



Whitchurch High School - Ysgol Uwchradd Yr Eglwys Newydd

Statement of Student Travel between the Two Sites

Reviewed by: **Caroline Robson**

Reviewed by Governors: **Nov 2023**

Signed by:
(Headteacher)

Date:29.11.23.....

Historical context

Student travel between the upper school and lower school sites predates when Whitchurch High School became a Comprehensive School in 1968. As early as 1964 students from Whitchurch Grammar School commuted over to the Secondary Modern to use the swimming pool for PE lessons. In 1968 the two schools merged to form Whitchurch High School. This set the operational framework for Years 7,8 and 9 to be on the lower school site, off Manor Way, and Years 10,11, 12 and 13 to be on the upper school site, located in the village. Since then, Whitchurch High School has worked closely with the Local Authority to ensure that both sites have sufficient duplicated specialised facilities and with teachers commuting that students do not have to 'travel' between the two sites. However, even today that ideal has not been fully achieved although this only applies to those students located on the Upper School site.

Current Student Travel arrangements

Students in Years 7-9 are not required to travel to the upper school site for any of their learning provision. The only exception to this would be for one-off specialised events or at the end of Year 9 when the timetable is rearranged to allow for transitional experiences between Year 9 and Year 10. Upper school students do not have completely specialised facilities on the upper school site and have to travel to the lower school site for some lessons each week. The main subjects are food and nutrition, art, drama and music. Facility requirements for parts of some subjects also necessitate travel e.g. art (kiln work) and physical education lessons (swimming and use of Power League). Judicious timetabling tries to avoid frequent travel between sites on the same day for any student in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13.

Designated Student Travel Route

The designated student travel route from the upper school to lower school site is out of the main school gates across the Penlline Road pedestrian crossing; through the car park adjacent to The Earl Haig Social Club/India Gate Restaurant; continue along Victoria Road; turn left into Old Church Road; over the Old Church Road pedestrian crossing adjacent to Ty'n-Y-Pwll Road; along Glan-Y-Nant Terrace, crossing Glan-Y-Nant Road side junction; and enter lower school over the bridge and through the pedestrian side gate. Between 2006 and 2013 this route was subject to a Cardiff Council capital investment through the Safe Routes to Schools Transport Grant which facilitated close consultation with the school. The final infrastructure adaptations were the installation of the Penlline Road raised pedestrian crossing platform in March 2013.

Supervision of pupils

Years 7 – 9: Any student(s) coming over from the lower school site must always be supervised by a member of staff. They may be driven over in a vehicle where the member of staff complies with the school's transport policy i.e. class 1 insurance and additional supervisory staff dependent on gender balance **or** walked over by a member of staff with due regard to a number of factors. Travel mode requirements should include considerations around the timing of any activities, weather and light conditions and risk assessed group supervisory ratios, normally 1 to 15. Due diligence should be given to return journeys and dismissal arrangements at the end of the day. A year 7 – 9 student can register at the start of the day on the upper school site for an activity providing this has been previously arranged and details cleared by senior staff.

Years 10 and 11: Any student needing to travel to the lower school site should not be allowed to do so earlier than a timed arrival time to comply with the start of lessons or an activity. Students should also be aware of the route they should take (not detouring to go into any shops or elsewhere) and made fully aware that they need to travel safely and directly between the sites and have an ambassadorial role in the community. Usually, students will travel between sites for lessons but there may be other occasions such as supporting lower school students. The same diligence should be applied regarding logging arrival and dismissal times and arrangements as for Years 7 – 9. No Year 10 or 11 Ty Calon student should be allowed to travel unsupervised between the two sites. Any incidents should be reported immediately to senior staff.

Years 12 and 13: The increased adult maturity of sixth formers is recognised and they may be permitted to go to lower school via the village. Students help with many activities but once lessons or support for activities finish, they should not remain on the lower school site but return to the upper school site. No Year 12 or 13 Ty Calon student should be allowed to travel on their own between the two sites unless specific dispensation is given by a senior member of staff for that travel event.

Finally

- **The school has operated an effective travel plan between the two sites for decades due to the diligence of staff and the responsibility pupils have shown. There is no room for complacency and due caution must be exercised.**
- **All students must be registered at the start of the session on the site which they are undertaking a lesson/activity.**
- **An urgent alert should be made to the appropriate school office when any student is absent following a known commute between sites for that lesson/activity, when they were previously present in school.**
- **Any issues, incidents or accidents should be reported to a senior member of staff as per normal school policy.**
- **Any queries or required clarification about this 'Statement' should be raised with a senior member of staff.**