

**School Travel Plan  
Uffculme Primary School  
September 2018**

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**Uffculme Primary School is committed to promoting travel to and from school by safe and sustainable means. We are working hard to promote both the health and social benefits this brings and to work with outside agencies to achieve this. Our Travel Plan is reviewed annually with the School Council.**

## School context



Our school is situated in a village in the Culm Valley. It is next to a busy road with no pavement. The road directly outside the school is very busy with buses, lorries, tractors and cars. At times cars do not slow down to pass school and congestion does occur at the beginning and end of the day with the amount of cars involved in collecting children. There are no school signs, no flashing lights and no pavements. Parents and children have to emerge cautiously between stone pillars before stepping into the road. Parking causes congestion and decreased visibility. There is a real potential risk to pupils and their families. This is not the fault of the school due to the age and location of the school building, nor is it within the school's ability to resolve the issues without the external support and commitment from the local community.

There are 218 pupils and 25 members of staff at our school.

## Aims and Objectives

Uffculme Primary School is committed to promoting travel to and from school by safe and sustainable means. We are working hard to promote both the health and social benefits this brings and to work with outside agencies to achieve this. Our Travel Plan is a living document that we review regularly.

This School Travel Plan is intended to address travel and road safety issues occurring at present

The aims and objectives of the School Travel Plan are to encourage the Uffculme Primary School Community to:

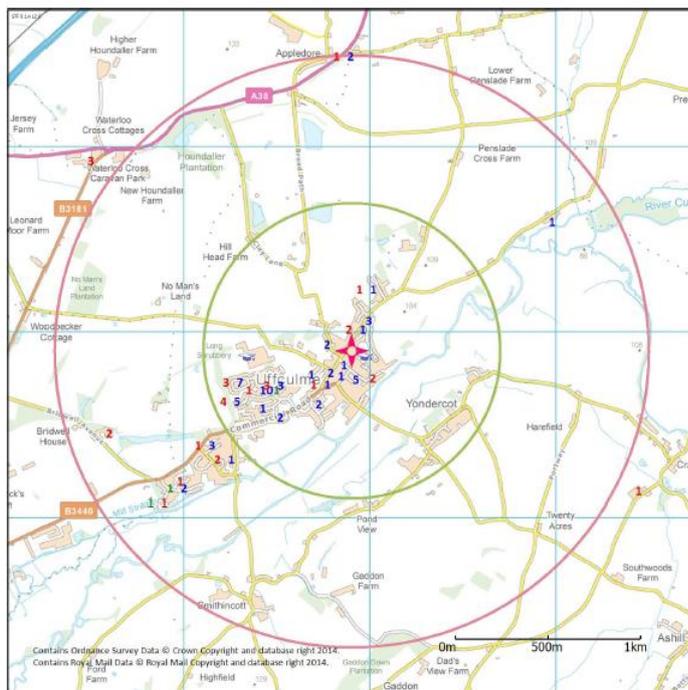
- Be healthy and sustainable by encouraging more travel to/from school by healthier and more sustainable means, particularly by walking, cycling or scooters – to increase by 20%
- To reduce the numbers of cars used for the school journey by 10%
- To promote care share for people travelling from outlying areas

- Be safe on the journey to and from school;
- Promote good road user behaviour on the routes to the school and continue to work with outside agencies to improve road safety conditions.
- Continue to heighten awareness of transport and travel issues; promote the health and environmental benefits of using sustainable forms of transport and make the School Travel Plan part of the curriculum.

As a school we feel we have a duty of care to see that the journey to school for our children is a safe one. We wish to educate children and parents in road safety, to encourage walking to school and where parents must drive to school, to encourage safe driving and parking.

The numbers in school are growing as there is an increasing demand for pupils living within catchment needing places at the school as well as families who have joined recently and travel from outside the catchment area.

### Location of our school



- Walking Threshold (800m).
- Cycling Threshold (1600m).
- School
- Walk (60)
- Public Bus (1)
- Car (59)
- Car (Shared) (9)

### Existing facilities

- There are 5 pedestrian/cyclist-only entrances to school. One gate has been installed across the main entrance to school and controlled by a buzzer system out of school hours. 3 gates are on the main road. The entrance from the back car park has restricted access at lunchtimes only. There is a pedestrian/cyclist-only gate now installed at the back of school via the school field.
- The approx. number of car parking spaces in the car park next to school, which is currently rented, is 25.

