



STRIVE - THRIVE - ACHIEVE

Danesgate Travel Plan

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1. Our School

In April 2010, the Danesgate Community was formed. The mission of the Danesgate Community is to provide children and young people who live in the City of York with high quality education even when they have struggled to succeed in a mainstream school. The Danesgate Community serves vulnerable young people who may be in crisis or in need of specialist teaching to help them achieve. Our school is for 5-16 year olds who are struggling to learn because of social, emotional or mental health needs as well as autism, ADHD . Currently, we have 191 pupils who are on roll full time.

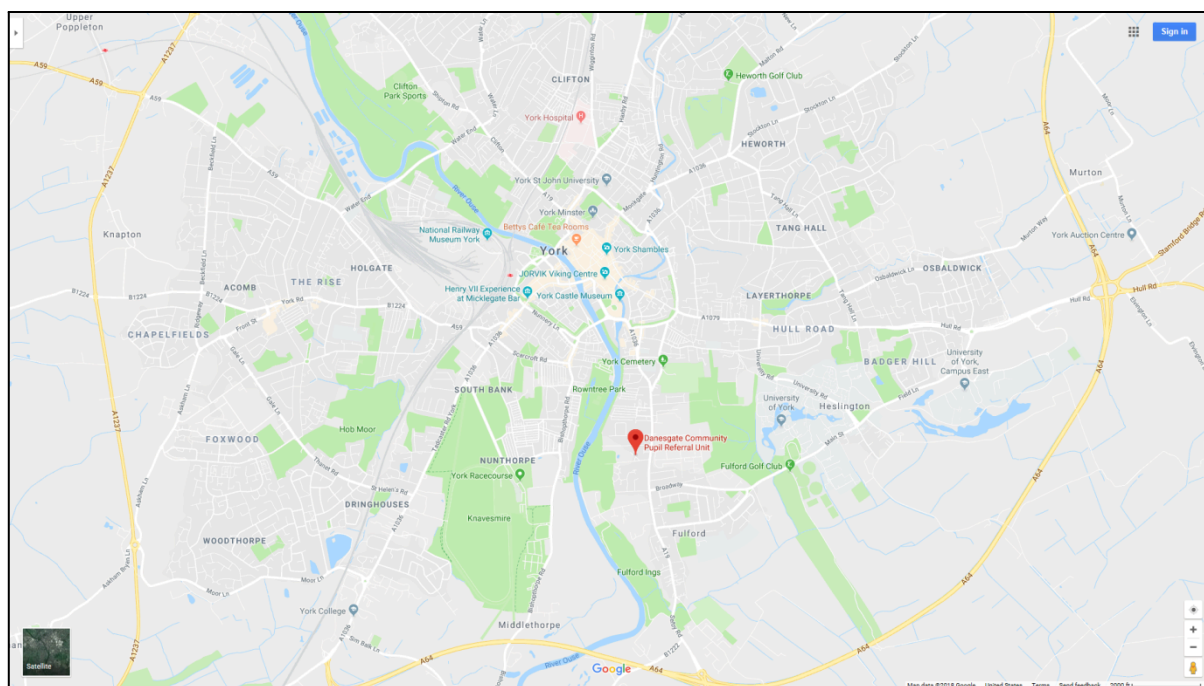
We have 134 pupils with an Educational Health and Care plan (full-time) part of which legal provision is the entitlement to transport; either by our own dedicated Fleet (7 mini buses with drivers) or by dedicated taxi (Streamline are the main service that CYC use). A number of our learners are entitled to Personal Travel Assistants due to their SEND needs although we aim to ensure that all of our learners have a PTA on their transport to ensure that their needs are met in what can be a challenging environment for them to manage. In addition there are a small number of pupils who we provide transport for a variety of reasons around vulnerabilities and additional needs. We have 78 teaching staff, 38 Teaching Assistants and 15 Managerial/Admin staff.

