

St Martin's Catholic Primary (VA) School

(DfE Number: 870/3360)



St Martin's Catholic Primary School

SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN 2015

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1. Our School

1.1 Introduction

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

We would like to achieve this in a variety of ways, to consider the needs of all of our families, whilst at the same time inspiring our children to take an active role in implementing new and exciting schemes.

Our children and parents have completed travel questionnaires. From this we have been able to capture the issues that they face on their daily journeys to school, in order for us to review fit-for-purpose solutions to tackle travel burdens.

New Development

One of the reasons for updating our school travel plan is that the school is expanding to a full one form entry school. This will be achieved through the creation of a new (7th) classroom and an extension to our library. This means our intake will increase by 42 additional pupils. For us, this makes a focus on safe and sustainable travel a school-wide goal for the forthcoming years.

1.2 School details

St Martin's is a voluntary aided, Roman Catholic primary school located in Caversham Park Village. Our school caters for pupils aged 4 to 11 years old. We have 168 pupils in the school at present, and this is planned to rise to 210 by 2019. Currently we have one SEN (physically disabled) pupil with specific transport needs attending St Martin's. A disabled parking space has been created in the staff car park for this family. We have 30 members of staff. Since we are a Catholic school, the catchment area for our school's children is primarily within our Parish of St Michael in Sonning Common. As such, our catchment area is very wide and the school resides almost at the southernmost point.

The school day starts at 8:40 am, although our doors are open and we begin supervision from 8:30am. Children finish school at 3:15pm.

The areas that our pupils are travelling to the school from can be seen in the 'pupil postcodes & walking distance map' in the appendices.

School Location

For location plans for our school, please refer to the 'site plan' & 'town plan' in the appendices.

Transport Links

The current Reading Bus' and Reading Cycle network maps can be found in the appendices. These maps indicate which routes serve our school and which onward connections could be used for travel where necessary.

1.3 Current involvement in school travel activities and education

In April 2014, our pupils were invited to take part in the 'Bikeability scheme' which took place at Palmer Park.

The scheme aims to teach *“‘cycling proficiency’ for the 21st century, designed to give the next generation the skills and confidence to ride their bikes on today’s roads.”*

In addition to this, we have taken part in several cycling initiatives as a school; including 'Bike it Breakfast', 'Dr Bike Workshop' a 'design a helmet' competition and a whole school 'cycle to school' week. We run annual Bikeability courses for upper KS2 children, so that they may learn how to safely cycle on the road, in readiness for secondary school.

After learning about cycling, we moved on in June to trial 'walking buses' to the school for the week, which collected our children from the Milestone Centre car park.

The PSA are now being approached to research the possibility of extending a volunteer-led walking bus to escort children to and from the Milestone Centre every morning and evening. This would help all parents but particularly those families who live on the outreaches of our catchment area. For these parents from outlying villages who are without a bus or a safe cycle path that connect to the school, it would give them the opportunity to take part in relieving congestion at the school gate and in achieving our sustainable transport goal.

Our text messaging system and newsletters are often used to encourage parents to walk for all or part of their journey. We regularly send out newsletters with maps attached of local car parks, to encourage those who must drive to walk as much of the route as possible.

Walking signs have now been erected to direct pedestrians from the Milestone to school. These were possible as a result of our collaboration with Caversham Park Primary School, which resulted in a successful bid to the 2014/15 Challenge Fund to provide the necessary funding for the signs.

