

RUSHEY MEAD ACADEMY  
**Travel Plan**

## TRAVEL PLAN

Rushey Mead Academy (RMA) is a vibrant and highly successful city academy, with approximately 1780 11-16-year-old students on roll and 277 staff both part and full time. The academy is part of The Mead Educational Trust (TMET), a multi-academy trust. It is located on the north side of Leicester City on the Melton Road (A617), one of the main routes into Leicester.

As a National Teaching School, Rushey Mead have a remit to train new teachers, support the professional development of teachers already in post and develop leadership skills of educational professionals. This remit consequently means that many visitors come to the site on a daily basis, in particular to use the conference facilities housed in the sports block.

The academy's facilities have been constructed with a view not only for use by the school but also by the community. In particular, the facilities found in 'E' block (sport) and 'A' block (hub) attract extensive community use. This plan also addresses arrangements for such use of the facilities.

### **Aims**

The aim of the travel plan is to inform RMA stakeholders of the modal choices available to ensure that travel to the academy is as sustainable as possible; that travel solutions supports reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and congestion.

### **School Operations**

Below are indicative timings of a typical school day at Rushey Mead Academy.

Breakfast available in canteen – from 08.00

Registration – 08.30

End of School - 14.55

End of school clubs - 16.15

Start of community use - 16.30

End of community use - 21.30

Rushey Mead also runs after school activities for students. These after school activities run up until 16.15. Both the breakfast service and after school activities permit staggered arrival and departure times

The staff and students have separate start times and end times, with the majority of staff starting between 08:00 - 08:30 and students at 08:30 and staff ending between 15:15 -16:00 and students at 14:55. This staggered start and end times aids reduced congestion for all travel mediums.

### **Site Accessibility**

#### Accessibility by Foot

A significant majority of the students travel to school on foot and live locally. This can sometimes cause disruption to traffic on the busy Melton Road, one of the main thoroughfares into Leicester. In particular, at the end of the school day students are encouraged to behave in ways that keep them safe and minimise any disruption to traffic flow outside school.

As RMA is situated on a main road there are good footways and pedestrian crossings in the area surrounding the site. There are three pedestrian entrances to the site, leading onto Melton Road, including the main gated student entrance that is open for access between 0800 and 0830 and for egress between 1450 and 1510. Between those times access to the site is controlled by the reception staff

#### Accessibility by Bus

The nearest bus stops to Rushey Mead are located on Melton Road, within 400 metres walking distance, with additional stops further along Melton Road in each direction which ease possible congestion. Due to the school's location upon one of Leicester's main thoroughfare there is a frequent bus time table.

A summary of these local bus services is provided in the table below, correct as at 31.10.2019.

Service	Destinations	Approximate Frequency Mon-Fri
128 Leicester – Melton Mowbray	Leicester City Centre-Thurmaston, Syston - Ratcliffe on the Wreake – Thrusington – Hoby - Frisby on the Wreake - Kirby Bellars - Melton Mowbray	1 bus every hour
22 Evington – Rushey Mead	Evington – Leicester City Centre – Belgrave – Rushey Mead	4 buses every hour
100 Leicester – Melton Mowbray	Leicester City Centre – Rushey Mead – Syston – Barkby – Beeby – South Croxton – Gaddesby – Ashby Folville – Twyford – Thorpe Satchville – Great Dalby – Melton Mowbray	1 bus every hour
5 Leicester – East Goscote	Leicester City Centre – Rushey Mead – Thurmaston – Syston - East Goscote	3 buses every hour
5A Leicester – Melton Mowbray	Leicester City Centre – Rushey Mead – Thurmaston – Syston – East Goscote – Melton Mowbray	3 buses every hour
6 Leicester – Thurmaston ASDA	Leicester – Rushey Mead – Thurmaston ASDA	6 Buses every hour

### Accessibility by Cycle

The academy is situated half a mile from the nearest national cycle network with an abundance of toucan and pelican crossings in the vicinity, promoting safe cycling. The below diagram highlights the national cycle network surrounding RMA.



There is a dedicated cycle route also available on the eastern side of Melton Road along the site frontage.

The school has secure storage for both staff and student bicycles, both at the front of the site and within the staff parking area. The number of cycle parking bays are as follows:

- Staff car park 15
- Visitor's car park 15
- E Block 10
- Student spaces 122

The academy has increased the security of its cycle storage areas with new anti-crop locks and more localised CCTV.

To encourage more staff to cycle to work and to meetings:

- A cycle salary sacrifice scheme for employees has been set up.
- Access to a good quality staff shower and changing facility for those who cycle to work is provided.
- TMET rewards scheme for staff including discounts from Halfords bicycle retailers, Cotswold Outdoor retailers and Go Outdoor retailers.
- Link the use of bicycles or walking to work to the RMA Workplace Wellbeing Charter commitment to promote and encourage physically active ways of getting to and from work and between meetings.

