

School Travel Questionnaire and Results

- 4.3 To increase the understanding of the patterns of travel to the school and to establish baseline data, TPI produced a School Travel Questionnaire (Appendix 2). The survey process was managed by the school, generating 169 responses. The main findings from the questionnaire are summarised below.
- 4.4 The location of the parents responding to the questionnaire is shown in Figure 9. This is supported by Figure 10, which shows a large number of pupils living within walking and cycling distance of the school, 93% of respondents living within a distance of 3km.

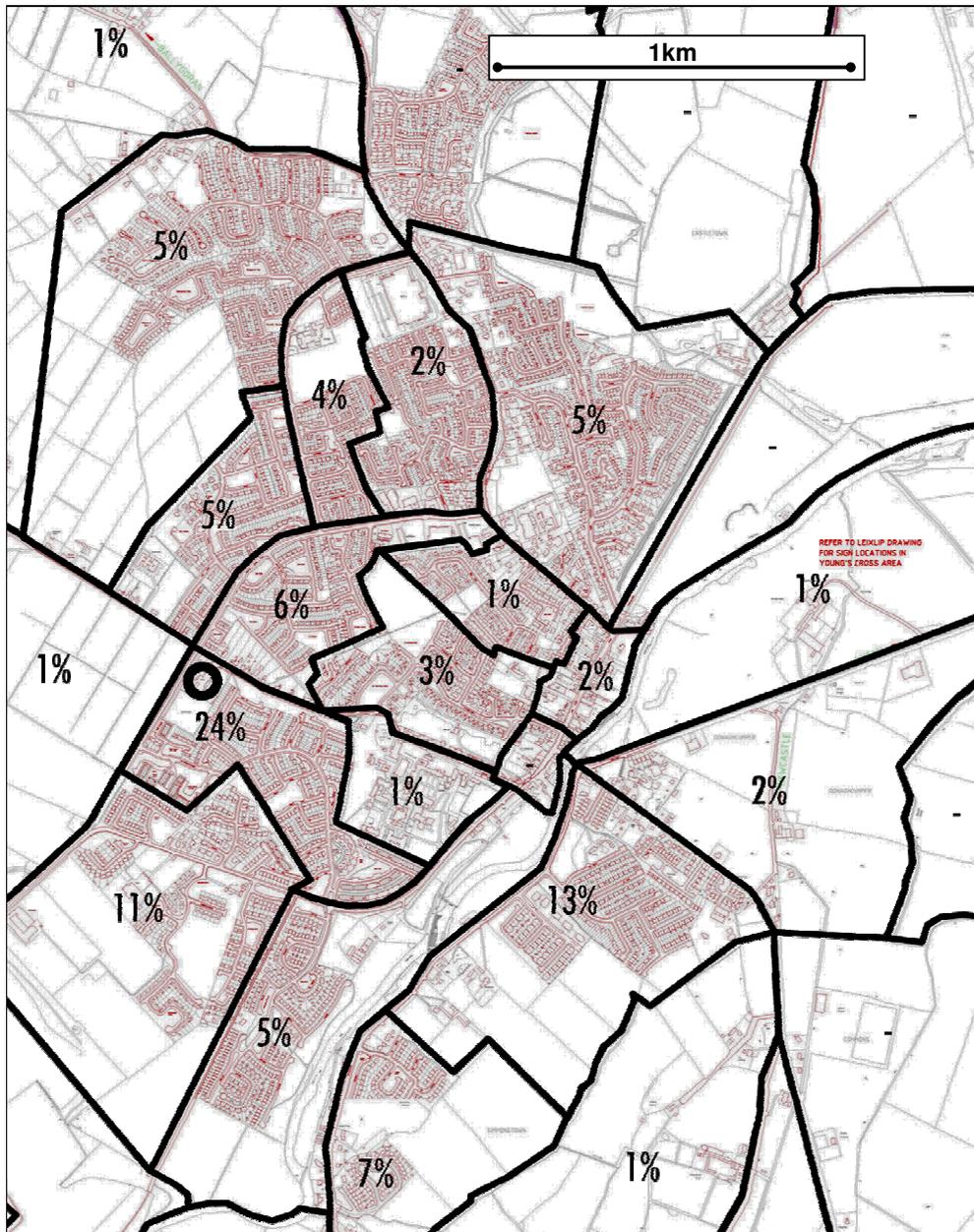


Figure 9: Location of respondents to Questionnaire, Scoil Na Mainistreach, Celbridge