Danesgate's campus is on Fulford Cross where the facilities include The Danesgate Centre, The Danesgate Primary Unit, The Danesgate Skills Centre, a number of smaller, individual classrooms, a walled garden with a classroom, woodland conservation area with an outdoor learning classroom and a sports field. The Danesgate Community is a partnership provision and the whole focus of our work is to provide young people in York with positive opportunities to succeed and so improve their chances of contributing to the wider community in a constructive and sustainable manner. The school day ranges from 9.00 am to 3:30 pm. Pupils arrive during a window between 9.00am and 9.50am – this assists in spreading traffic flow and avoids difficult pinch points and allows staff to meet pupils as they arrive and do welfare checks, emotional check ins to ensure a positive start to the day and essential 1:1 time.

Danesgate is well served by public transport. The nearest bus stop to the Danesgate Community is located on Fulford Road, just a few minutes' walk away from the site, and is regularly served by several different services which are routed along Fulford Road, including the frequent 'Park and Ride' service. It is also possible to access the site from Southbank by crossing the Millennium Bridge and the subsequent footpath/bridleway. You can plan your journey by public transport using the Yorkshire Travel website by simply entering your postcode and ours, which is YO10 4PB.

The nearest railway station is York, which is just under two miles away. Bicycle parking is available, with plenty of 'Sheffield stands' over 2 areas under canopy roofs. One is located close to the main entrance (near the Skills Centre) and the other is near the side entrance, ideal if staff are travelling over the Millenium Bridge. There is a small on-site car park with a limited number of spaces. There are two designated and marked disabled parking bays for use by staff and visitors. There are a small number of staff car parking spaces opposite the Steiner school, next to the side entrance.

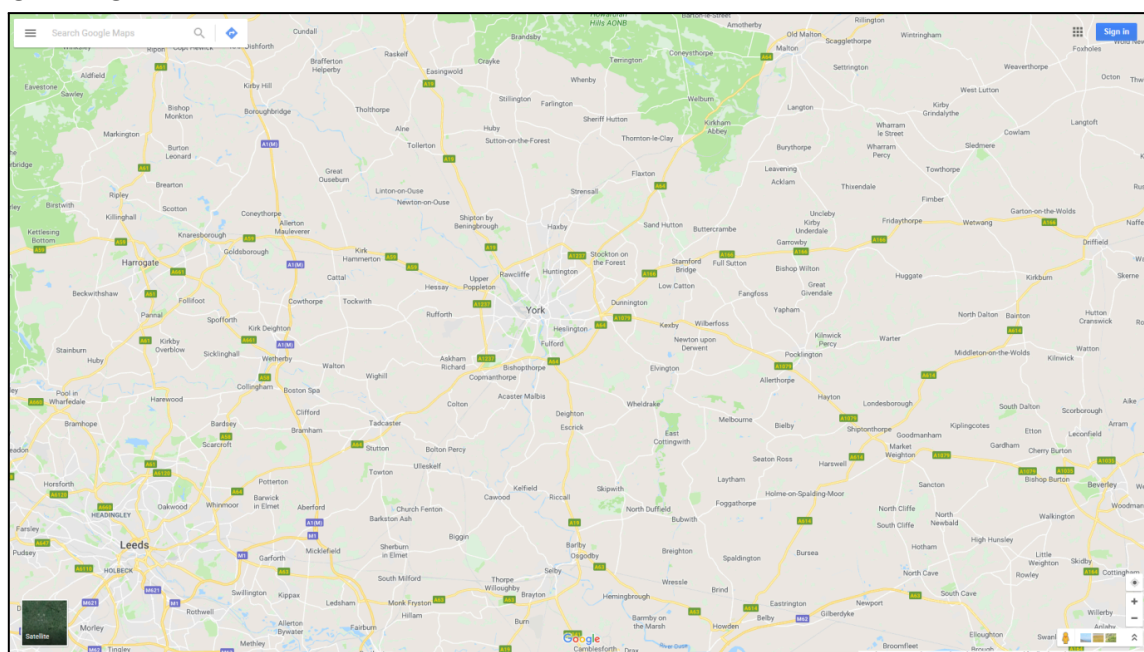
Map showing Danesgate's location



2) Our catchment area

Danesgate has a large catchment as it covers the entire City of York and the surrounding area. The situation is further complicated by looked after children who may move care placement but may still attend the unit in an attempt to keep part of their life settled. Consequently, our catchment area extends out of area to include North Yorkshire, Leeds and the East Riding of Yorkshire. The majority of 'out of area' pupils are transported by taxis provided by their Local Authority or Social Care.