- We do not have a crossing patrol
- We do not have a walking bus
- Cycling is allowed although our bike storage is limited
- We do not have CCTV
- There is not a bus service to our school
- There is not a pavement outside school.
- Zig-zag hazard warning lines have been placed outside the school as a preventive measure to stop cars parking directly by school gates.



Overall: E-Grade  
Rank: 258/307

In 2017, our sustainable travel ranking places us 258 out of 309 of other schools that provided data in Devon and there were no reported injuries due to collisions involving children of Primary school age near Uffculme Primary during school journey times on weekdays in term time.

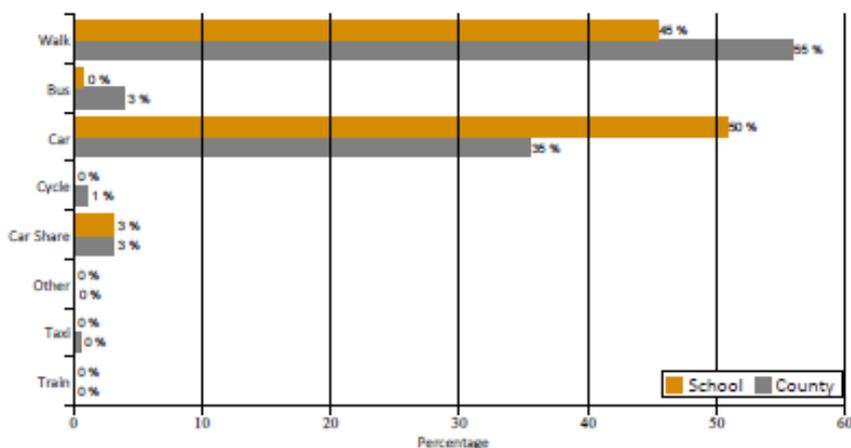
0m-800m Walking Area  
D-Grade  
Rank: 217/302 (11.9% drive)

800m-1600m Cycling Area  
D-Grade  
Rank: 211/307 (23.7% drive)

1600m+ Carshare Area  
E-Grade  
Rank: 265/306 (88.9% drive)

Since 2015, there has been a small decrease in the amount of journeys undertaken by cars at 7.6% alongside an increase in the amount of children walking to school for the same period with the school moving up 50 on the ranking scale for walking. 1% more of children now cycle with this ranking now moving up by 22. (Data taken from School Travel Toolkit census report 2017 on the schools' website.<sup>1</sup>)

The graph below shows the percentages of children travelling by each mode of transport to Uffculme Primary School compared to other Primary schools in Devon.



<sup>1</sup> Devon County Council have not enabled the travel survey for 2018

Number of entrances		5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vehicles</li> <li>• Cyclists &amp; Pedestrian</li> </ul>		0
		5
Cycle storage	✓	Yes although poor
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity</li> </ul>		8 bikes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uncovered</li> </ul>	✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Covered</li> </ul>	✗	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Locked</li> </ul>	✗	
Scooter storage	✓	8 scooters
Number of parking spaces		25 in a private car park adjacent to school
School crossing patrol	✗	
School walking bus	x	
School on bus route	✓	Although not one used by our children

### Initiatives to Promote Sustainable Travel

Bikeability	✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number trained annually</li> </ul>		28 children in 2017-2018
Walking Bus	✗	
Park and Stride	✗	
Scouting to School	✓	
Car Share	✓	
Staff Car Share Bays	✗	
Annual Community Calendar	✓	Produced in conjunction with ABN Mill and the children in school

### Initiatives to Promote Travel Awareness

Inclusion of travel information on school website	✓	The School Active travel Policy is now on the schools' website
Inclusion of travel information in school prospectus	✓	This is in place
Travel awareness in the curriculum	✓	Road safety discussed in Year 1; traffic surveys take place in Year 1, Year 2; part of PSHE curriculum and assembly programme
Parent travel information packs	✓	Walking leaflet given to all new parents and available on school website
Transition arrangements agreed with secondary school	✗	Majority of children within the village walk to the secondary school
Calendar raising awareness of safe travel produced in conjunction with a local manufacturing company	✓	With ABN Mill
Hazard marking lines placed outside school with support from Devon County Council	✓	Safety marking on road

Our School Active Travel Policy is added at the end of this travel plan in Appendix 1.

