



MAIDEN ERLEGH
SCHOOL IN READING

DfE Number: 870/4001

a Maiden Erleigh Trust school

School Travel Plan
2025-26
Updated May 2025

Contents

Introduction.....	3
School details	3
School Travel Plan objectives	5
School Travel Plan Targets.....	5
Surveys	5
Results of the surveys	5
Summary of survey results	5
Staff survey (see Appendix 1)	5
Parent Survey (see Appendix 2)	5
Student Survey (see Appendix 3)	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Parking strategy.....	6
Action plan resulting from the results of the May 2025 survey:.....	6
Maiden Erlegh School in Reading School Travel Plan Update May 2025.....	8

Introduction

Maiden Erlegh School in Reading opened as a free school in September 2015 to 180 Year 7 students and has now grown to a school of 900 students covering years 7-11. It is run by Maiden Erlegh Trust, which successfully leads four mainstream secondary schools, two primary schools and three special/AP schools. Students currently come from a wide catchment area across Reading principally.

The aims for our School Travel Plan will carry over our principles in education to ensure that each child's journey to school is safe and that they are confident in their journey to school. We will encourage sustainable transport to school where possible and work towards enabling our students to travel to school by sustainable means.

It is hoped that students will become more independent when they feel confident using public transport and increasing walking and cycling where possible will improve students' (and staff) health. We recognise that not all of our students are able to travel by public transport but through this plan, we also seek to educate and raise awareness around the environmental and health benefits of reducing car travel.

Our aims are to:

- Walk, or go by bus or train if we can, only go by car if we have to;
- Be safe – learn to walk and cross the roads and learn what makes a route the best to choose;
- Help to make the routes to school safe and attractive;
- Enjoy the streets, buildings, plants and creatures, weather, people and come and go in friendship groups;
- Learn about the problems cars make, so that we can minimise them.

The School Streets scheme had a successful trial period in 2022 and has been permanent since 2023. This sees the stretch of road from Wokingham Road to Bulmershe Road closed to traffic at the beginning and the end of the day. Further information about the scheme can be accessed [here](#).

School details

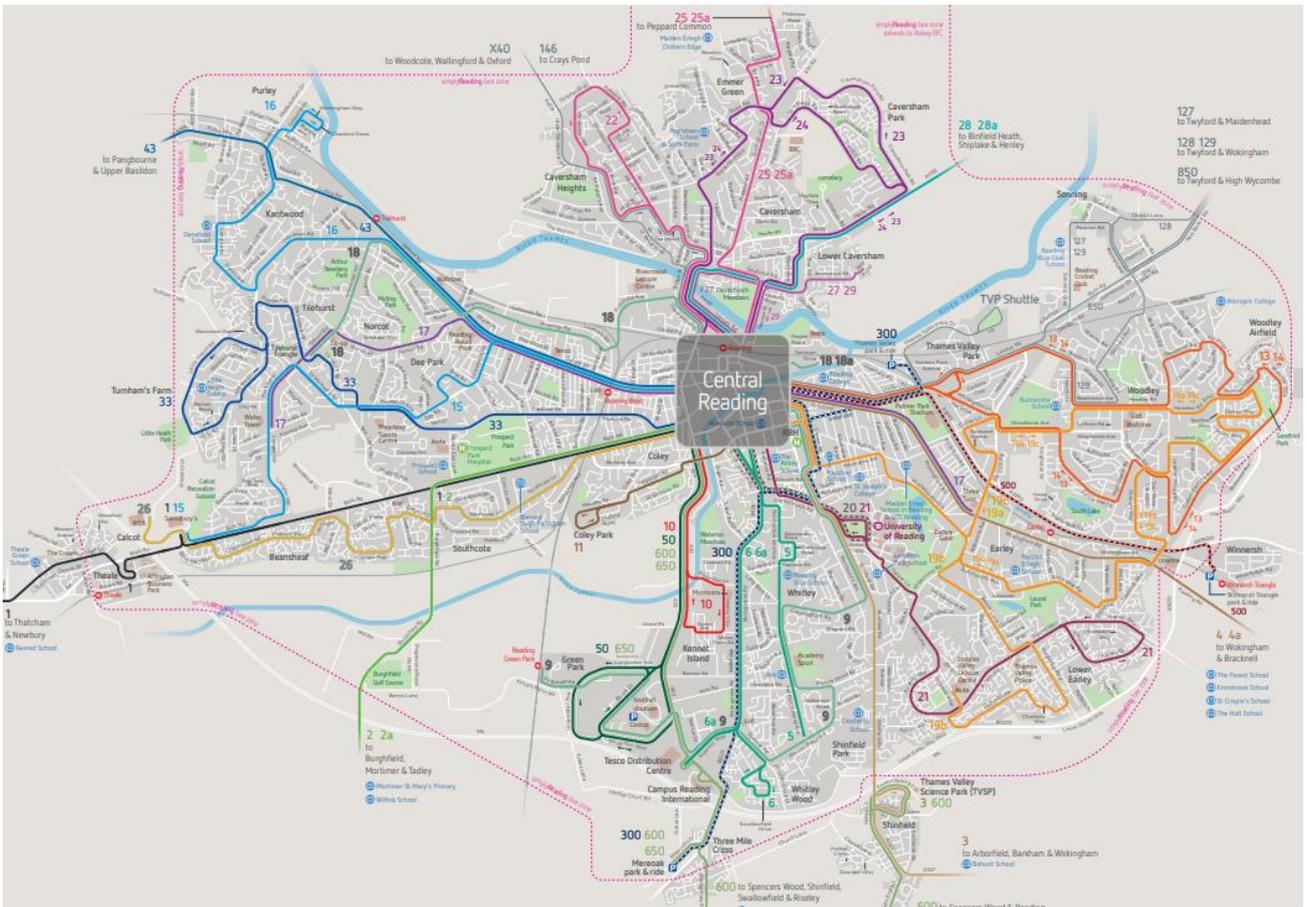
The school day starts at 8.40am and finishes at 3.10pm. Our pupils also benefit from a range of after-school activity clubs and a breakfast club is available from 8:00am.

