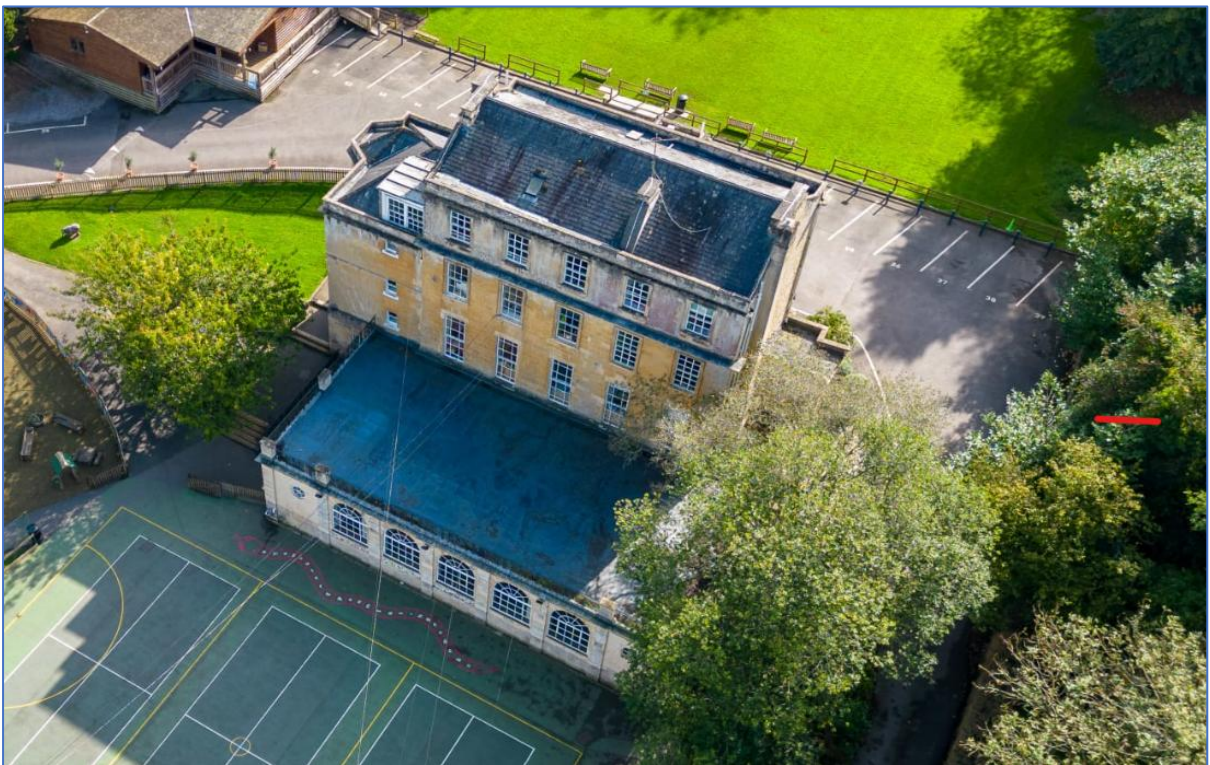




The Paragon School

Travel Handbook



(A guide for staff, parents, visitors and contractors)

Published Jan 2024

1st Revision Jan 2025 / 2nd Revision Sept 2024 / 3rd Revision Feb 2026

Introduction

Welcome to The Paragon School!

The Paragon is a vibrant, welcoming and inclusive school for children aged 3 to 11, with approx. 220 on roll, including approximately 35 EYFS / Pre-school children.

The Paragon School is located within the Widcombe area of Bath and is situated on Lyncombe Vale, a residential road to the south of Bath city centre. Lyncombe Vale is accessed via Ralph Allen Drive which links to Ralph Allen Drive / Prior Park Road (A3062) to Combe Down and Lyncombe Vale Road which provides access to Greenway Lane and thence Wellsway (A367).



Purpose

The purpose of this Handbook is to support members of staff and families who are joining the school as well as visitors and contractors travel to and from The Paragon safely, conveniently, with due regard for our local neighbours and School Travel Plan Aims.

Thank you for taking the time to read this handbook, we hope it is helpful as you plan your journey to the school or consider the transport arrangements available should your family be joining the school community.