### Current travel issues

Issue
1. Narrow and congested road at pick up and collection times of day
2. Excessive speed of traffic outside school (above the recommended speed limit of 20 miles an hour)
3. Poor storage facilities in school for bikes and scooter users
4. Poor signage on approach to school about children coming into the road
5. No pavements outside school
6. No cycle infrastructure
7. Not enough parking spaces in the car park adjacent to school

### *Additional evidence:*

- In 2015, parental questionnaires were completed to gauge opinions about the road safety issues at school. This mainly centred on the usage of the car park adjacent to school. This car park is private property which as a school we pay annual rent to use. Whilst we do not own this land, we are responsible for its up keep and maintenance. Although using markings to identify car parking bays would be a good idea, advice given has recommended that the whole area would need to be tarmacked first. The cost involved is not currently one school can accommodate within its budget. We have requested that all car users do use this space considerately of each other unless a child is harmed and unfortunately an option would be to close it. This would cause even more congestion at the busy times of day, so newsletters reminders will be given as and when required to ensure this message is also communicated to all the car park users to be considerate at all times.
- A walking bus has been suggested, originally coming from Magelake as there was public car parking space that could have been used. However, reviewing the route that could be taken from here to school, it is not the safest or the most popular. Whilst there was some support for a walking bus, there was not enough to establish one currently. Devon County Council have offered to risk assess a route from the village and in doing so, if there were volunteers from the local community that would be prepared to organise this, Devon would be able to offer public liability insurance to cover this.
- The route has now been assessed by a Travel Officer from Devon County Council (March 2016) and their risk assessment concluded that it would not include the route over the bridge due to safety concerns. A virtual pavement would not be considered safe as it can offer a false sense of security and there is not enough space for pedestrians and a two-way flow of traffic. If a walking bus were to be implemented it would require 3 adults, due to the poor visibility with the humped-back nature of the bridge.
- Devon County Council was consulted about how to increase the safety outside school. As a school, we do not meet the criteria to justify having a pedestrian crossing, flashing warning signs or any additional structures such as pavement to be in place. However, yellow zig- zag lines were added by Devon County to help increase safety and encourage parents not to park directly outside school and block through traffic.
- The local PCSO was consulted and advice given about how to raise the level of safety and awareness of road use at school. The back of the school was investigated as an

alternative means by laying a path around the school field so that children could enter the school and have the opportunity to walk or scooter rather than use the main road. Whilst this was likely to be unpopular with local residents who had already voiced their concern over this due to increased road usage in a quiet residential area with parents dropping off children from their cars, it was currently the only option to help reduce the congestion on the main road. The PCSO advised that it was a public road, so road users can park here if required and would be a viable option. Devon County Council also supported this view in reducing car usage from the main road and increasing the overall safety of the children. This was installed in September 2016 and has been a successful development with the families and the walking bus that use this from a local pre-school provider.

The school council completed a survey in February 2016 which reflected current travel data;-

- 39.8% of children walk
- 54.8 of children came by car
- 3% of children shared a car journey
- 1.8% children rode a bike
- 0.6% of children rode a scooter.

Comparing this to preferred travel data:-

- 22% of children would like to walk
- 15% would like to come by car
- 8% of children would like to share a car journey
- 39% children would like to ride a bike
- 16% of children would like to ride a scooter

The interests of the children reflected wanting to come by car less, and having the opportunity to cycle and scooter more. This is not a popular option amongst many parents as they feel concerned about the safety of the main road and the number of other road users ranging from the local double-decker buses, tractors, builder's lorries, the ABN Feed Mill lorries and the overall number of cars at peak times of the day.