Staff park at the rear of the school and walk through to the front of the school via an access-controlled gate. The car park is of a generous size. Hamilton School opened in February 2022 and each school has its own designated area of the car park. One of our main objectives needs to be a reduction in car travel to work by our staff.

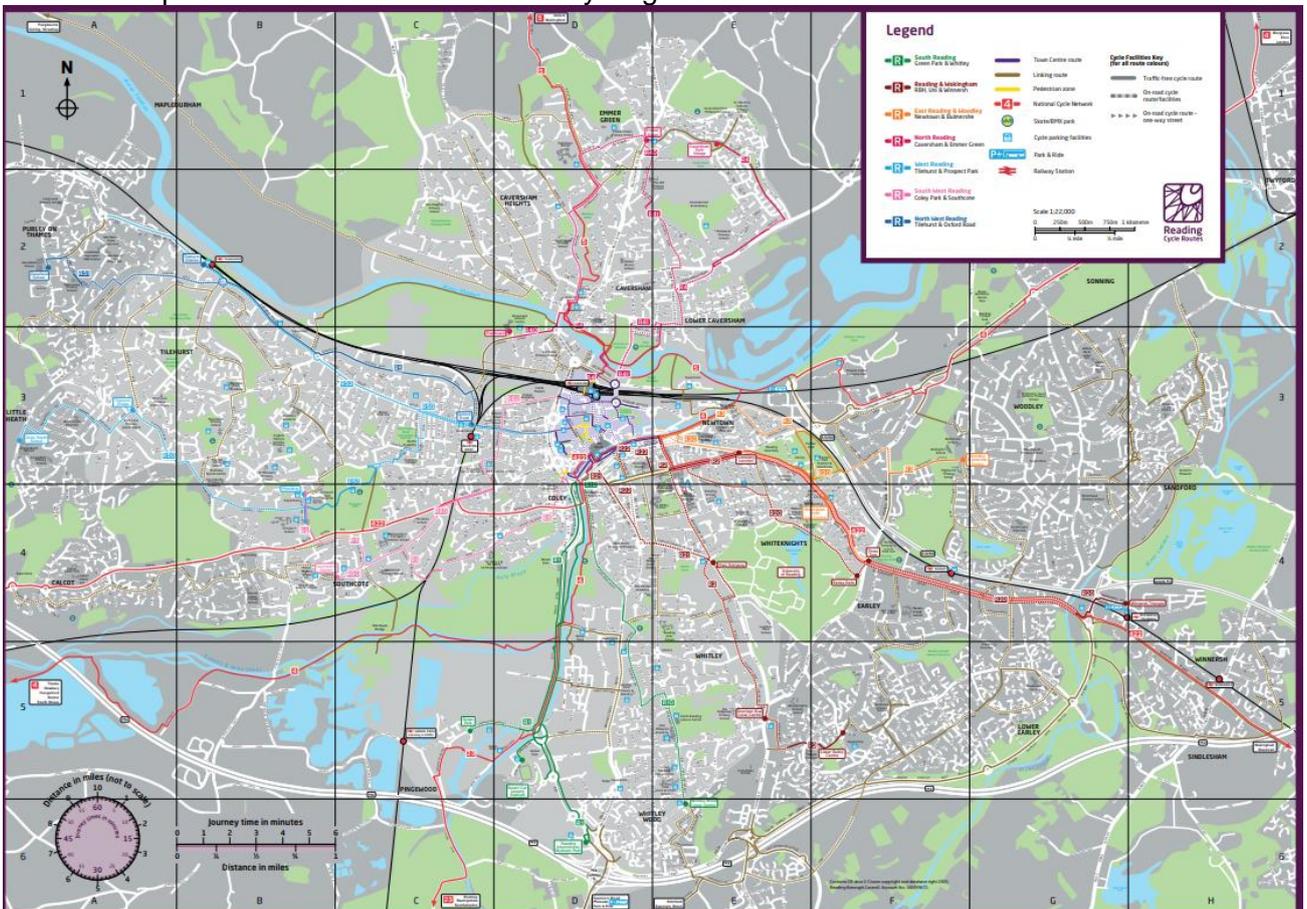
Students currently access the school through 2 entrances based on Crescent Road. The road is residential, it is very narrow and has a forced turn left in operation when accessing the Wokingham Road. This results in a number of drivers performing a three-point turn at the front of the school, which is very dangerous given the width of the road and the level of pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