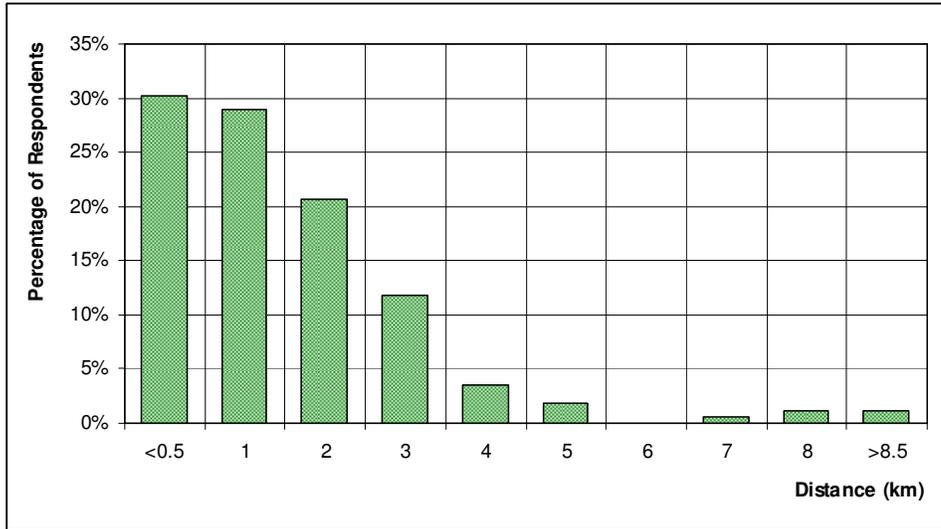


Figure 10: Pupils travel distances to Scoil Na Mainistreach, Celbridge

4.5 Figure 11 shows the stated main modes of travel to and from school, whereby; 37%-38% of pupils are transported to school by car, whilst 33% walk, either with an adult or with friends. Travel by bicycle is about 13% and by bus 5%. Potential to reduce the number of cars in the vicinity of the school was shown, with 61% of parents who responded expressing an interest in car sharing for the journey to school.

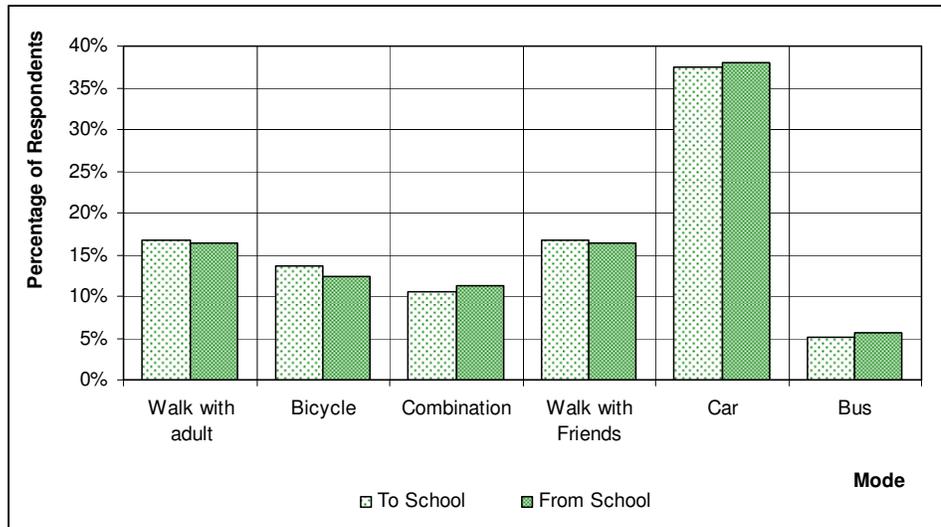


Figure 11: Pupils main mode of travel to and from Scoil Na Mainistreach, Celbridge

