

School Travel Survey: St Brigid's Girls National School

Making the 'school run' safer and more enjoyable, and promoting active travel

This flyer summarises feedback from surveys and conversations with students, parents, staff and the wider community on how we might promote safer travel, walking and cycling in St Brigid's Girls National School. The feedback was gathered by M-CO, working on behalf of South Dublin County Council.

The council have funding for measures to help tackle issues of congestion and road safety around the school and to promote active travel. To make sure the best solution is identified, they need to understand:

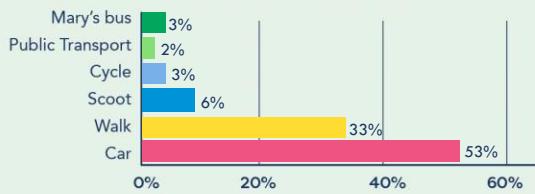
- how people are getting to school now,
- how they'd like to travel to school
- feedback on actions that could be taken to improve safety and promote walking / cycling (e.g. better road crossings, marked walking & cycling routes, traffic calming, bollards)
- other ideas, hopes and concerns

- 53% of pupils travel by car
- 33% of pupils walk to school
- 3% of pupils cycle to school
- 64% of pupils live under 1km from the school
- 82% of parents think that traffic is a problem

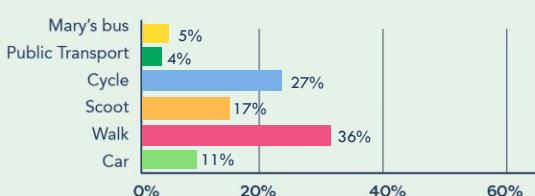
How are people travelling to school?

We asked pupils and parents how they got to and from school and what their preferred travel mode would be.

How we travel now



How we'd like to travel



369 pupils enrolled in
St. Brigid's GNS

Pupils' Hands-up Survey: 298

Parents Survey: 170



Benefits of Taking Action

The works aim to make a safer, calmer and better environment outside the school along with promoting more cycling and walking. This can:

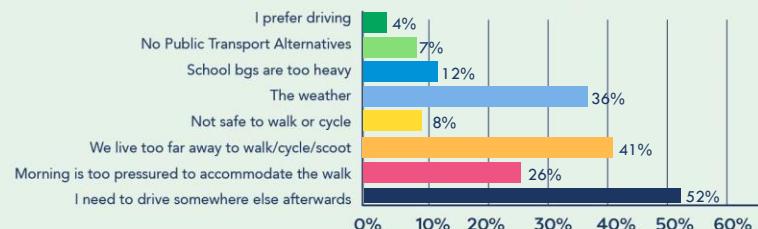
- reduce traffic congestion
- make it easier and more attractive to cycle, walk or scoot to school
- create a safer and more welcoming environment around the school
- reduce environmental impact by lowering carbon emissions and air pollution from car travel and improving biodiversity in the vicinity
- help children meet their wishes to walk and cycle to our school

"It has become very very dangerous for children to cross the road and check for cars with all the congestion and double parking."

"We have a 10 minute walk to school which can be pleasant, my daughter enjoys taking her bike to school however the footpaths are quite narrow and this can make it difficult."



Reasons given why pupils are not walking or cycling



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General Feedback

- Traffic:** It is a busy road with heavy vehicles and tailbacks at drop off in the mornings. Prison vehicles and heavy lorries are noted by survey respondents as being a particular nuisance.
- Active mobility:** Cycling remains low at under 3%, scooting low at around 6% but there is strong support for bike and walking initiatives in school. It was noted by respondents that more bike parking would help. Walking bus had been previously trialled and could be resurrected.
- Catchment area:** 64% of pupils live under 1km
- There is strong support for School Zone treatments such as bollards to reduce parking on curb, improvements to pedestrian crossings, and traffic calming measures.
- Particular locations for crossing improvement were identified at Wheatfield Road at the Supervalu and at the intersection where the Oval meets the N4.
- The laneway behind the shops at Manor Road was identified as worthy of formalising as a cycle lane / walkway.

We asked what measures would help to promote active travel? These were the most popular:

- Park & Stride – leaving the car about 10 minutes' walk from the school gate, and making the last leg of the journey to school on foot
- Secure bike/scooter storage
- Walking bus – pupils walking along a designated route with parents accompanying them
- Cycle training for pupils
- Walk/cycle/scoot on Wednesdays
- Cycle bus – pupils cycling along a designated route with parents accompanying them

Our parents' survey showed widespread support for active travel and traffic calming improvements:

- 82% support better walking and cycle markings/paths – to make clearer and safer connections with the surrounding area
- 91% support better crossings – to make it easier and safer for pupils to cross the roads around the school
- 81% support bollards – outside/near school gates to stop illegal parking on footpaths or on double yellow lines and to make it safer to walk/cycle



"We cross the road at the Culmore Rd/Woodfarm Ave junction and most mornings there are cars parked on the footpath and on the corner where we cross."

Timeline: What's happening and when



2021

Spring 2022

Autumn 2022