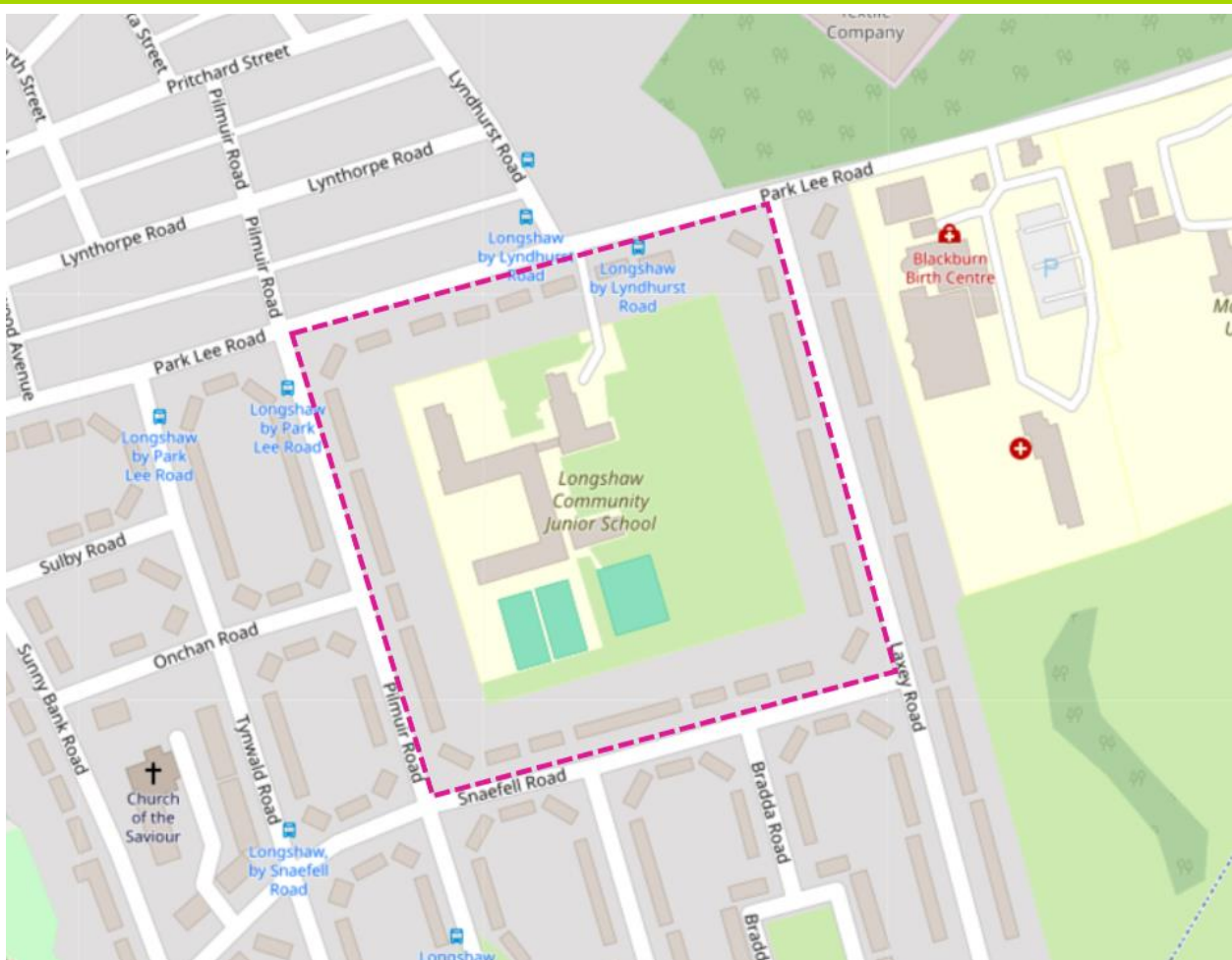


School Route Audit

Longshaw Community Junior School - Summary Report

18th June 2025

Blackburn with Darwen



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We are Living Streets, the charity for everyday walking. Our mission is to achieve a better walking environment and inspire people to walk more.