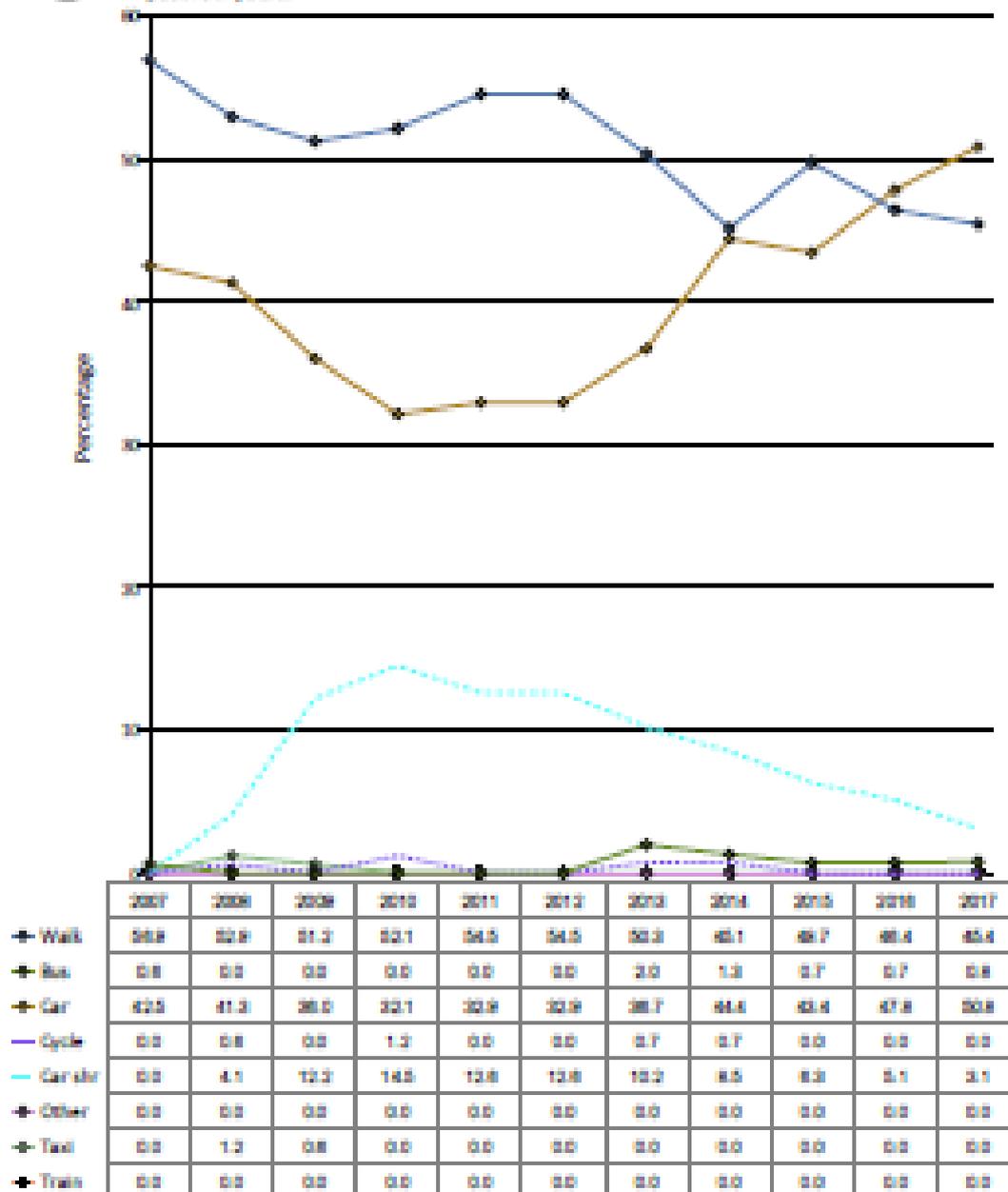
There has been a change over time in travel choices to school.



## Change over time

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This graph shows how travel choices for your school have changed over the past few years.



Since 2015, there has been a small decrease in car usage, although this is still high and more children are walking.

