



**Caldecote CE Academy**

**Travel Plan**

Manor Place  
Upper Caldecote  
SG18 9DA

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<https://www.caldecoteceacademy.co.uk/>

Introduction

A large proportion of journeys to school are now made by car rather than by walking, cycling or taking public transport. This leads to increased congestion on our roads, particularly around schools and colleges. As well as raising concerns over our children's health and the environment, this also raises concerns over road safety. This in turn leads more parents to drive their children to school, increasing problems and the risks that they pose to their own children and others.

Part of the Government's white paper "A new deal for Transport: better for everyone" sets out the reasons for highlighting the school journey as an area for action and stated its intention, "to take further initiatives to encourage more children to get to school other than by car."

One way of combating car use for the journey to school is through the development of school travel plans. By considering the factors which influence travel choice we can improve the safety of the school journey and implement measures which will encourage more children to walk, cycle or use the bus for school.

School travel plans can also contribute to environmental issues such as sustainability, climate change, pollution, congestion and the involvement of local communities in improving their local environment and quality of life. Additional benefits gained through implementing school travel plans include increasing travel choice, combating rising obesity levels and improving road safety awareness.

Whilst there may be limitations for some families in the choice of travel in rural locations such as Caldecote, the benefits gained through the development of a school travel plan will help to develop skills, confidence and travel choices for pupils outside of the school and for their futures.

## **About Our School**

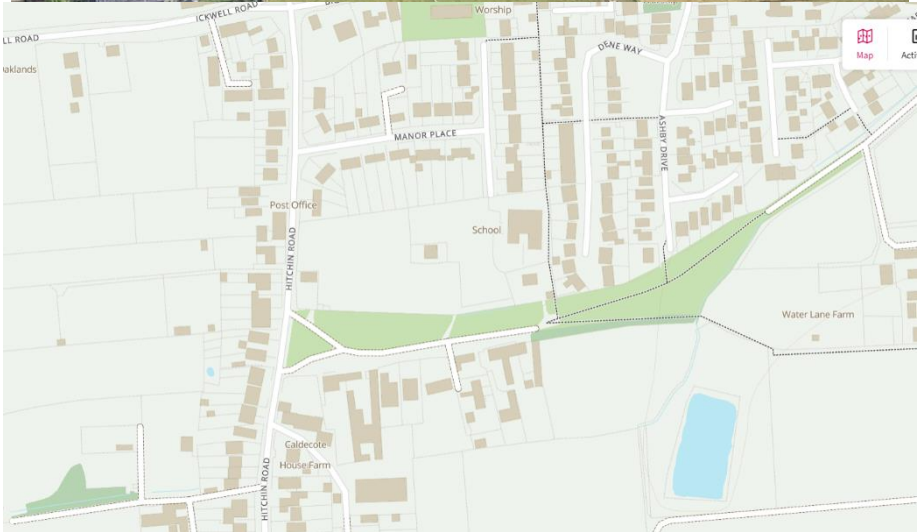
Caldecote CE Academy is an academy school in the Diocese of St Albans Multi Academy Trust. As a church school, the education of the children is in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England. We currently cater for children aged 3 to 9 years, but will be catering for children up to the age of 11 once we become a primary school in September 2024. The aim of all Church schools is to provide the best possible education for each child within the context of a caring Christian community. The school has strong links with Upper Caldecote Methodist Church and special services are held there several times each year.

Caldecote CE Academy is a small village school set in beautiful grounds, surrounded by Bedfordshire countryside. It has a playground and playing field in which the children can explore the natural environment.

The current building was opened in 1982 following a move from the original building on Biggleswade Road, which was founded by a Deed dated 16<sup>th</sup> October 1860. As part of the Central Bedfordshire Council 'Schools for the Future Programme,' we will convert to a primary school on our existing site. Although this requires limited external building work, much interior work needs to be completed to accommodate additional pupils. One of our classrooms will be extended and an additional practical works room will be added. We will have one additional class teacher and we may require additional classroom assistants.

Being a small village school, we know the children very well and are able to cater for their individual needs within a caring environment. We liaise closely with Pre-school groups and schools within the BCUS (Biggleswade Community Union of Schools) Cluster to ensure a confident and happy transition between phases. There are currently 58 children in the school, most of whom travel to school from Upper Caldecote or Biggleswade, which are the nearest towns, or the surrounding villages. There are 16 members of staff, including teachers, support staff and non-teaching staff. When we become a Primary school, we will have capacity for 120 pupils and will require a minimum of 17 members of staff.

**Location**



Caldecote CE Academy is situated in the village of Upper Caldecote with one of its perimeters alongside Hitchin Road, whilst the main entrance is at the end of a small cul-de-sac, Manor Place.