If you have any questions which this handbook does not address, please get in touch via

Office.tps@priorparkschools.com

Justin Ryan

(Snr Deputy Head)

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The Paragon School Travel Plan Aims & Objectives

The Paragon School is committed to engaging with all stakeholders in pursuit of congestion reduction and safer roads in the local area, greater uptake of sustainable modes of transport and increasingly active & healthy travel by the school community. We will achieve these aims by committing:

- ◆ To understand modes of transport currently used by the school community for their daily journeys to and from school.
- ◆ To understand and exploit the range of sustainable transport modes available to the school community currently and, as far as possible, in the future.
- ◆ To maximise the number of staff, parents and children adopting sustainable modes of transport for their school commute; including walking, cycling, car-sharing and minibus usage.
- ◆ To reduce barriers to walking and cycling faced by The Paragon and local community by engaging with the local community & Local Authority to improve walking & cycling routes in the local area.
- ◆ To have a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of The Paragon staff, children and parents by supporting active travel.
- ◆ To have a positive impact on the local environment including traffic congestion in the areas around The Paragon by encouraging empathetic road usage by members of the Paragon community and local community.
- ◆ To provide The Paragon School staff, parents and visitors with high quality and relevant transport information including sustainable transport opportunities.
- ◆ To harness the measures above to reduce the number of vehicular journeys to / from The Paragon School.
- ◆ To align The Paragon School's STP Aims with those of B&NES. A 25% reduction in car journeys by 2030 (from a baseline measured in 2023) with measurable indicators to monitor progress.

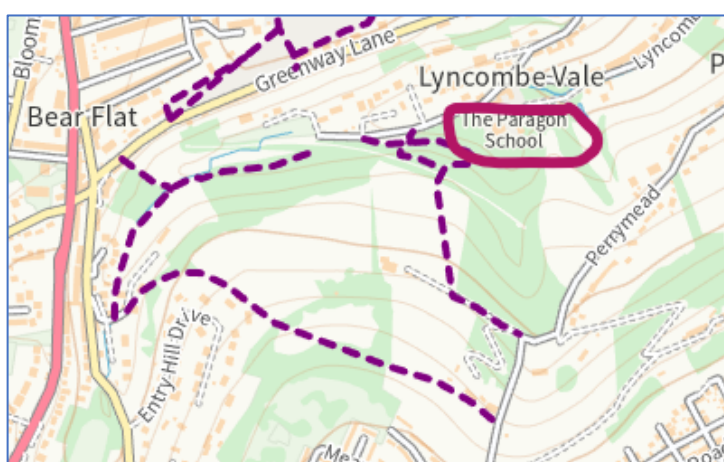
Travelling to The Paragon School

Pedestrians

The Paragon School lies 1.3 - 1.5 miles by foot south of Bath city centre. This route is mostly flat, with a steep uphill / downhill walk via Lyncombe Hill (1.1 miles) or a more gradual uphill walk via Prior Park Road and Lyncombe Vale.

Located on Lyncombe Vale, The Paragon School is within easy pedestrian and cycle access of the city centre. Pedestrians can also walk to the school from the Wellsway / Entry Hill area of the city via the vehicle free path as shown below.

The pedestrian path has recently benefited from upgrades and improvements which remove barriers to pedestrian access to The Paragon School. These include the replacement of the Bristol Gate (Lyncombe Vale) with bollards.



Map showing traffic free pedestrian routes between
Bear Flat / Entry Hill & The Paragon School



Barrier free entrance to pedestrian
paths & Two Tunnels Path

The Two Tunnels Cycle path is accessible via an unofficial path from the end of Lyncombe Vale which is unsurfaced and bordered with barbed wire and should be navigated with caution [Plans to upgrade this connecting path are in progress]. The Two Tunnels route provides a car free cycle and pedestrian route. [Bath Two Tunnels Circuit - Sustrans.org.uk](https://www.sustrans.org.uk/bath-two-tunnels-circuit)

Upon reaching Lyncombe Vale, pedestrians can access the school site via traffic-free paths through the school woodlands and grounds.

Pedestrian access is also available via the Entrance gates and then via the traffic free through the woodland area 'Dingly Dell'.

Pedestrians approaching via Lyncombe Hill & Lyncombe Vale Road can access The Paragon via the pedestrian gate located on the corner of Lyncombe Vale / Lyncombe vale Road.

Public Transport – Bus

The nearest bus stops to The Paragon School are located on Ralph Allen Drive (Perrymead Bus Stops), close to the junction with Perrymead & Prior Park Road. This is approximately 650 meters (8 minutes) walk along the picturesque Lyncombe Vale.

Commuters arriving at Bath Spa train station (see below) can undertake the 13-minute journey via the First Bus service from Dorchester Street to Perrymead at regular intervals. Those travelling from Bath City Centre should also take the service from Dorchester Street to Perrymead and walk along the picturesque Lyncombe Vale for 2 minutes to reach The Paragon School.