Living Streets

We are Living Streets, the UK charity for everyday walking.

We want to create a walking nation, free from congested roads and pollution, reducing the risk of preventable illness and social isolation and making walking the natural choice. We believe that a walking nation means progress for everyone.

Our ambition is to get people of all generations to enjoy the benefits that this simple act brings and to ensure all our streets are fit for walking/wheeling.



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1 Executive Summary

Living Streets was commissioned by Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council to conduct a School Route Audit with Longshaw Community Junior School. The issues identified through the collaboration with the local school community can complement the ambitions of the Local Authority and help them to secure funding for street safety improvements.

A School Route Audit (SRA) engages pupils, staff and parents in assessing the walking environment around a school. It focuses on the experiences of those who use or could use the routes, not just those who manage them. SRAs identify barriers to walking and their impacts, and recommends improvements to make routes safer and more accessible.

Pedestrians include people of all mobility levels, including those using mobility aids.

The SRA took place on Wednesday 18th June 2025 at 9:30 am. The audit group comprised two Living Streets' staff members and 12 further attendees - 8 pupils, the deputy head, a parent/local resident, a road safety council officer and a local ward councillor.

Prior to setting out on the SRA, a briefing was held at the school to introduce all attendees to the current, ongoing work the school was delivering with Living Streets to encourage active travel. The briefing also provided a summary of the findings of the pre-audit parental survey, along with a background to the purpose and process of the SRA, and an arena for attendees to raise initial thoughts and concerns. At this briefing, Headteacher Mr Jonathan Berry reiterated the pressing concern and need for the installation of a safe pedestrian crossing point across Park Lee Rd

The audit group walked the route and discussed issues that impact walking and wheeling. Living Streets has made recommendations to address the issues and impacts identified. The issues are mapped [here](#). These issues are also listed alongside the impacts and the recommendations in the accompanying table.

Living Streets thanks all participants for their valuable time and contributions.

Map of Audit Area

Image (A)



Imagery © 2025 Airbus, Infoterra Ltd & Bluesky, Maxar Technologies, map data © 2025

Background and Area Context

Longshaw Community Junior School joined Living Streets' WOW Walk-to-School Challenge in April 2024, and this behaviour change initiative has had a sustained positive impact, with walk-all-the-way journeys to school up 13.5 percentage points and all-the-way car journeys to school down 28 percentage points on baseline data.

The school is located approximately 1.5km south of Blackburn centre and 0.5km east of the A666. Mills Hill train station lies 1.2km to the west of the school and Blackburn train station 1.4km to the north. Participants explained that bus stops and bus routes around

the audited area were redundant, and no services ran along these routes anymore (specifically Pilmuir Rd / Park Lee Rd).

The school is a three-form-entry, mixed gender, junior school, catering for approximately 360, 7–11-year-olds with intake from Year 3 to Year 6. The standard school day commences at 8:40am and ends at 3:20pm. Pupils and parents use a single pedestrian access point to enter/exit the school (as indicated in Image A)

A month prior to the audit, on the 13th May 2025, a fatal collision occurred on Pilmuir Road, Blackburn, between a pedestrian and a vehicle, which has had a profound impact on the school the local community.

The extended area around the audited route has recently undergone a full treatment of renewing and refreshing road markings, lineage, and roundabouts, with most work complete with the exception of the Laxey Rd / Manxman Rd roundabout, which was in progress at the time of the audit.

Cycling and walking improvements as identified through Blackburn with Dawen’s LCWIP which are building upon the existing Weavers Wheel cycle network and the Leeds & Liverpool canal towpath include the development of “Priority Route 5” from Hollins Bank to Royal Blackburn Hospital, via Manxman Rd which passes just 400m to the south of the school (<https://www.blackburn.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-06/UpdatedSEBlackburnMaps-Active-travel-routes.pdf>)



Above: Image B. Manxman Rd, cycling and walking “Priority Route 5” under development.