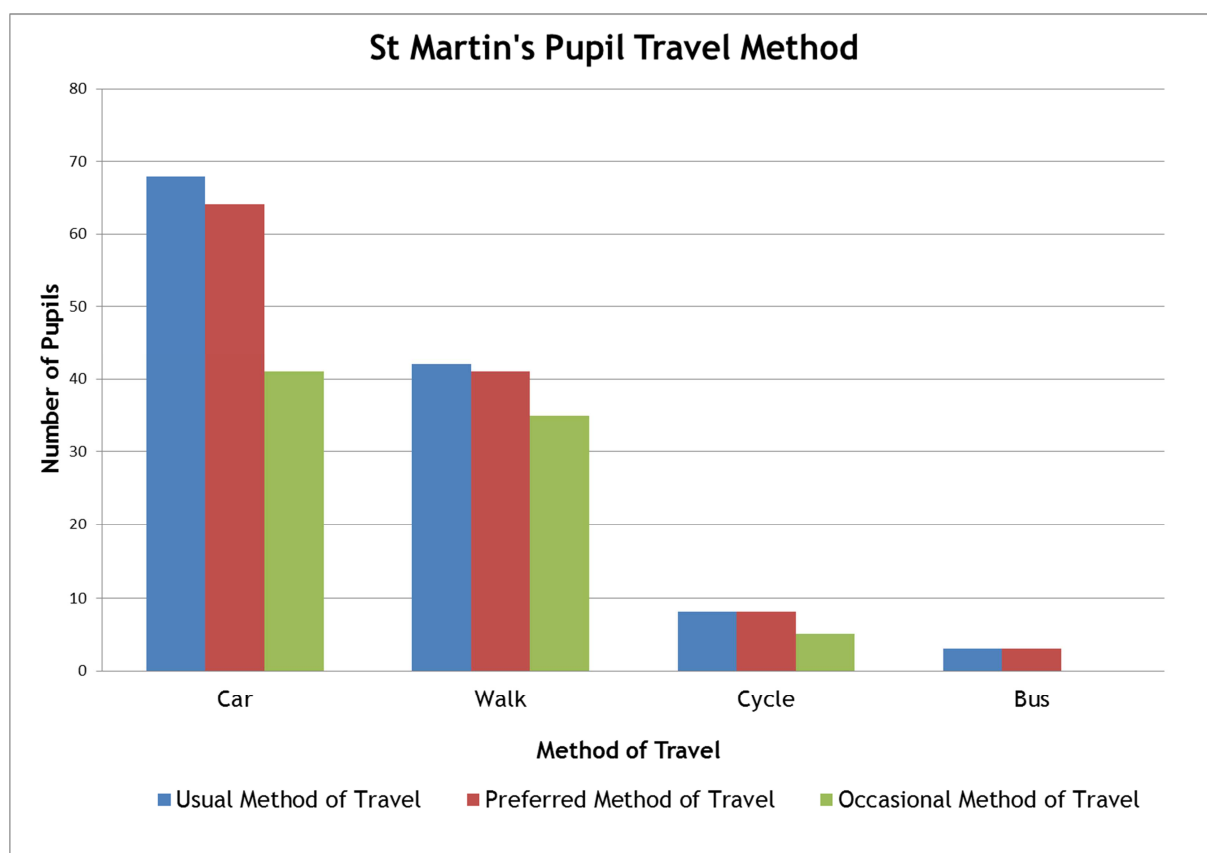
The 'Beat the Street' project was successful in reducing the number of families bringing their cars to school last year. This project is running again throughout Reading and we are encouraging our children to "beep the box"!

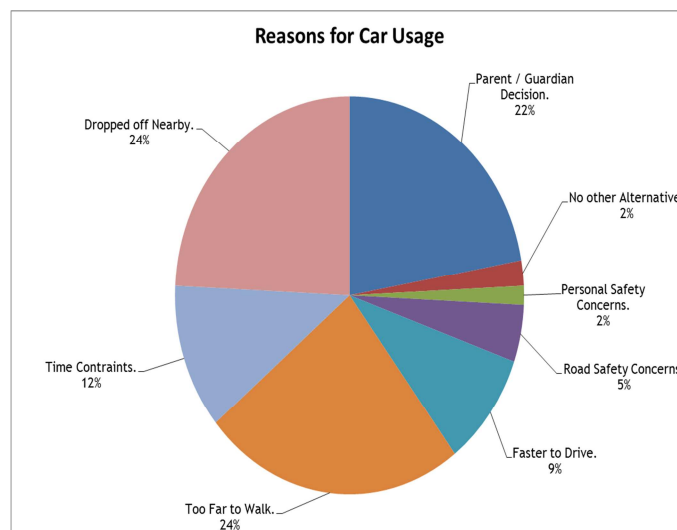
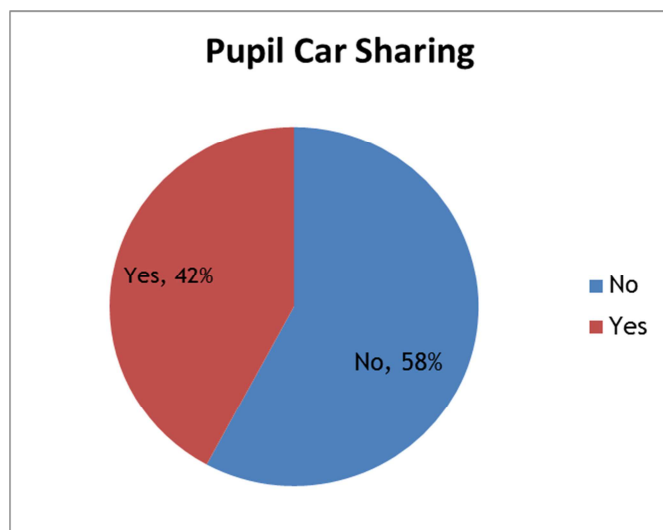
2. School travel survey and consultation