### Consultation

We consulted the following people;-

- Pupils
- Parents/PTFA
- Governors
- Devon County Council Safety Travel Officer
- The local PCSO
- The local residents

Mode of Travel (Hands up survey with Class School Council Reps)	Current Travel Data		Preferred Travel Data	
	Number		Number	
	Pupils	%	Pupil	%
Car/van	91	54.8	25	15
Car share with friends (not siblings)	5	3	14	8
Walk	66	39.8	36	22
Scooter	1	0.6	27	16
Cycle	3	1.8	64	39
Bus	0	0	0	0
Taxi	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0
Total included in survey:	166	100%	166	100%

### **Travel Action Plan for 2018 onwards**

#### **Aims:**

- Reduce congestion outside school and increase overall safety for children
- Promote health through travelling to and from school
- Reduce number of cars used for school journeys, so reduce carbon footprint
- To increase the number of children walking to school

Target	How you plan to achieve this	Person responsible	Completion date
To raise parental awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design a leaflet by the children about encouraged parents to walk to school. Recommend safe routes. Add red stickers for danger spots. Encourage a park and stride ethos. Send leaflet out before the start of the school year. (Parent travel information packs)</li> </ul>	Head teacher	Summer 2016  This is now on the school website and made available to all new families joining the school each year.
To raise awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Produce community</li> </ul>	Children and	This is now an

<p>within the local community</p>	<p>calendar about benefits of healthy lifestyles and being safe on journeys to and from school</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A commitment to greener travel is emphasised on the school website and in school prospectus</li> <li>• School council blog used to report progress on school website.</li> </ul>	<p>ABN Mill</p>	<p>annual event and funded by ABN.</p> <p>This was incorporated as part of a wider school development on sustainability from September 2017 onwards</p>
<p>To reduce carbon footprint at school by increasing the number of children riding their bikes to school</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install new scooter and bike shelter at school to encourage the children who have passed bikeability to continue cycling to school</li> <li>• Investigate safe cycle routes to school</li> <li>• Ensure bikeability continues within school</li> <li>• Publish a safer travel policy for cyclists</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<p>JD PTFA School Council</p>	<p>July 2016 and 2018- new scooter storage has been installed.</p> <p>School Active travel Policy has also been updated and reviewed</p>
<p>To reduce carbon footprint at school by increasing the number of children walking to school and thereby reducing congestion on the main road</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install a new path around the outside of the school field and install a new pedestrian gate to decrease amount of road traffic in Ashley Road and encourage children to drop/walk</li> <li>• Liaise with local residents</li> <li>• Investigate a walking bus route which has been risk assessed by Devon and the local PCSO and the viability of running this either through volunteers or members of school staff</li> </ul>		<p>September 2016- this is now installed with a path that is also fit for purpose- funded by the PTFA. Maintained by Uffculme School annually.</p> <p>Childcare provider in the Village- Kingwood Care – provide a walking bus from their site so a school one has not been pursued.</p>

## **Monitoring and Review**

The School Travel Plan will updated annually by the Head teacher and School Council following consultation with pupils, staff and parents.

**The School Travel Plan is valid for a period of 12 months.**

## Appendix 1:

### School Active Travel and Road Safety Policy

At Uffculme Primary School we encourage pupils and parents to travel to school by cycling, scooting and walking wherever possible. We are committed to promoting travel to and from school by safe and sustainable means.

#### **Aims:**

- To establish and maintain a school ethos that incorporates; -
  - Safer journeys to school
  - Walking to school as the preferred means of travel
  - Congestion free school gates
  - Investigate and encourage other forms of transport for school journeys.
- To educate children and parents in road safety issues and make them aware of the dangers of road traffic around the school environment.
- To encourage children to take road safety issues that they have learnt from school and adopt them in other areas of their lives e.g. around their home environment so they may become confident with these skills
- To encourage a healthy attitude and walking culture amongst the school community that will lead to a healthier life style

This school travel policy explains how we will be encouraging active travel to school. We will discuss the policy with the pupils and re-visit it periodically to ensure its relevance. For pupils unable to come by foot or bike, we encourage use of public transport or car-share.

If you have any ideas to improve things at or around school for pedestrians and cyclists, or questions about travelling to school, please get in touch with the Head Teacher.

#### **Some of the benefits of active travel:**

- Improving both mental and physical health through physical activity
- Establishing positive active travel behaviour
- Promoting independence and improving safety awareness
- Reducing congestion, noise and pollution in the community
- Reducing the environmental impact of the journey to school.

#### **To encourage pupils to walk to school frequently the school will:**

- Press upon parents that this is the preferred means of travel to school
- Embed road safety education from a young age

#### **To encourage pupils to cycle or scooter to school frequently the school will:**

- Actively promote cycling and scooting as a positive way of travelling
- Celebrate the achievements of those who cycle and scooter to school
- Provide cycle and scooter storage on the school site
- Provide high quality cycle training to all pupils who wish to participate.