Main issues/impacts affecting the walking environment on this route around Longshaw Community Junior School, Park Lee Rd, Blackburn.

- Absence of a safe pedestrian crossing point across Park Lee Rd, increasing the risk of accidents involving children and parents, especially during peak times.
- Absence of traffic calming measures (speed humps, 20mph & School Zone signage) around the audited route, along with broken Vehicle Activated Speed sign on Park Lee Rd, increasing the risk of collisions and reducing safety for pedestrians in a critical area.
- At the Park Lee Rd / Pilmuir Rd junction, daily pavement parking over double yellow lines during school pick-up times obstructs pedestrian access and visibility. The excessively wide mouth of Pilmuir Rd exacerbates unsafe vehicle movements, while the absence of tactile paving and flush dropped kerbs across Pilmuir Rd compromises accessibility.

Other issues affecting the walking environment:

- Pedestrian footways are very narrow (especially on Pilmuir Rd) — impassable for double buggies or when pedestrians pass — further restricted by vegetation encroachment from adjacent properties and access impeded by steps. These issues forces pedestrians to walk on the carriageway creating serious safety risks.
- Footway surfaces with uneven paving (Park Lee Rd), cracked tarmac (Pilmuir Rd) and roots causing pavement uplift (Laxey Rd), presenting trip hazards and obstacles.
- Reports of anti-social behaviour and suspected drug dealing at a property close to the school, presenting safeguarding concerns.

Key recommendations include

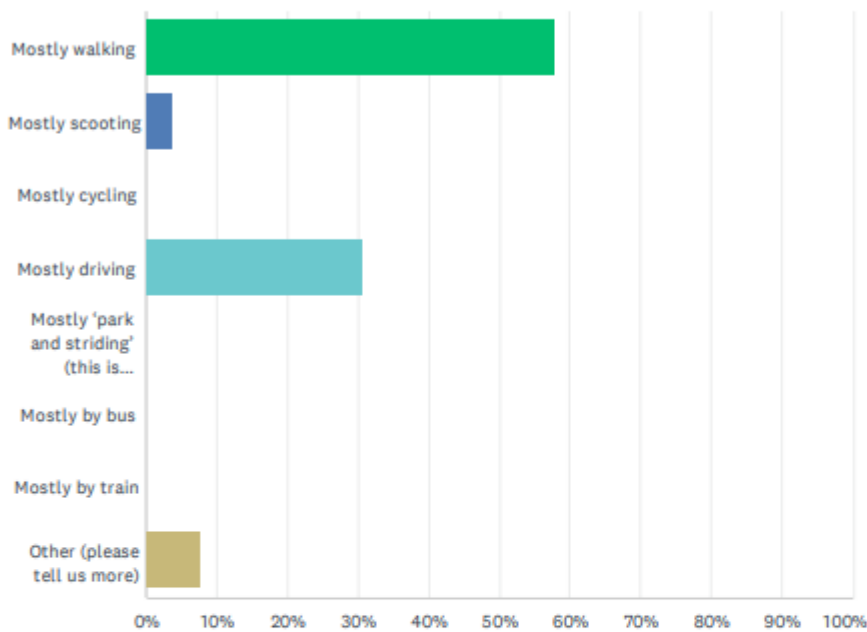
- Installation of a pedestrian crossing on Park Lee Rd to provide a safe crossing point for children and parents, particularly during peak school times.
- Introduction of traffic calming measures, including 20mph speed limits, school zone signage, and repair of the Vehicle Activated Speed sign to reduce vehicle speeds and improve pedestrian safety.
- Redesign the Park Lee Rd / Pilmuir Rd junction to narrow the carriageway, prevent pavement parking with physical deterrents, and improve accessibility with tactile paving and flush dropped kerbs.
- Upgrade and maintain pedestrian footways by widening paths where feasible, removing vegetation overgrowth, repairing uneven surfaces, and addressing access barriers such as steps.