Due to the stretch of road being closed at the beginning and end of the day, we encourage the use of Palmer Park stadium as the drop and walk designated area to parents, although this is not always used. This can result in increased traffic at the top of Hamilton Road and Bulmershe Road. We regularly receive complaints from local residents in respect of inconsiderate parking by parents. We do however regularly send parents reminders to park considerately.

Maiden Erlegh School in Reading is well served by Bus Routes 17 and 4/4a. Services on the number 17 bus route were increased a few years ago after successful lobbying by the school. We are in regular communication with Reading Buses on the option of additional services to be considered, especially serving the Whitley – East Reading route.



As the school is located in a dense urban area, there are many walking routes to the school with suitable footpaths. There are also several cycling routes.



Travel safety awareness is delivered to students in assemblies, although not extensively. Through this plan, we will address this and increase travel safety awareness for our students.

School Travel Plan objectives

The aim of our school travel plan will be to encourage and facilitate safe and sustainable travel to and from our school for our students, parents and staff.

Maiden Erlegh Trust has an ongoing commitment to:

- Make arrangements for the safety of students and promoting this in regard to their journey to and from school;
- Improve the health and fitness of pupils;
- Support the development of students into responsible, informed and participative members of the community;
- Encourage students and staff to walk or cycle to school where possible, in line with our sustainability strategy.

School Travel Plan Targets

Maiden Erlegh School in Reading has set the following targets for this travel plan:

- Raise awareness of students of the benefits of using sustainable travel to school;
- Educate students on road safety, use of public transport and how to choose the best routes;
- Reduce the numbers of parents bringing children to school by car;
- No accidents to students in the area around the school entrance;
- Educate students about the environmental impact of vehicles;
- Reduction in numbers of staff bringing cars on to the school site.

Surveys

We conducted a parent survey in March 2025, asking for information relating to their child's current travel arrangements, their preferred method of travel and the barriers they face in adopting the preferred method.

In separate surveys, we also asked staff about their current and preferred methods of travel.

Results of the surveys

12 members of staff responded and 59 parents responded.

Summary of survey results

Staff survey (see Appendix 1)

- 83% of staff come to work by car, with only 8% of those being a car share arrangement;
- Only 1 member of staff who responded walks to work, representing 8%. 33% of responses confirmed that they would prefer to walk, with the time it would take being the limiting factor;
- 0 members of staff who responded cycles to work with 17% of responses confirmed that they would prefer to cycle, with time and lack of designated bike storage for staff being the main limiting factors;

Parent Survey (see Appendix 2)

- 20% of the parents who responded confirmed that their child comes to school by car. Most would prefer their child to choose another transport method but the barriers arise from a lack of direct bus routes from alternative areas of town.
- 50% of the parents who responded confirmed their child comes to school by walking or cycling and this is the preferred method of travel.
- 29% of the parents who responded confirmed their child comes to school by bus.