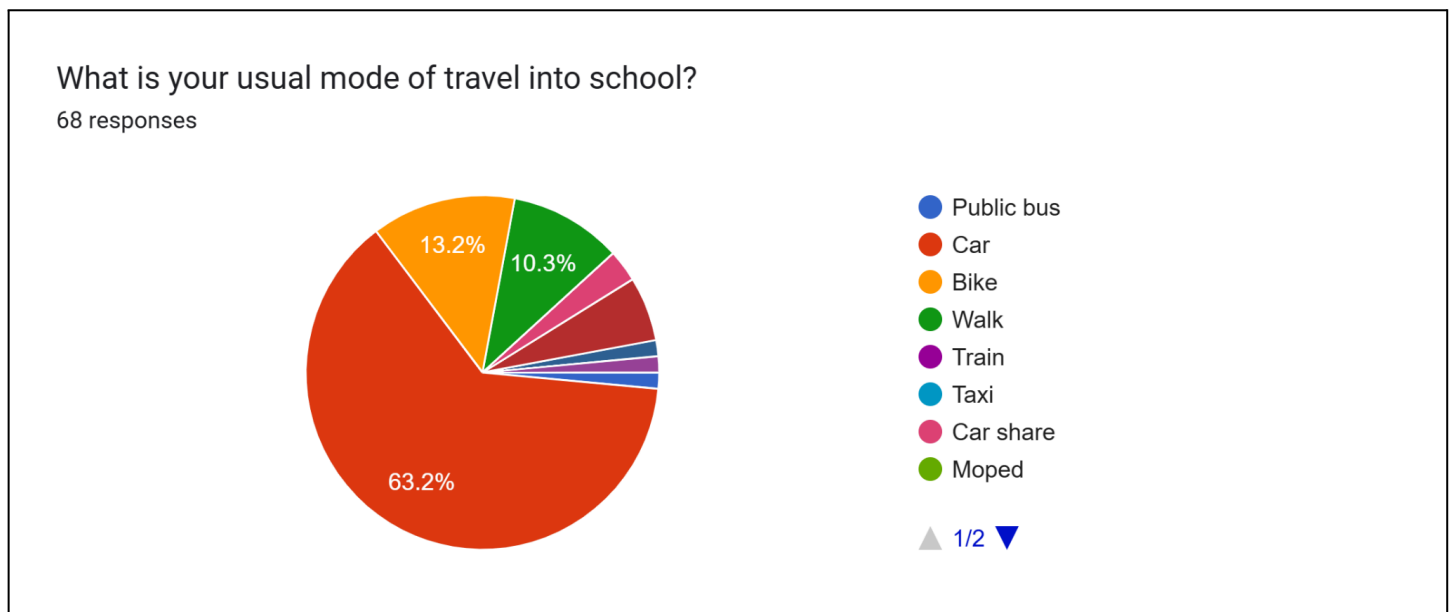
Map showing Danesgate catchment area



Before commencing at Danesgate all pupils attend an admission meeting, and part of the meeting will be to arrange travel details from home to Danesgate each day. Pupils and parents/carers are invited to apply for a transport place through the CYC portal which is decided by the CYC Transport team. The majority of our pupils are, therefore, transported by our fleet of 7 minibuses of varying sizes. We endeavour to use our school staff to act as PTAs on these journeys to allow consistency for the pupils and to ensure that a 'Danesgate approach' is used on the bus to manage challenging behaviour. Some older pupils will be offered a bus pass to support independent travel, something which is supported by YILTS alongside a member of SLT. At times, due to a pupil's level of need or due to challenging interactions with peers, pupils may be offered an independent taxi or a shared taxi with a smaller number of pupils. This is at the discretion of the CYC Transport team. To ensure PTAs and drivers are aware of the pupils' individual needs, all children have an ITP (Individual Travel Plan) updated regularly by their keyworker. This ensures that all medical information and SEN are clear to staff and there are strategies included to aid regulation. If appropriate, local pupils have the option to walk or cycle to school. Occasionally, parents/carers may drive their children to school. For this, they may be awarded a PTB (Personal Transport Budget).

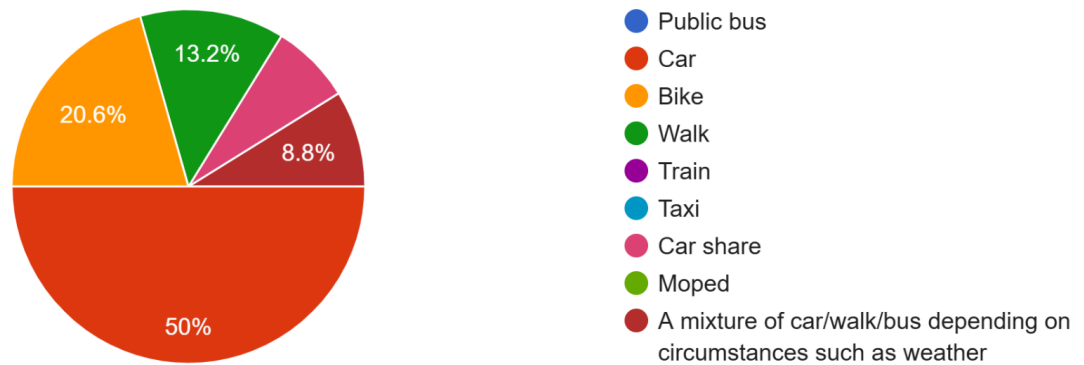
3) Staff Travel Survey

68 respondents gave the following information:



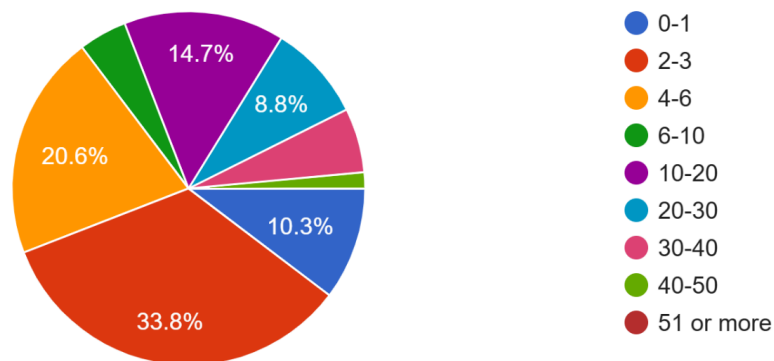