2.1 Survey details

In May 2014, parents were asked to complete a written survey about how their children get to school. The survey was completed by 121 pupils. From this we have been able to capture the issues that they face on their daily journeys to school, in order for us to review fit-for-purpose solutions to tackle travel burdens.

2.2 Survey results





3. Journey to school consultation

As part of the travel to school questionnaires pupils and parents were given the opportunity to put forward their thoughts and views on their journeys to school. This helps to identify any key and overarching issue or problem that different groups face on their journeys to school. The questionnaire has also given the people who make their journeys to school every day the opportunity to put forward their suggestions and what they would like to be done towards solving these issues.

Parent and pupil comments;

Highlighted that many children would like to walk, scooter, cycle to school more often, however there are certain limitations/issues.

Concerns with journeys to school

Speed of vehicles on Pendennis Ave; dog fouling on the approaches; dogs not on leads in the lane leading up from the Milestone; too much traffic on Pendennis Avenue, children need to cross in front of turning circle; inconsiderate parking by parents, those living locally complained that there was a lack of pavements (with Caversham Park Village).

Suggestions for improvements to the journey to school

Marked walkway into school; someone to monitor the car park/entrance.

4. Problems and Opportunities

	Problems	Opportunities
Walking	Crossing roads around the school A few pupils are worried about their safety when walking to school	Pupil training to improve their road safety skills. Personal safety talks from the police could help children act in a safe way on their journeys to school. Take part in walk to school weeks.
Cycling	More pupils would like to cycle to school and so more cycle parking may be required.	Take part in 'Bikeability' cycle training to improve. Look at the possibility of installing additional cycle parking at the school. Encourage staff who do not own a bike to look at the bike to work scheme, if they wish to buy a bike to cycle to work. Distribute cycle maps to staff and parents.
Public Transport	Many live too close to the school for public transport to be a viable option.	Have up to date bus timetables available at school reception for those who wish to travel by bus.
Car	Parents turning their cars outside the school car park makes it dangerous for KS2 pupils to cross the road. High levels of traffic around the school are also a concern for those on foot or cycling.	Encourage car sharing to reduce the number of car trips to the school site. Write to parents reminding them to be considerate when driving to and from school. Ask traffic wardens to carry out spot checks around the school to discourage illegal behaviour.

5. What we want to achieve

5.1 Objectives

The objectives for our school travel plan are to;

- Promote healthy lifestyles
- Improve safety in Pendennis Avenue at dropping off and picking up times

5.2 Targets

The targets that we hope to achieve through our school travel plan are;

1.	Increased numbers of children arriving on foot or on cycles
2.	Get parents on board to set up schemes such as “The Walking Bus”
3.	Use Bike It scheme more fully to increase numbers of cyclists. All children to complete Level 3 bikeability before leaving Primary school
4.	To make children more aware of road safety. Help vulnerable Year 6 pupils become more independent and confident in themselves, thus easing the transition to secondary school.