Parking strategy

The rear staff car park is shared with Hamilton School. There are clearly measured parking bays that provide a safe distance between vehicles as well as manoeuvring space. Each school has an allocated colour for their parking bays, the allocation of parking bays for Maiden Erlegh Reading are white, whereas the spaces for the Hamilton School are yellow.

A one-way round system into and out of the Hamilton school is in place, and double parking is only allowed on one side of the car park. Staff are asked to inform reception if they are double parked so they can be easily contacted if required to move their vehicle.

Parents will be driving through the rear car park to drop off their child to the Hamilton school, creating greater levels of traffic in this area.

The Hamilton school car park has 2 electric vehicle charging bays that are accessible to staff at both schools. The usage of these points is managed by the Hamilton school office, anyone requiring a charging bay will be directed to the school office to arrange.

For each parking area, the school are committed to always maintaining a safe car park which includes points such as (but not limited to):

- appropriate lighting;
- adequate drainage;
- clear signage;
- be level, firm and not slippery;
- deliveries to the Hamilton school site will be restricted to outside of core school times (start and end of day);
- deliveries to the Maiden Erlegh School in Reading site are not permitted at the start and day of the school day due to the School Streets scheme road closure.

There are allocated visitor parking bays and disabled parking at the front of the school.

The front and rear car parks are covered by CCTV cameras for security reasons; however, all vehicles are left at the owner's risk – the school does not accept liability for any damage, theft, or vandalism for any vehicles that are left in the car park.

Action plan resulting from the results of the March 2025 survey:

Action	Measure	Timeframe	Owner	Monitoring	Progress
Raise awareness of students of the benefits of using sustainable travel to school- including creating a student focus group/including as part of Student Voice.	Students understand the impact of various modes of travel on the environment	To commence September 2025	Curriculum Leader, Geography/AHT (Student council)	SLT Meetings, output from Student Focus Group, results of Student Council.	
Undertake surveys of parents, students and staff on their actual and preferred transport arrangements at regular intervals.	Data is available on travel arrangements and any changes throughout the year.	Annually, Autumn Term	Business Manager	Survey results and progress against actions arising, including feeding back issues re buses to	

				Reading Buses.	
Highlight travel issues with parents, especially on admission to school, e.g. new parent meetings	Parents are aware of the impact of their travel arrangements	On-going	Headteacher	School Advisory Board (SAB). Feedback from local residents.	
Continue to work with Reading Buses on the viability of a direct route from Whitley-East Reading at school times.	Students choose public transport instead of car as their preferred method of transport.	On-going	DHT	SLT, feedback from parents and local residents.	
Continue to work with Alfred Sutton, the UTC and Reading Borough Council to increase volunteers for School Street Scheme.	The area of Crescent Road from Bulmershe Road to the Wokingham Road is closed at the beginning and end of the day for the safety of cyclists and pedestrians.	September 2025	Business Manager	Feedback from parents, local residents and Reading Borough Council	
Promote the cycle to work scheme.	Staff cycle to work to reduce pressure on car parking spaces.	Autumn 2025	HoPC	Input and feedback from staff. Increase in number of staff cycling to school. Reduction in parking related complaints from staff.	

Maiden Erlegh School in Reading School Travel Plan Update May 2025

I confirm agreement to the content of the school travel plan update:

Headteacher

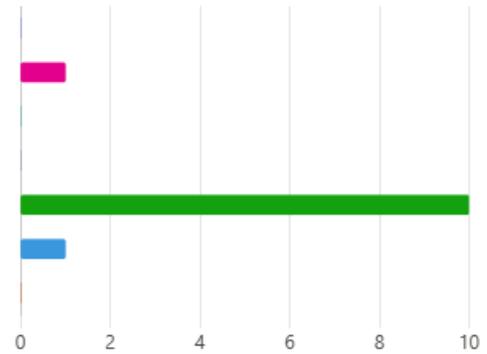
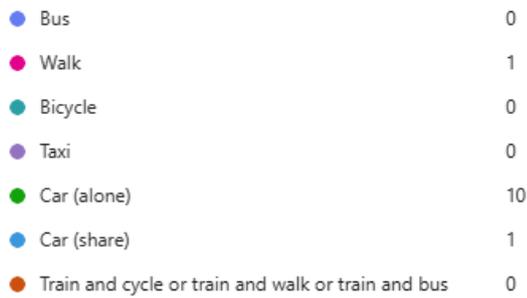
Name: Will Graham