2 Survey Results

Living Streets carried out a pre-audit parent survey to run alongside the audit process. The 26 responses received are summarised and provided below:

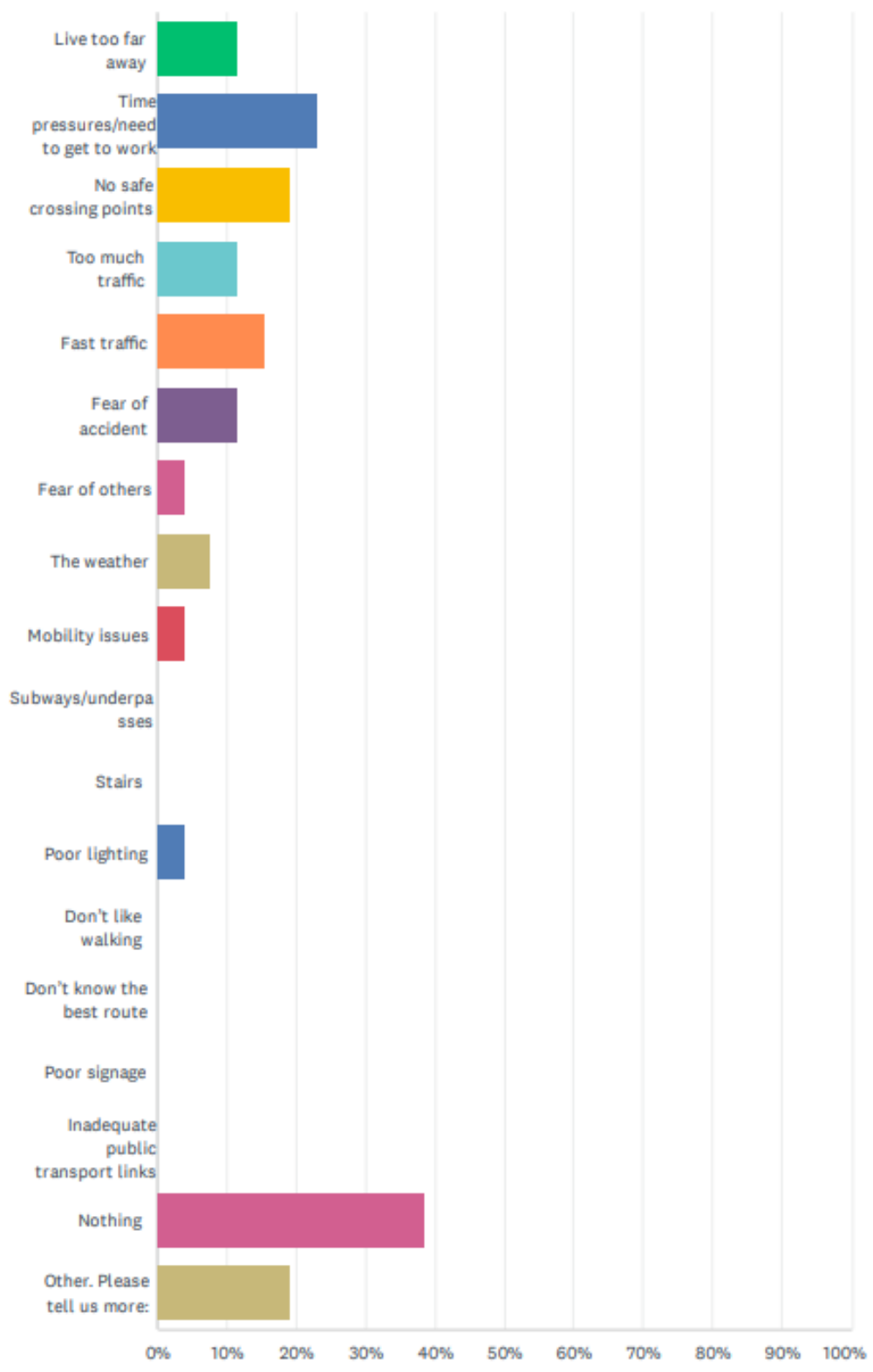
Q1 What is your family's usual way of travelling to and from school?