6. Planning for Change

Action	Person / Team Responsible	Other Parties Involved	Target / Objective	Timescale for Implementation
Set up a walking bus	PSA link teacher to discuss with PSA. Send out letter to gauge the potential interest.	SLT/parents	To increase the number of children walking to school	September 2015 and ongoing
Increase number of pupils travelling to school by foot/cycle	Following initiatives set up by outside agencies such as Beat the Street/Bikeability/Bike it events.	Parents	To increase the number by 5% each year	Ongoing
Produce and display/ Circulate posters/ flyers advocating exercise & environmental benefits	Office staff	Parents/PSA	To reduce car usage to and from school	Ongoing
To implement a more functional road safety program based on talks/lessons.	PSHE Co-ordinator	Outside agencies to be used if req'd to give free safety advice using videos/talks/assemblies.	To ensure children are more aware of road safety.	Rolling programme, ongoing

7. Keeping Track

7.1 Monitoring

Out school travel plan will be monitored on a termly basis as part of the School Council's meetings, to ensure pupil involvement. The team responsible for delivering the action plan will also monitor the travel plan on a termly basis to keep track of any progress made towards any of the actions.

7.2 Review

Our travel plan will be reviewed on an annual basis. We will assess our progress towards the targets set out in this plan using the national school census data. We will also review our entire action plan at this stage and update and modify it as necessary in preparation for the new school year each September.

In addition any review of our travel plan will consider pupil travel needs arising from new developments in education and transport provision and our School Travel Plan will be revised as necessary to take account of these.

8. School Travel Plan Agreement

We support the content of our school travel plan

Head teacher

Name: **Bridget Jones**

Signature:

Date: **05.06.15**

Chair of Governors

Name: **Yvonne Mubanga**

Signature:

Date: **05.06.15**

Reading Borough Council (Education Sign Off)

Name: **Stephanie Clark**

Position: **Portfolio Manager**

Date: **08.06.15**

Signature:



Reading Borough Council (Transport Sign Off)

Name:

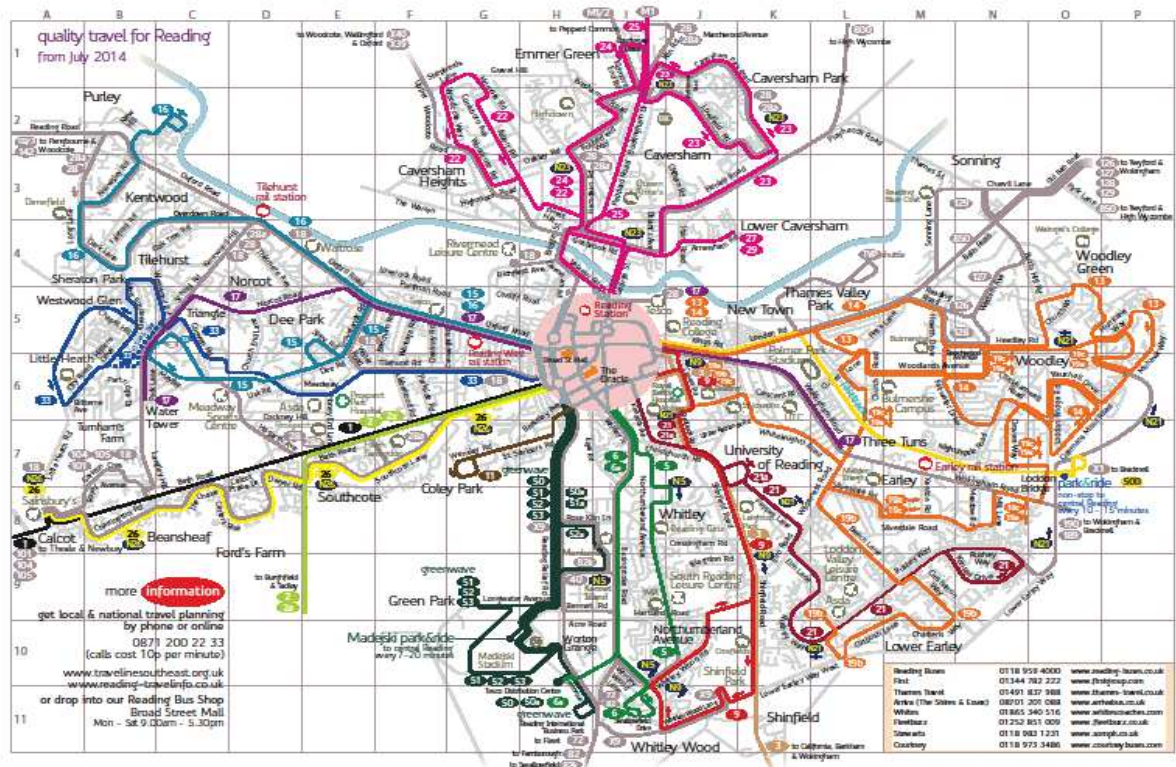
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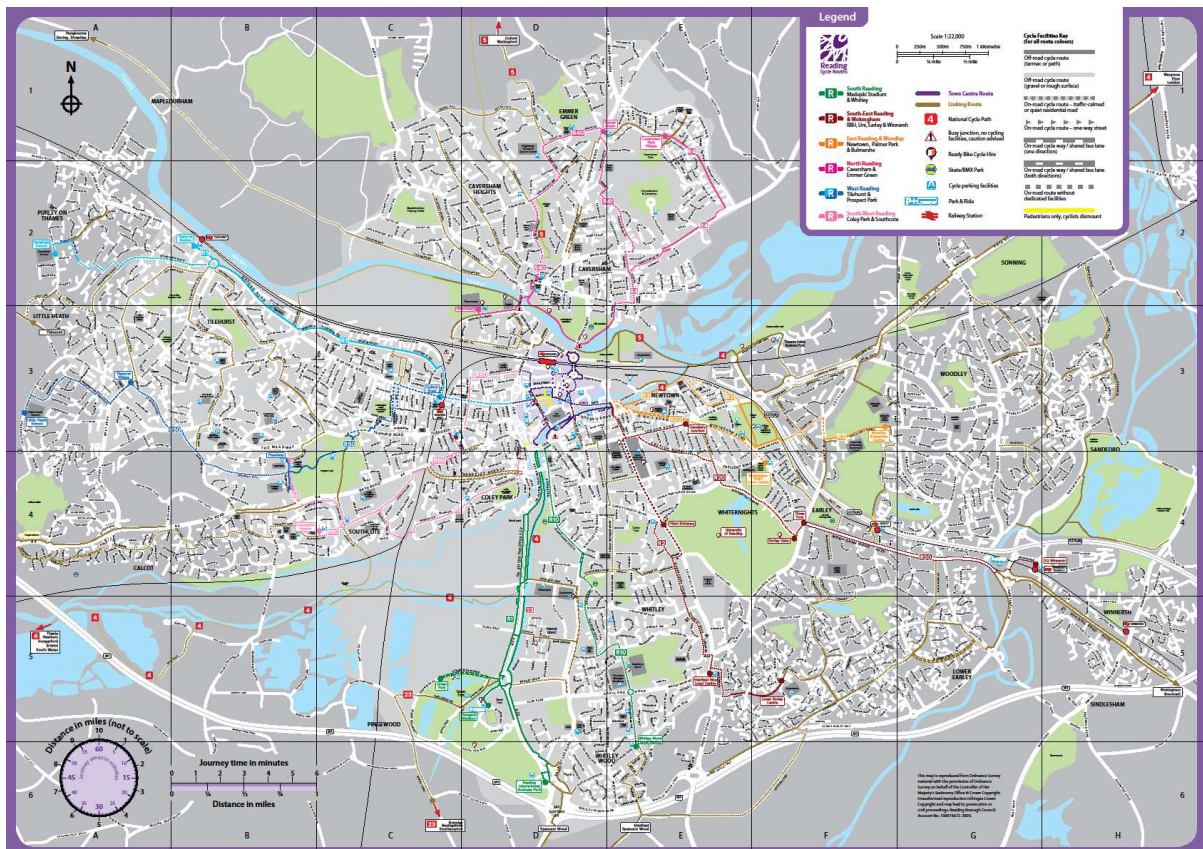
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9. Appendices