Signature:

Date: 20 May 2025

Appendix 1 – Staff survey

1. When coming to the school site, how do you travel on most days?



2. Why do you come to school in this way?

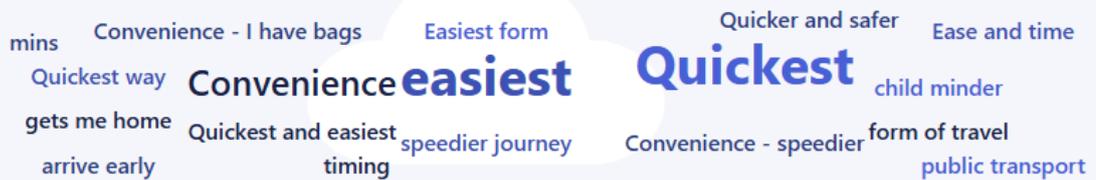
[More details](#)

12
Responses

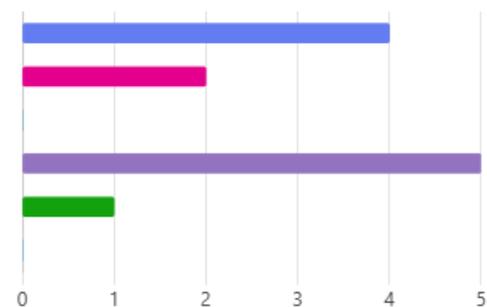
Latest Responses

"Easiest form of travel and gets me home quickly to do what I want/need to do in t... "
 "Quicker and safer."
 "I only live 35 mins away"
 ...

3 respondents (25%) answered easiest for this question.



3. How would you prefer to travel to school?



4. Please outline why you are unable to use the preferred mode of transport if applicable.

[More details](#)

6

Responses

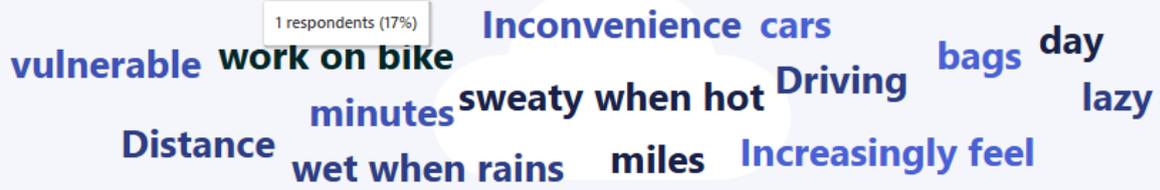
Latest Responses

"Too far and would take up too much of my day"

"Increasingly feel vulnerable to being hit by cars."

...

1 respondents (17%) answered sweaty when hot for this question.



Are there any further comments or suggestions you would like to make in respect of travelling to school?

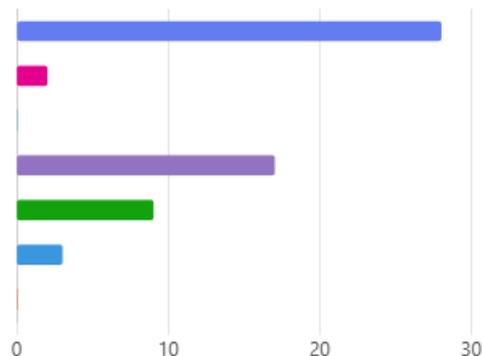
4 responses

1	Electric bike or normal might be an option when my teenager moves schools.
2	I also walk once a week but there is not an option to write this.
3	I occasionally get 2 buses across town and walk part way back. Workload/length of day precludes that being a practical option very often.
4	Bus is an alternative. Would a discounted bus card/pass be an option?