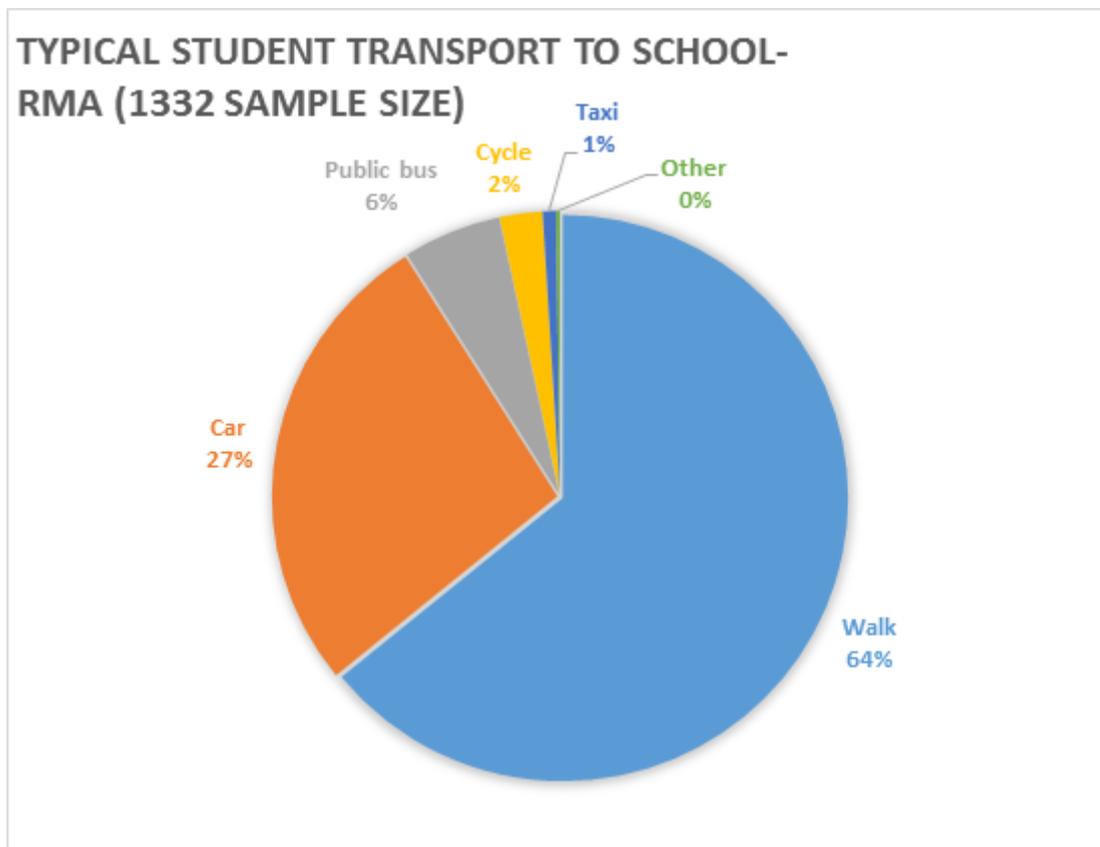
- To encourage more students to cycle to school:
- Planned cycle routes for arrival and departure from site are available.
- Active encouragement of walking and cycling to school as part of the health education provided for all students as part of the curriculum
- Cycle proficiency lessons for year 7 students organised and delivered in school to encourage safe cycling to school.
- Dedicated exit gate for cyclists on to the Melton Road cycle path at the end of school.

### **Accessibility by Car**

Rushey Mead is accessible by cars from Rushey Close (staff and deliveries), a small residential cul-de-sac, and also Melton Road (staff and visitors). There are two car parks situated on the site, a larger staff parking area adjacent to Rushey Close with 151 spaces and a smaller one off Melton Road with 57 spaces. The smaller of the two car parks, situated next to 'E' block can be utilised for both visitor parking and coach drop offs.

A minority of the students are dropped off at the school in the morning and collected in the evenings by parents. This has the potential to cause congestion on Rushey Close and occasionally causes dangerous situations on Melton Road, with parents utilising the bus lane at the beginning and end of the day. All of the year 7 students' parents receive information at the start of the school year which explains that the bus lane is not to be used, helping reduce such potential dangerous situations occurring. Regular reminders are sent to parents/carers i.e. newsletter, assemblies, schools comms, to remind of the bus lane usage and potential dangers.

### **Evidence of Modal Choice**



**Hands up travel survey January 2018**

RMA encourage staff and students to cycle or walk to school. To this end, RMA working in partnership with the local authority, and its partners Sustrans and Living Streets have proactively engaged with their walking and cycling initiatives.

Action Points	Time
Travel plan information made available to families through school newsletter and at parent consultation events	Ongoing
Clearly communicate drop-off and pick-up arrangements for parents, working with the police to ensure that parents are challenged about dangerous driving practices	Ongoing
Additional information available in main reception with regard to locally available public transport	Ongoing

**Mitigation of irresponsible and illegal parking**

Working in conjunction with Leicester City Council’s School Run Parking programme RMA will look to implement a range of safety measures around the academy to address speeding, congestion, inconsiderate, dangerous and illegal parking. Together we have:

- Co-ordinated the traffic lights on Melton Road immediately outside of the school entrance at the beginning and end of the school day to allow for the increase in students thus enabling safer crossing and therefore safer access and egress to and from school.
- Co-operated with the local public transport providers to voluntarily reduce the speed of the buses in the bus lane as they approach the school entrance.
- Kept students and parents informed consistently of the dangers of illegal and irresponsible parking when dropping students off or picking them up.
- Writing and/or phoning parents and carers when misdemeanours are observed by staff on duty.

**Monitoring and reviewing**

The responsibility of the monitoring and reviewing of this plan lies with the Business Manager and Principal. They will review the plan, updating the action plan and considering impact every 3 years unless substantive changes occur.

Policy reviewed: April 2020

**Rushey Mead Academy Travel Plan**

<b>Version</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Reason for Change</b>
0.1	03.06.2015	SCA	Action plan updated.
0.2	03.07.2017	DFO	Planning application for temporary mobile buildings
0.3	14.27.2018	DFO	Annual Review
0.4	31.10.2019	DFO	Policy reviewed after advice from Leicester City Council and rewritten
0.5	07.04.2020	DFO	Policy reviewed for planning application request by Leicester City Council