4.6 Table 4 reveals the main reasons for pupils not walking or cycling to school. Key reasons given for not walking were weather, road safety, travel distance, personal safety and the age of the child. Key reasons given for not cycling were road safety, the age of the child, weather and personal safety. Interestingly 8% of children were said to 'prefer to walk' and 9% 'prefer to cycle'.

Reason	If your child does not ____, why?	
	Walk (%)	Cycle (%)
Weather	23%	15%
Road safety	21%	31%
Too far	17%	4%
Don't like walking	1%	-
Don't like cycling	-	0%
Child too young	11%	21%
Personal safety	13%	12%
Child prefers to cycle	9%	-
Child prefers to walk	-	8%
No parking for bikes	-	0%
Too much to carry	-	7%
Other	5%	2%

Table 4: Reasons for not walking and cycling to Scoil Na Mainistreach, Celbridge

Other issues

4.7 The questionnaire also provided parents with the opportunity to provide additional detailed comments relating to locations on the journey to school that they felt could be made safer. A number of issues were raised, namely:

- Parents park in dangerous positions outside the school and also run red lights outside the school. "Parents are not confident to let children cross the road" (21 comments);
- Pedestrian and cycle crossing safety from Hazelhatch Road, across the pedestrian bridge, over English Row and Main Street (16 comments);
- Children do not understand how to use the traffic signals at the Shackleton Road/Clane Road junction. "There is not enough time for children to cross both sets of lights but they try to run straight across" (8 comments);
- The footway on Ardclough Road is inadequate from Simmonstown Manor to Temple Manor. Street lighting and speeding on this section were also raised as particular concerns (11 comments);
- Issues relating to the footway at Castletown Gates (5 comments);
- Failure of traffic signals/pedestrian crossing facilities (4 comments);
- Traffic entering and exiting Tesco car park, particularly when using mobile phones (4 comments);
- There is often a large puddle at the Shackleton Road/St Raphaels Manor junction, and when traffic is heavy, cars block the pedestrian route across the junction (4 comments);
- The speed of vehicles on Shackleton Road (3 comments);
- There are too many entrances to estates off Shackleton Road and cars exit the junctions too quickly, not taking account of those using the cycle track (2 comments);

- The width of the footpath on Oldtown Road at the entrance to St. Patrick's Park (1 comment);
- A cycle lane is needed on Church Road (1 comment);
- Children cycling to school do not use the cycle tracks (1 comment);
- A school crossing patrol is provided at Scoil Mochua, but has left by the time that children from Scoil Na Mainistreach have walked that far to the crossing point (1 comment);
- Children from Abbey Farm cross the main road that the entrance to the estate. The volume and speed of traffic is an issue, as is traffic entering and exiting the petrol station (1 comment);
- 'Slow down' signs are needed at Priory Way (1 comment); and
- A footpath is required from the Clane Road/Killelea junction to St Wolstons.

Survey Bias

- 4.8 Parents' response to the questionnaire was not even throughout the school, being skewed towards responses from the parents of older children, 32% of the parents responded that they had other children studying at Scoil Na Mainistreach, and 54% responded that they had other children studying at other schools in Celbridge. None of the children of those responding had been involved in an accident whilst travelling to and from school in the last 12 months. One child was reported as having a disability which affects the way that it travels to school.
- 4.9 Scoil Na Mainistreach has comprehensively embraced Safer Routes to School and the programme has been successful. Recommendations for expanding the programme to other schools are contained in Chapter 7.0.