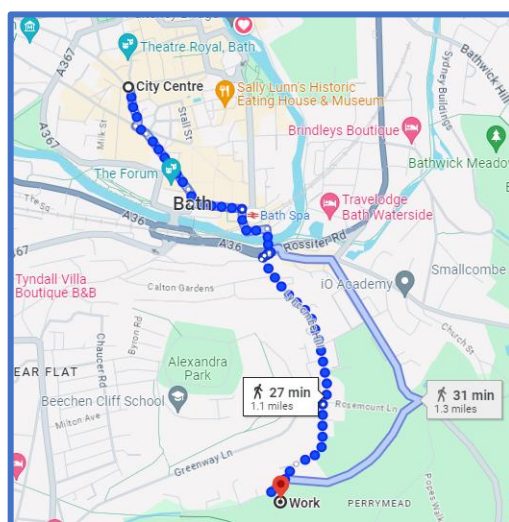


Table 2.1: Summary of bus services available in close proximity to the site⁴

Service No.	Nearest Bus Stop	Route	Typical Frequency
2 Bath City	Perrymead (northbound)	Prior Park Road – Bath city centre	06:25
	Perrymead (Southbound)	Prior Park Road – Ralph Allen Drive - Combe Down – Mulberry Park	07:10-08:50 every 20 minutes 08:50-14:50 every 30 minutes 14:50-18:10 every 20 minutes 18:10-23:40 every 30 minutes

Public Transport – Rail

Bath Spa train station (situated on the GWR mainline) lies approximately 0.6 miles from The Paragon.

Summary of direct rail services to/from Bath Spa Railway Station

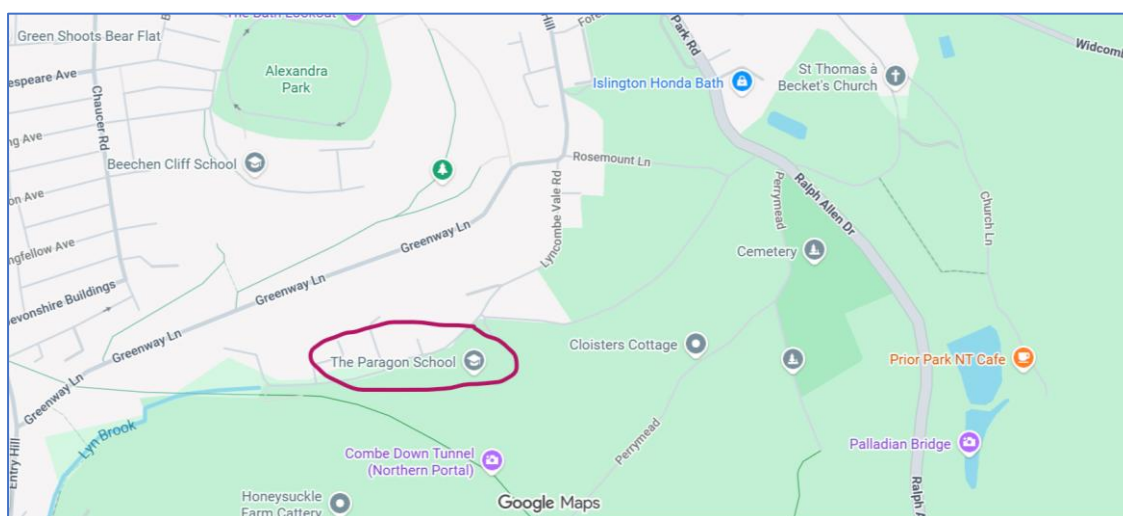
Table 2.3: Summary of direct rail services from Bath Spa Railway Station

Destination	Typical Journey Time	Typical Frequency
Keynsham via Oldfield Park	11 minutes	1 train per hour
Bristol Temple Meads	13-18 minutes	4-5 trains per hour
Bristol Parkway	43 minutes	1 train per hour
Cardiff Central via Newport	51 minutes	
Gloucester via Yate	1 hour 18 minutes	
Trowbridge via Bradford-on-Avon	19-22 minutes	2-3 trains per hour
Westbury	27-30 minutes	
Frome	40 minutes	7-8 trains per day
Yeovil Pen Mill via Castle Cary	1 hour 9 minutes	
Salisbury via Warminster	57 minutes	1 train per hour
Chippenham	12 minutes	2 trains per hour
Swindon	23 minutes	

By Road

Those traveling to The Paragon School are reminded to adhere to the speed restrictions and drive with due care and respect for fellow road users (vehicles & bicycles), pedestrians and local residents. Those traveling to / from The Paragon School during peak times (8:00am – 9:00am & 3:15pm-4:30pm) are asked to observe the unofficial one-way system agreed with the local community to minimise conflict between opposing traffic on the relatively narrow roads surrounding the school site. Parents are advised to access the site from Prior Park Road via Lyncombe Vale and to return to Prior Park Road via Lyncombe Vale Road and Rosemount Lane, forming a clockwise circuit.

