatre/ Sun Shelter and benches with parasols).	Whole School
10	We are committed to developing our own school Forest Schools Areas and a member of staff is completing training to support all staff in delivering Forrest skills sessions.	July 2013		Nicole Woods
Car Sharing / Sustainable Travel				
11	To continue to encourage school parents to make their own car sharing arrangements on journeys to and from school	Feb 2014	To raise in parent newsletters Parents must satisfy themselves that other school parents have the necessary driving and car documents	Parents
12	To encourage school staff to car share on training courses	Feb 2014	Car sharing leaflets will be displayed on staff notice board, School staff can also join the DCC car share scheme details at : www.carsharedorset.com	Staff
Road Safety Measures				
12	A risk assessment has been carried out on safe use of our car park	July 2013	Regular reminders to parents in newsletters to park safely and to walk with their child in the car park	

Review of School Travel Plan

1. The head teacher will lead the next school travel plan review in February 2014. Actions and targets in the travel plan will be updated.
2. New children's travel to school data will be gathered each year through the school census.
3. The travel plan review will consider pupil travel needs and the school travel plan will be amended and updated to take account of any changes arising from new developments in education and transport provision.

Our travel plan is an active and supported plan.