Answered: 26 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Mostly walking	57.69%	15
Mostly scooting	3.85%	1
Mostly cycling	0.00%	0
Mostly driving	30.77%	8
Mostly 'park and striding' (this is parking approx. 10 minutes away and walking the remainder of the journey)	0.00%	0
Mostly by bus	0.00%	0
Mostly by train	0.00%	0
Other (please tell us more)	7.69%	2
TOTAL		26

Q2 What prevents your family walking to school or walking more often?
Please tick all that apply.



Q3 Are there any particular problems around the school at either school drop off or pick up time that you would like to tell us more about e.g. dangerous vehicle movements, pavement parking etc Please tell us more (what is the issue and where).....

Answered: 20 Skipped: 6

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	The way people park on the corners and alot of the time there is a massive struggle for vehicles trying to travel up and down the road because of poorly parked cars this makes it dangerous for both drivers and pedestrians adding to that there is no safe designated crossing areas for children to walk across so they are running out from between these poorly parked cars which makes it almost impossible for drivers to see and highly dangerous for the children	6/12/2025 10:14 PM
2	My greatest concern is unsafe crossing points. Vehicular movements around school areas should be slower and maintaining slower speed limits considering unpredictable nature of children crossing roads.	6/11/2025 5:36 PM
3	Dangerous vehicle movement, pavement parking	6/11/2025 3:15 PM
4	No as I park up the road from the school on Park lee rd near a little field so that I am not parked outside anyone's house or causing an obstruction for others.	6/11/2025 2:57 PM
5	Parking on park lee rd at home time. Not being able to get out of the gates due to people standing there, other kids pushing each other in bushes and in the road. Pst	6/11/2025 2:54 PM
6	Idiots who don't know how to slow down on Park Lee Rd, idiots who still park on the yellow zigzag lines. Kids running out from between parked cars. Narrow pathways due to cars being half parked on the pavements	6/11/2025 2:54 PM
7	Sometimes cars are flying down the road	6/11/2025 1:07 PM
8	Pavement parking, dog muck on pavements	6/11/2025 12:15 PM
9	Cars drive on to the pavement not just a little most of their car is on the pavement when we walk to and from school we almost get run over by at least 4 cars the driver shouts at people to move out of their way but we are on the path so why should we have to move Plus all the paving stones for the pavement are cracked and my daughter trips up daily ruining shoes constantly people could cut their hedges back to	6/11/2025 12:05 PM
10	Very busy road directly outside school. Only allows one lane of traffic due to cars parked up and down the street. No zebra crossing near the school. Dangerous cars trying to squeeze past each other.	6/11/2025 11:29 AM
11	Very dangerous parking and awful congestion	6/11/2025 11:22 AM
12	Cars parking on double yellows, almost fully on pavement, driving in pavement whilst children are near the car, driving too fast and lots park on the double yellows on the corner so harder to cross.	6/11/2025 11:12 AM
13	No zebra crossing	6/11/2025 11:08 AM
14	The traffic outside of school is extreme and is an accident waiting to happen	6/11/2025 11:03 AM
15	Cars driving to fast, parking dangerously, stopping right outside school.	6/11/2025 10:55 AM
16	Pick up time there is quite alot of stand still traffic which is not just dangerous for the drivers but for the parents and children coming out of school, there are also drivers driving down park lee road at some speed, cars parking on street corners is also an issue as it blocks blind spots, pilmer road would be better if it wasn't a single lane and noone can move if that road is blocked with traffic trying to join onto park lee road	6/11/2025 10:50 AM

17	A lot of cars near school park on the double yellow lines where the children need to cross. This means the children have to step out onto the road to see if a car is coming or not then cross which is dangerous. There is also a man who lives on park Lee rd who continues to shout abuse at the children and the parents walking down the road after school, I have had an incident with him myself which has been reported to the police but he is still doing it and is scaring the children and making everyone feel uneasy.	6/11/2025 10:48 AM
18	Pavement parking is the worst and some drivers have no awareness of children.	6/11/2025 10:47 AM
19	No	6/11/2025 10:45 AM
20	Outside the school also too many cars parked were they should not be	6/11/2025 10:45 AM