What is your preferred method of transport to school?

68 responses



How many miles away from Danesgate do you live?

68 responses



Reasons for not travelling by preferred method:

- Disability (my arthritis makes it difficult to walk to work as I spend a lot of my day walking/standing).
- Not enough time in the day.
- I use the car if the weather is not suitable for cycling
- I would walk - but take too many books home...
- Waiting on a new bike
- The bus service from our village is very limited and there is a gap of three hours between buses
- Weather conditions and speed
- Don't own a bike
- I only use a car on a weekend so it's easier to walk to work.
- Plan to walk in the summer, when the weather is good as long as no meetings are planned.
- I live too far away to car share
- my work commitments and time required to be in work do not match with colleagues who live nearby unfortunately
- Usually the weather or time
- Given the distance and travel time, I don't have any other options for travelling

- Can't find a car share
- I would cycle to work but staff showers are not always available or maintained and I also need my car sometimes for daily duties.
- I prefer to bike along the river in good weather. Weather and flooding river stops this in winter
- Time constraints
- Sometime bike to school during the better weather
- I cannot use any other mode of transport due to been disabled
- Panic attack in March 23 so using bus to relive personal worry
- Weather stops me from walking or a desire to do something that requires a car, straight after work.
- Weather and lack of facilities to make travelling by bike easier. e.g. no drying area for wet clothes. showers are sometimes available, sometimes not.