Appendix 2 - Parent Survey

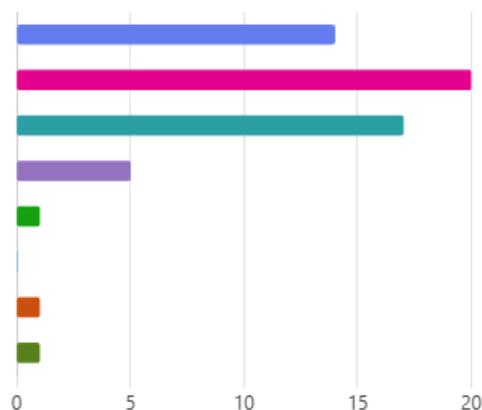
1. When coming to the school site, how does your child travel on most days?

Walk	28
Bicycle	2
Taxi	0
Bus	17
Car (alone - driven by parent/guardian)	9
Car (share-with friend/neighbour)	3
Train and cycle/walk	0



2. Why do they come to school in this way?

Ease	14
Distance to school (near)	20
Distance to school (far)	17
No bus available	5
Cost	1
Lack of walking/cycling facilities	0
Personal safety	1
Medical condition	1



3. If you bring your child to school by car, please indicate where you usually drop your child.

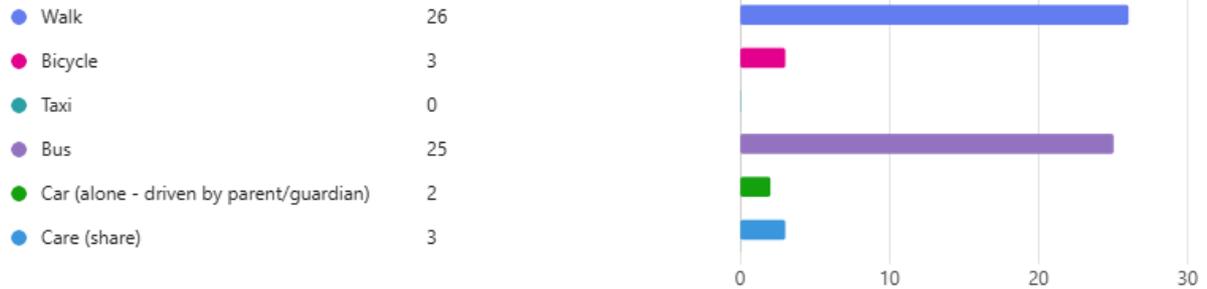
33
Responses

Latest Responses
 "In the street near the school"
 "We don't"
 ...

8 respondents (24%) answered School for this question.



4. How would you prefer your child to travel to school?



Please outline why your child is unable to use the preferred mode of transport if applicable.

21 responses

1	This is the best way but sometimes bus are coming late so kid get late in reaching
2	He does use my preferred transport
3	I don't have a car, so the bus is easy for him to go to school
4	Has to take 2 so too long and expensive
5	Have to change 2 buses
6	Bus time table are not convenient for school start time
7	Distance and time it takes
8	It costs too much at the moment
9	We don't drive.
10	There is no one to share with in our area so our only way is to take the bus. However, bus is def a much better solution than me driving my child in. Although, sometimes I do it.
11	Lack of direct bus route.
12	No bus available.
13	They are.
14	Don't have any time in mornings.
15	Recently moved to Caversham & we don't know anyone in the area to car share with so he takes the bus & walks to school. We like the school so don't want to change
16	He is OK to walk
17	He is happy
18	Timing and usually bus if full due to the other school kids on
19	We live 20 minutes away from school
20	Live close
21	Bad weather
22	She is using the preferred mode of transport
23	There is no bus route from our place to school
24	Doesn't have a bicycle
25	There is no direct bus travel to school and the bus fee is expensive
26	Buses are not usually on time and are always full
27	Because she has to leave home early, the buses often don't arrive on time and she is afraid of being late for school

Are there any further comments or suggestions you would like to make in respect of travelling to school?

10 responses

1	Number 17 purple bus is very reliable
2	Request for bus from catchment area
3	I would be grateful if my child could have access to the direct bus route near his address without changing or having to travel by bus and for 40 minutes or much earlier than necessary.
4	More frequent no. 4 or no. 19 Reading bus services during school hours would be grateful.
5	Get their own bus by Reading buses like Bulmershe and if there's traffic people who take car should not be marked in late
6	Traffic on crescent road, if there is any way to control traffic.
7	It would be great if schools in the UK would have schools buses, like in the US. It would have less traffic and less pollution. We are 25min walk from school and we have to breath in the pollution everyday because of so much traffic.
8	Provide bus facilities to school