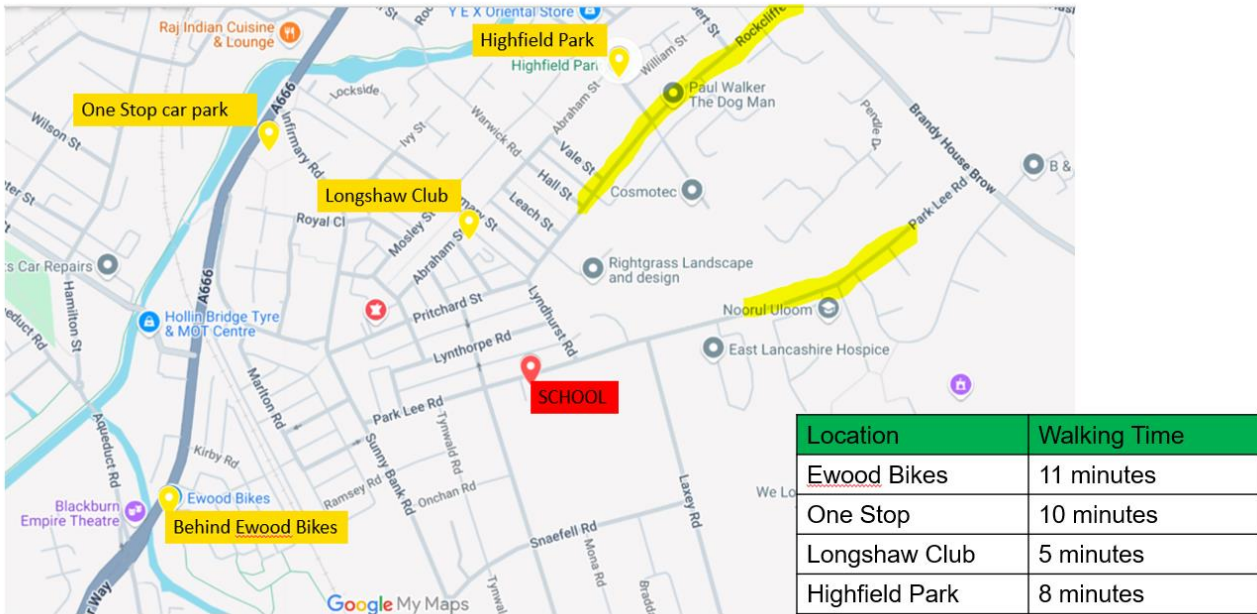
Q4 Many schools like to set up Park & Stride locations. These are for those families that travel some distance to school each day and would find it difficult to travel the full journey in an active way. The idea is that families park 10 minutes away from school and walk the remaining distance. This can hugely help to reduce congestion and traffic danger around the school gates. Are there any locations which you know of that could make a good Park & Stride location?

Answered: 26 Skipped: 0

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	No	6/13/2025 10:23 AM
2	I can not think of anywhere	6/12/2025 10:14 PM
3	Highfield park	6/11/2025 5:36 PM
4	Longshaw Club Park on Brain Street	6/11/2025 3:15 PM
5	No there is no where I can think that would accommodate parking 10 mins away.	6/11/2025 2:57 PM
6	Parking is horrendous everywhere	6/11/2025 2:54 PM
7	No	6/11/2025 2:54 PM
8	No	6/11/2025 1:55 PM
9	Not sure	6/11/2025 1:07 PM
10	No	6/11/2025 12:15 PM
11	From the top of parklee rd	6/11/2025 12:05 PM
12	Park on Rockcliffe street and walk the 5 minutes to school.	6/11/2025 11:29 AM
13	No	6/11/2025 11:22 AM
14	Don't know	6/11/2025 11:12 AM
15	Bottom	6/11/2025 11:10 AM
16	No	6/11/2025 11:08 AM
17	Behind Ewood bikes	6/11/2025 11:03 AM
18	None	6/11/2025 11:01 AM
19	No	6/11/2025 10:55 AM
20	No	6/11/2025 10:50 AM
21	Not aware of any good locations	6/11/2025 10:48 AM
22	No	6/11/2025 10:47 AM
23	No	6/11/2025 10:47 AM
24	No	6/11/2025 10:45 AM
25	No idea	6/11/2025 10:45 AM
26	No	6/11/2025 10:45 AM