Drivers using Rosemount Lane are reminded the Highway Code prioritises vehicles traveling up hill over those travelling down hill.



Staff

Staff bringing vehicles onsite are asked to register their vehicle details with Reception. This will be added to the ANPR system which controls the entrance gates. All staff are encouraged and supported to adopt sustainable travel whenever possible. Staff are encouraged to car share whenever possible.

Prior Park Schools is a member of the Cycle to Work Scheme. All colleagues are able to access the financial advantages of purchasing bicycles via this scheme. [The UK's Most Popular Cycle to Work Benefit - Cyclescheme](#). Cycle storage and e-bike charging is available onsite. Shower facilities are available. As part of the proposed building development, it is hoped that further secure storage will be created as well as shower facilities.

Visitors

Visitors are warmly welcomed to The Paragon. Those visiting by car are asked to confirm their arrival time, share any accessibility concerns and book a Visitor Parking Bay with the Reception Team (office.tps@priorparkschools.com).

Contractors / Service Vehicles

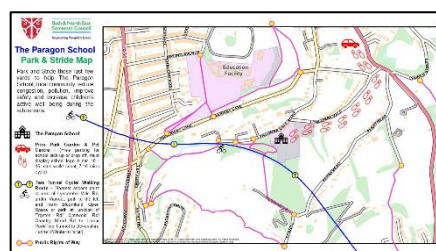
Contractors working on site should liaise with the Estates Manager (mcrudge@priorparkschools.com) regarding access times and vehicle movements. Contractors should note that, due to the location and limitations of the exit gate from The Paragon, large and service vehicles exit the site via the entrance drive by which they arrived onsite.

Parents

The Paragon actively supports parents and families accessing active and sustainable modes of transport whenever possible.

Park & Stride

Those traveling to The Paragon for morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up are encouraged to park in available local spaces and walk the remaining distance to school.



Minibus Service Routes

Prior Park Schools offer a selection of paid for minibus service routes to transport Prior Park College students and The Paragon children to / from Prior Park College. Please contact the Transport Manager [transport@priorparkschools.com] for further information or consult: [Transport | Prior Park College](#)

Table 2.2: Prior Park College Minibus Services (2022 / 2023 Academic Year)	
Route	
Hullavington – Chippenham – Corsham – Box – Batheaston – Lambridge – Prior Park College	
Stoke St Michael – Wellsway – Bear Flat – Bath Spa Station – Prior Park College	
Tormarton – Wick – Lansdown – Prior Park College	
Semington – Holt – Hilperton – Bradford-on-Avon – Winsley – Limpley Stoke – Freshford – Prior Park College	
Warminster – Chapmanslade – Frome – Beckington – Norton St Philip - Hinton Charterhouse – Midford – Prior Park College	
Keynsham – Saltford – Newbridge – Bath city centre – Prior Park College	
Ubley – Chew Magna – Chew Stoke – Bishop Sutton – Kelston Sparks – Marksbury – Prior Park College	

Complimentary Minibus Shuttle Service

Prior Park Schools also offer a pre-bookable complimentary shuttle service between Prior Park College and The Paragon School. This service is available to all The Paragon children. The morning service, leaving at 8:15, transports children from Prior Park College Sports Centre to The Paragon where they are welcomed by SLT and other staff and guided to their classrooms to begin the day. The evening return shuttle departs The Paragon at 5:00pm (4:40pm Fri) and returns children to Prior Park College where they can be met by



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parents / carers or board the onward evening minibus service as above. Further details are available from the Transport Manager [transport@priorparkschools.com].

Walking Bus

The Paragon School aims to work in partnership with the parental community to support active travel. The community has identified two favourable routes by which we aim Walking Buses to walk children to school. (These are from Entry Hill and Widcombe / Prior Park Garden Centre). The parental community has identified volunteers to act as co-ordinators for the two routes who will work with the parental community to run the Walking Buses effectively and safely. Prior Park Schools has committed to supporting the implementation of Walking Buses with H&S training, financing DBS clearance and creating and implementing suitable Risk Assessments. All parents who are interested in engaging with or helping to run a Walking Bus are asked to contact office.tps@priorparkschools.com for further information.

Collaborative Transport

The Paragon School is supported by a passionate and active Parent Teacher Association. The Paragon School has subscribed to an online platform by which the parental community shares information compliantly and safely. [Classlist - Build amazing school communities](#). Within this platform is the functionality for parents to share their location and offer / request collaboration around transport to / from school. Uptake of this facility reduces the vehicular impact on the local area, builds the school community and supports sustainable travel. More information about this platform is available from the PTA Chair (paragonptachair@gmail.com).

Contact

If you have any queries around travel and transport within our school community please get in touch at: Office.tps@priorparkschools.com