In discussion with staff and from the survey undertaken it was found that there were no real barriers to staff cycling to school, rather than using their car, where distance allowed. Cars were used as a convenience or through choice. Just over 50% of staff at Danesgate live within a 6 mile radius of the site, it appears that these staff mainly choose to drive for convenience or individual circumstances.

4) Pupil Travel Survey

Pupils' usual mode of transport to/from school	Number	Percentage
Total number of learners on Roll	191	
Walk	9	5.2
Cycle	11	6.4
Car	23	13.4
Public Service Bus	26	15.1
Fleet	68	39.5
Streamline	24	14
Out of area taxi	11	6.4
Other	1	0.6
Total	172	100%

From the numbers above, it is clear that we have moved away from our reliance on Streamline taxis (reducing by more than two thirds since the last survey) and are utilising the fleet, which has become larger since the last survey, to its full potential. We also have more parents/carers utilising the PTB than previously and encouraging more independent travel from KS4 learners. Therefore, many pupils who have answered that they travel by Streamline also travel by fleet where possible. The pupils using Streamline taxis are doing so because they have struggled to manage themselves and peer relationships/interactions in the fleet transportation, and it has been a response to ensure that all pupils are able to travel to school safely and as well regulated as possible when they arrive. Due to a desire to fully support higher need learners who require reduced risk and enhanced safety, we will, at times, choose to use Streamline transport. There

are also occasions that Streamline will be used due to exceptional circumstances, such as illnesses or a lack of capacity on the fleet.

5) Our Targets and Action Plan

Findings

- The majority of staff require personal transport to fulfill their job roles and or commute
- The majority of staff are aware of options such as cycling and car share and do where possible
- Public transport is not an option for the majority of staff given the requirement for flexibility and time pressures during the day
- Some staff are reliant on a car for transport for commitments before and after work such as childcare or personal activities
- Some staff are not able to match public transport to their requirements regarding time and frequency
- Some staff live too far away and are not on public transport routes
- Continue to explore and offer opportunities for independent travel training where possible by utilising YILTS and using this as a discussion point in UKS3/KS4 EHCP reviews
- To review, alongside the CYC transport team, students who may be ready to access independent travel and explore alternatives beyond the fleet to support preparation for adult life.
- To reduce congestion in the main car park
- Review, alongside CYC, pick up and drop off of fleet transportation to ensure reduced congestion in the car park