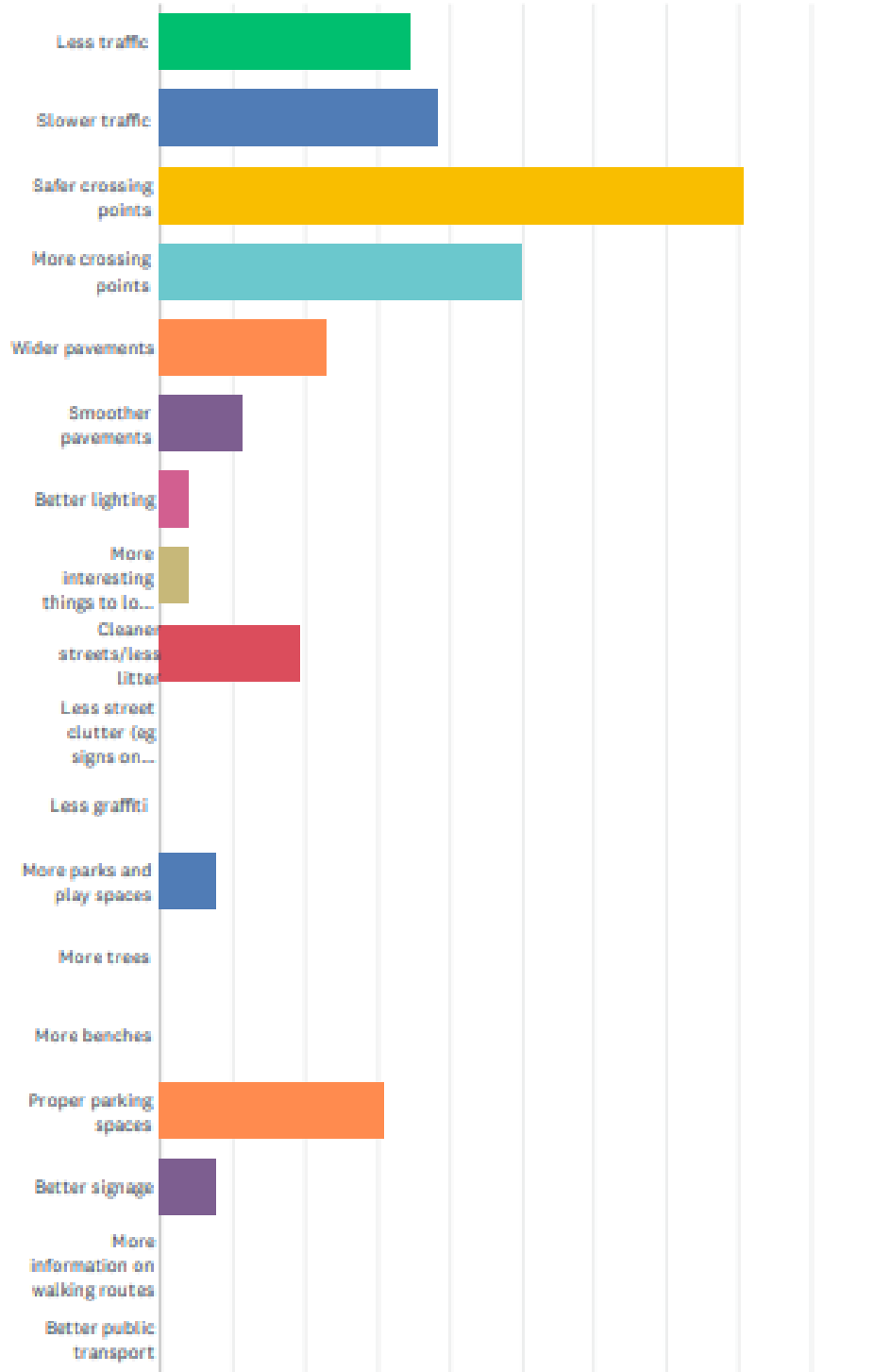
Note: The school does not yet have a dedicated Park & Stride location. The key suggestions along with walking distances have been mapped below for further consideration by the school for feasibility and further exploration:

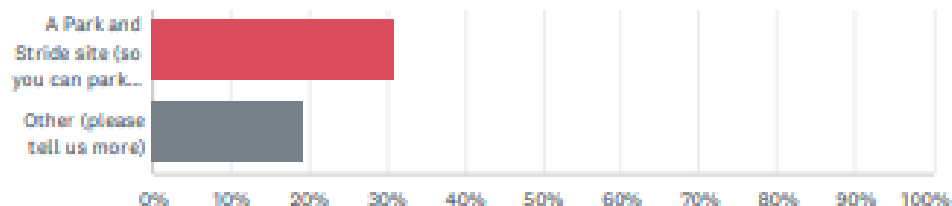
Park & Strider locations – parent suggestions:



Q5 What would be YOUR top 5 priorities of what you would change to improve the walking environment near the school

Answered: 26 Skipped: 0





Q6 The final question: Is there anything else not covered by the other questions that you would like to tell us about your journey to school, the walking environment around the school and/or how you would like these things to change?

Answered: 18 Skipped: 8

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	There is a man who lives down the road from the school who has been shouting abuse to younger children and adults which police have been involved on a few occasions but nothing seems to be done about this he scared my daughter to the point of not wanting to go to school and we only live round the corner has happened for a while now but it is fair at all	6/13/2025 10:23 AM
2	I think that the safety of our kids is the most important thing and the fact that there is no safe crossing zones like a zebra or traffic light crossings make an already dangerous road a 1000 times worse i think that the road being narrow to begin with doesnt help and at school run times the massive influx of vehicles rushing to get the children between the 2 schools on time with such a short time frame to do it now there is no early birds makes it that parents are in such a rush not to be late stupid mistakes are causing massive dangers as a result	6/12/2025 10:14 PM
3	PCSO, lolipop lady	6/11/2025 3:15 PM
4	No	6/11/2025 2:57 PM
5	Kids and parents to not keep swearing every other word	6/11/2025 2:54 PM
6	Nk	6/11/2025 1:55 PM
7	No	6/11/2025 12:15 PM
8	No	6/11/2025 12:05 PM
9	Car parking on the double yellows. No zebra crossing.	6/11/2025 11:29 AM
10	No	6/11/2025 11:22 AM
11	No	6/11/2025 11:08 AM
12	Pilmuir road is extremely dangerous around school start and finish times. The bend from park Lee road going onto pilmuir is a blind corner for pedestrians because of parents parking there. Ive seen many close calls with accidents on that bend. Its extremely difficult to cross safely for parents/carers and children	6/11/2025 11:03 AM
13	Anti social behaviour from some adults that live near school needs to be stopped.	6/11/2025 10:55 AM
14	No	6/11/2025 10:50 AM
15	No	6/11/2025 10:48 AM
16	No	6/11/2025 10:47 AM
17	No	6/11/2025 10:45 AM
18	No	6/11/2025 10:45 AM

Issue record

Issue no.	Written by:	Checked/ approved by:	Issued by:
Draft 01	Name: Daniel O'Connell Date: 30/06/2025	Craig Harris 11/07/2025	
Final Issue	Name: Daniel O'Connell Date: 17/07/2025	Craig Harris 17/07/2025	

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