### **School Opening Times**

The timing of the School day is as follows:

7:50 Early morning school club

8:45 – 8.55 Arrival and registration

10.45 – 11.00 Break

12.15 - 13.15 Lunch

15.30 School day ends

16:30 After School club ends

### **Transport Links**

The main roads into Upper Caldecote are the main routes to the A1. Both of these roads are busy at rush hour periods. Hitchin Road joins the two main roads and this is also very busy at the beginning and end of the school day as parents come into the village to drop off or collect their children from school. Manor Place is also extremely busy at the beginning and end of the day as this is where cars are parked.

### **Bus routes**

There are 7 buses (Service numbers 1A, 2, 3, 4, 73, 74, W9) running between Bedford, Sandy and Biggleswade, stopping in Upper Caldecote. Times and routes can be found via the link below.

<https://bustimes.org/localities/upper-caldecote>

Pedestrian access to the school is along Manor Place and through the pedestrian gate.

### **Walking Distances**

The distances involved preclude children living outside the village from walking to school. There is no pedestrian crossing from the west side of the village to the school across the main Hitchin Road. (Our Key stage 2 children wrote to the parish council about this following a traffic survey undertaken during the census period.)

### **Facilities**

The building has 4 classrooms, a Library, Catering Servery, three classrooms, a reception office, a meeting room, headteacher office and a staffroom. We have a sports hall that is also used as a lunch hall. We have extensive grounds with a playground and a large playing field. We have good outdoor play equipment and a Tiny Forest.

### **Car Parking**

The school has a small car park at the front of the school which is used by staff. There are marked spaces for 7 cars on site but we can accommodate three more outside of spaces. We have two scooter racks for safe parking of scooters and a bike rack. Our breakfast club allows children to arrive at any time from 7.50am and this staggers drop off times. We changed our entry time to allow a 10 minute window to arrive, thus helping to alleviate some of the congestion along Manor Place in the mornings.

### **Cycling**

Some of our children do cycle to school and we have storage for their cycles. However, the main road is very busy at the beginning and end of the day, as is Manor Place. The alleyways from the village are very narrow and could pose a danger to pedestrians from cyclists.

### **Accessible Parking**

We have one marked accessible parking space in the car park. This is in the process of being re-marked.

### **School Travel Activities and Education**

The School currently undertakes road safety and environmental work about the local area by integrating these topics across the curriculum, such as:

- Collective Worship
- PSHE and Global Learning
- Geography
- Mathematics
- Science
- Other initiatives such as visits from Police and Road Safety Officer.
- Bikeability
  - English – writing to the council about the need for a zebra crossing on Hitchin Road

### **Travel Issues**

As most of our children live in the village, there is some capacity to walk to school. Even so, cars are inevitably parked on the road and this can cause problems as it is a cul-de-sac, and problems for residents if cars are parked across driveways. Within the planning for transition to primary school, demolition of the building in the car park is planned to allow for additional on-site parking.

#### **To mitigate issues:**

Regular newsletter item about parking considerately

Children have designed posters about not parking on the zigzag lines outside of school

Liaison with parking enforcement at Central Bedfordshire Council

Allowed for staggered drop off period of 10 minutes each morning

### **Journeys made during the School Day**

Pupils undertake a number of trips off site as part of the curriculum; these can be local trips or visits further afield. For local trips, the children walk in pairs, supervised by staff, using the village footpaths. Visits further afield necessitate the use of a coach. Coaches park on Biggleswade Road and children walk to the coach. In bad weather, when the paths are deemed dangerously icy, we walk across our field and board the coach on Hitchin Road. This is disruptive on the main road, but is safer for our children and staff.

### **Journeys made after school**

Sometimes staff need to attend meetings off site at the end of the school day. To avoid coinciding with the congestion at the end of the day, staff are enabled to leave a few

minutes early, or leave when all the children have been collected safely. Visitors to school inevitably add to the congestion.

### **Staff and Community Travel Needs**

Staff Survey 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023

Number of staff: 12

| Method of transport | Number of staff |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Walk                | 2               |
| Park and Stride     | 0               |
| Bus                 | 0               |
| Car                 | 10              |
| Cycle               | 0               |
| Car share           | 0               |

### **Pupil Travel September 2023**

| Method of transport | Number of pupils |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Walk                | 16               |
| Park and Stride     | 0                |
| Bus                 | 0                |
| Car                 | 24               |
| Cycle / scoot       | 12               |
| Car share           | 0                |
| Taxi                | 2                |

### **Action Plan**

| <b>Objective</b>   | <b>Action</b>  | <b>Date</b>                            |
|--|--|--|
| School are aware of how children come to school.               | Complete CBC annual travel survey.   | Autumn term                            |
| Promote sustainable travel                                     | Provide bikeability for our pupils to learn to ride safely<br>Ensure sufficient bike and scooter pods                          | Summer 2024                            |
| Promote road safety  | One decision road safety units<br>Step out safely<br>Traffic surveys by children<br>Children to design posters for road safety | Spring term annually                   |
| Promote considerate, safe and lawful parking along Manor Place | Newsletter reminders<br>Contact with parking enforcement<br>Children to learn about the yellow zig zags outside of school      | Ongoing as required<br><br>Spring term |