Action Plan

Action	For whom?	By When?	Target	Monitoring Activity	Responsibility	Review
Promote car sharing on the school website/ weekly bulletin	Staff	March 25	5% of staff car-sharing at least once per week	Number of car-sharers	Travel Plan User Group	Sept 2025
Designated parking areas for staff to increase by using alternative parking spots at the side entrance of the school	Staff	March 25	No parking issues in local community as no knock on of queuing taxis into school site	Daily monitoring via SLT duty	SBM	Sept 2025
Continue to publicise alternative methods of transport on the school website (details of bus cycle and walking routes)	Parents & Visitors	Ongoing	Raise awareness of transport options	Annual survey	Travel Plan User Group	Sept 2025
Increase number of pupils travelling by bus by targeted Independent Travel Training (also YILTS) at KS4	KS4 pupils	Ongoing	Reduce the number of KS4 pupils using cars	Annual Mode of transport questionnaire	Travel Plan user Group	Sept 2025
Increase the number of pupils and staff who are confident to cycle to school. Inc Get Cycling training	Pupils and staff	March 25	Pupils and staff	Annual Mode of Transport survey	Travel Plan User Group	Annually
Promote Urban Cycle training for adults -available via http://www.itravelyork.info/cycling/cycle-training	Staff	Ongoing	Increase the number of staff who are confident with cycling to work	Staff survey	SBM	Annually
Publicise the Get Cycling Scheme to pupils and staff in the bulletin weekly	Pupils	Annually	Any appropriate pupils	Uptake of scheme	Key Workers	Annually
Include information on transport options in transition meetings.	Pupils moving to Danesgate	Annually in June	New pupils admitted	Student data sheets	Admin Office	Annually
Annual review of pupils' mode of travel survey	Pupils	Annually in October	All pupils	Analysis of data sheets	Admin Office	Annually
Annual student voice feedback on travel routes that impact on the school bus provision.	Pupils	Annually	Pupils are confident and happy to use the school bus.	Student voice activity and feedback	School Travel Plan Coordinator	Annually
New EHCP system implemented by CYC to include specific review of transport requirements & expectations, thus reducing egress of traffic onto site and adjoining areas	SENCo, parents, pupils	Ongoing	Expectations: 1. Bus pass 2. Fleet 3. Taxi	EHCP Review	SENCO	Annual review

Action	For whom?	By When?	Target	Monitoring Activity	Responsibility	Review
Exploration of YILTS offer during KS3 and 4 EHCP reviews as part of Preparation for Adult Life	Pupils	Sep 25	More KS4 pupils independently travelling to school	Annual travel survey	Sarah McKinley	Sept 2025
Encourage more pupils to travel by fleet rather than Streamline taxis by creating an environment where they are comfortable and happy and understand by support staff	Pupils	Sep 25	All primary and KS3 pupils	Annual travel survey	School Travel Plan Coordinator	Sept 2025
Use the admissions process/paperwork to ensure scrutiny over <i>need</i> for new learners to choose the right transport pathway relative to their next steps and current presentation	Pupils	Sept 25	Fewer KS4s using fleet and more travelling independently or having a pathway for independence	Annual travel survey	School Travel Plan Coordinator	Sept 2025
Develop fleet offer to ensure there are opportunities to increase independence and move pupils towards independent travel i.e. have a central pick up point for KS3 pupils	KS3 and 4 pupils	Sep 25	More KS4 pupils feel confident to travel independently	Annual travel survey	School Travel Plan Coordinator	Sept 2025

6) How We Developed Our Travel Plan

The school travel plan was discussed as an agenda item at the termly staff team meetings, before and after data collection. Surveys were completed on a voluntary basis at the start of the year. Suitable options for travel are discussed with families and pupils as part of the admissions process and reviewed termly when school, parents and pupils meet.

7) How we will monitor the progress of our Travel Plan

We will continue to work with the council's student transport partner regarding Taxi usage to enable them to minimise car journeys for pupils. We will conduct staff surveys in June 2022. Curriculum Planning will be reviewed in July 2021. The Travel Plan will be reviewed in 2022.

8) School Travel Plan Agreement

This travel plan, prepared by the staff, governors, parents and pupils of The Danesgate Community is recognised by the departments of the council responsible for transport and education as an effective policy document. It is deemed to be achievable, and likely to both decrease car use on the journey to school and to increase awareness of healthier, more sustainable and safer forms of travel. The plan has been produced by the school in such a way as to maximise acceptance of it amongst all elements of the school community.

CYC undertakes to do its part to bring about the aims of this travel plan, implementing the measures required of it by the plan whenever feasible. The council will also consult this travel plan whenever it is considering or planning measures affecting travel to and from the school.

Representative	Name	Signature	Date
Head Teacher	Chris Nichols	<i>C. Nicols</i>	7/2/25
Chair of Governors	Mandy Bowers	<i>M. Bowers</i>	7/2/25
Pupil Representative	School council		7/2/25
School Travel Plan coordinator	Dominic Horsley	<i>D. Horsley</i>	7/2/25