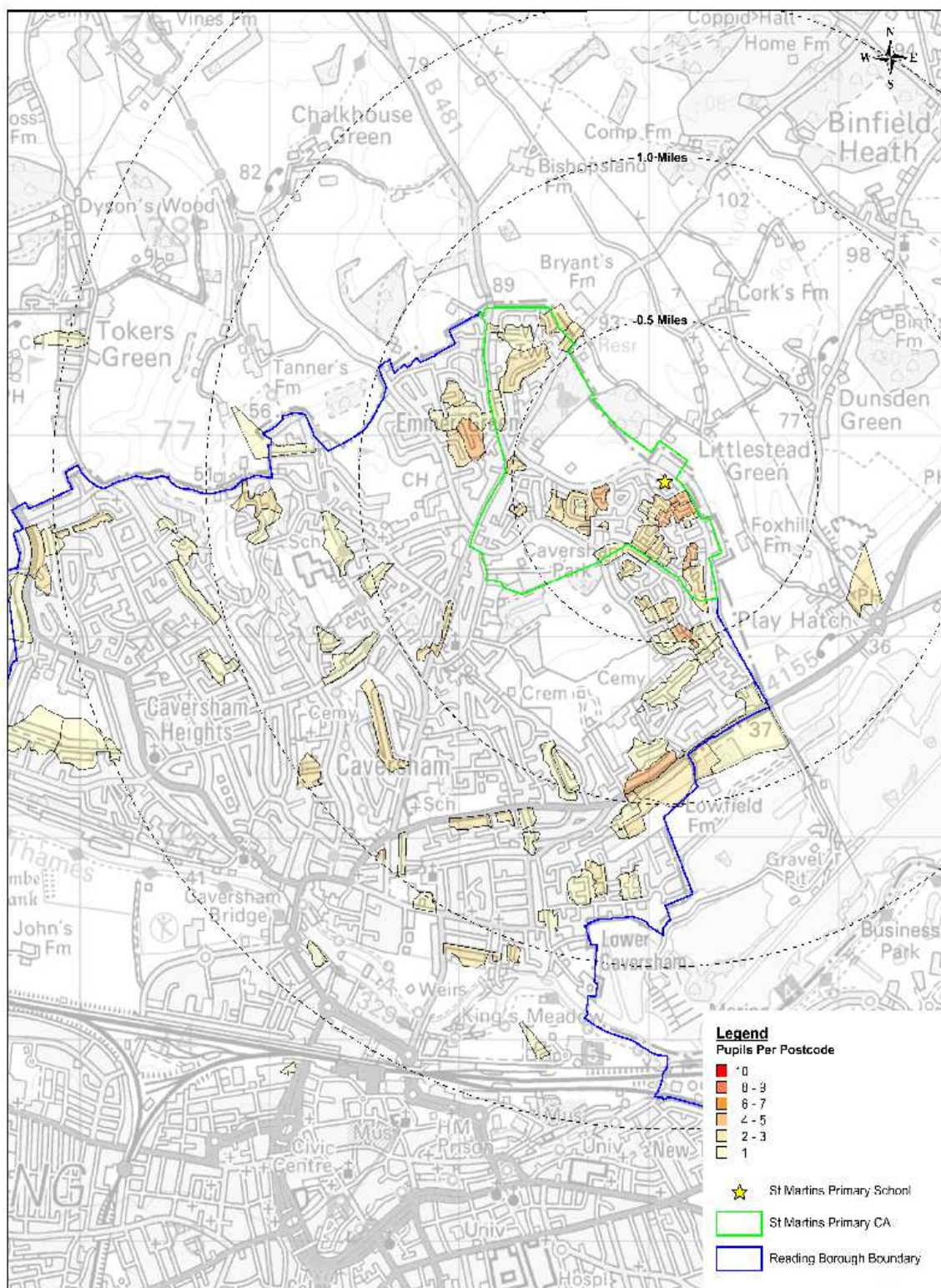
9.1 Reading Buses Network Map



9.2 Reading Cycle Routes Network Map



9.3 Pupil Postcodes and Walking Distance Map



Title: **School Pupil Postcodes 2013/14**
St Martin's Primary School

Produced by GIS & Mapping Services

Date: 07/04/2014 Scale at A3: 1:18000

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9.4.1 Site Plan