#### **To make cycling and scooting to and from school a positive experience for everybody concerned, we expect our pupils to:**

- Ride sensibly and safely and to follow the Highway Code
- Check that their bicycle or scooter is roadworthy and regularly maintained
- Behave in a manner which shows them and the school in the best possible light and to consider the needs of others when cycling or scooting
- Wear a cycle helmet made to British Standards specifications
- Ensure they can be seen by other road users, by using lights and wearing high-visibility clothing, as appropriate.

- Have successfully passed their Bikeability training for cycle usage and be over ten years and over
- Have prior consent from their parents and the Head teacher

**For the well-being of our pupils, we expect parents and carers to:**

- Encourage their child to walk, cycle or scooter to school whenever possible
- Encourage their child to take up opportunities to develop their competence and confidence in cycling or scooting
- Consider cycling or scooting with their child on the school run
- Provide their child with equipment such as high-visibility clothing, lights, a lock and cycle helmet as appropriate
- Ensure that the bicycles and scooters ridden to school are roadworthy and regularly maintained.

**Please note: The decision as to whether a child is competent to cycle or scooter safely to and from school rests with the parent(s)/carer(s). The school has no liability for any consequences of that decision. Parents are advised to take out appropriate insurance cover for bikes (check home insurance) as the school's insurance does not cover any loss or damage to bicycles and scooters.**

**Car journeys**

We appreciate that for some of our families, the use of cars is unavoidable for the journey to and from the school. However, for the well-being of our pupils, we expect parents and carers to:

- Please not park in the road outside school, particularly on the zigzag lines but park away from the school at a sensible location that will not impede the safety of others, so where possible, we ask that parents should then be encouraged to walk the final part of the journey to adhere to the schools' 'walking ethos'. Parking in the car park adjacent to school is very limited and as we rent the space yearly as a school community, we need to demonstrate that anyone who does so, is a considerate user – to each other and to the children that walk across it.
- Keep car use to a minimum or where possible, car share with another family.
- Please approach the school community with caution, drive at a sensible speed and be aware of other road users and pedestrians and in accordance with the Highway Code.
- All car passengers should be restrained by seat belts, being using booster seats in line with current legislation and child locks should be used if appropriate.

**Road Safety in general**

- Parents should be encouraged to notify the school of any road safety issues within the school community that they believe has the potential of causing an accident.
- The school will maintain links with Devon County Council and the Community Police and work in partnership to ensure road safety practices are upheld
- Constant reminders of the schools' road safety policy and ethos will be provided to parents via the school newsletter, website, prospectus and occasional hand-outs.

**Road Safety in the Curriculum**

- Time is devoted within PSHE and other curriculum topics promoting road safety and school travel through such methods as road traffic surveys and walks around the local village
- Road safety issues will be raised on a regular basis during school assemblies
- Road safety will also be introduced to children through class work, specialist events e.g. Life Skills, visiting speakers and national campaigns.

**School Trips**

- Safety procedures are recognised as a factor when planning a school visit.
- Specific practices are identified as appropriate for each trip.
- Safe pupil behaviour is expected.
- Parental consent for all trips is obtained.

### **Uffculme School Minibus**

On certain occasions, dependent on numbers, a minibus from Uffculme School may be used to transport children.

- The school minibuses will be serviced at intervals recommended by the manufacturer and will have an annual MOT.
- All staff driving minibuses carrying pupils will have completed a Minibus Driving Course.
- Seat belts are fitted in all passenger carrying vehicles.
- Seat belt use is mandatory.
- It is the driver's legal responsibility to ensure that the child is correctly restrained.

### **Staff transportation**

In the event, a child is transported in a member of staff's car; -

- The member of staff needs to ensure they have appropriate car insurance to undertake this journey with children from school
- Where possible, two members of staff should be present (including the driver)
- Seat belt use is mandatory
- It is the driver's legal responsibility to ensure that the child is correctly restrained.
- A child booster seats need to be used if the child is under 135mm. These are provided by school. If they are also under 12 years old, they will be asked to sit in the back of a car.