

# Dublin City Council School Mobility Programme

Presentation

On St Gabriel's Green School Zone Cowper Street  
Jan 2023

Niamh Ni Cholmain

School Mobility Officer – City Transport Projects



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Bhaile Átha Cliath  
Dublin City Council

# Need for Intervention



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16 02 21 Applied For School Zone

- Speeding
- Illegal Parking
- No Warden crossing Road markings

School Mobility Site Visit Done with Principal during COVID April 2021

- Speeding Oxmanstown Rd at point warden crossing
- Increased volume of traffic going down Cowper Street
- Drivers not aware presence of School
- Parking in School Keep Clear
- No congestion
- Anticipate increased numbers of students in the upcoming years due to increased planned social housing
- Children with needs arrive by taxi bus to school gates and require this as set down area so they can be assisted to go into the classroom.

18 10 22 School Principal / **Parent / Resident Group advised on current issues**

- Congestion when cars moving down the road at school time
- Children being dropped middle of the Road
- Children no visibility of the road due to parking at school gates ( this is commuter parking , not teachers , residents)
- Children have no visibility of the road if trying to cross to waiting parents on Northside opposite school gate
- Lack of space on the footpath for children exiting from special needs bus taxis
- Cars being left on corners
- School advise that most students walk. Some parents who went to the school themselves and who were brought up in the area are returning with their children and they are often driving a distance

## Cowper Street, D7 Green School Zone

In 2019 Cowper Street was identified as a street for tree planting as part of the co-designed Stoneybatter Greening Strategy.

Bringing the tree planting and school zone initiatives, Dublin City Council (DCC) are developing a proposal for the installation of a 'Green' School Zone on Cowper Street.

The design objectives of this 'Green' School Zone is to increase safety on Cowper street so that active travel (cycle, walk, wheel and scoot) to and from school is encouraged and to create an enhanced green environment where air quality in the neighborhood is improved.

The aim of this project is to improve the streetscape with a focus on quality, character and safety.

The tree planting will provide a number of ecosystem services that meet climate change objectives; creating a green corridor for wildlife, protecting against surface water flooding and providing shade to reduce heat during periods of urban heat-waves.



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# School Mobility Programme

## School Zones



Central Model School , Marlborough St , D1

## Safe Routes To School



Mock up Harold's Cross Road Safe Routes to School Design Guide (Version 1.1 09/03/2022)

National Transport Authority Funded School Zones and Safe Route To School Programme. Now to progress interim programme of works to improve safety at the school gate through these programmes at 10 locations, 13 schools.

**This is subject to current staffing resources in Dublin City Council**

[Safe Routes to School \(SRTS\) Programme - National Transport](#)

[Safe Routes to School – Green-Schools](#)



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# Progress

## School Mobility Programme



*School Zone , Scoil Eoin, Kilbarrack, D5*



*Safe Routes to School Design Guide (Version 1.1 09/03/20222)*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| ✓ 119 eligible Applications                                   | ✓ 27 Round 1 - 25 are School Zones  |
| ✓ 67 Installed to date  | ✓ 23 Round 2 - 4 School Zones.  |
| ✓ 52 awaiting design - school visits done -10 at Final Design | ✓ 13 Assessed and at Concept design   |
| ✓ Positive Feedback   | ✓ 27 have completed Green Schools parent travel surveys on where and how traveling to school and attitudes to walking cycling |
| ✓ Team and Partnerships                                       |   |

# School Zones



- National Transport Authority funded;
- First 2 School Zones installed in late August 2020 - Francis Street School, D8 and Central Model School, D1;
- Contacted all schools inviting expression of interest;
- Site visits and interviews with School Principals to address needs for all including accessibility issues in the design;
- Design Elements School Zone gateway road surface sign, pencil bollards, colourful road markings, improved road safety signage; additional disabled parking where possible;
- Assistance for school to share information with school community and neighbours ;
- Awareness on benefits and how to use.



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# Benefits School Zones



- Highlight the presence of the school;
- Increase safety at the front of school by preventing parked or stopped cars from blocking visibility of pedestrians crossing ;
- Encourage drivers to slow down via eye catching traffic calming measures;
- Discourage vehicle drop off / pick up at school gates reduce congestion and air pollution, increase visibility of road and path;
- Keeping the School Zones clear of traffic makes it easier to walk, cycle and scoot ;
- Promote active travel to and from school;
- School Zone educational resources make the links between air pollution and traffic, health benefits of active travel and action on Climate Change.



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# Online Survey 2022

- 20% made a submission ;
- A reduction in the rate of parking on the footpath, illegal parking, congestion and speeding;
- **97% agreed School Zone improved safety at the school gate;**
- Schools rank **Park and Stride** followed by walking and cycling buses as future initiatives for schools to set up to support active travel.



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# Feedback On School Zones

*Amazing, cool, I just came out and saw them... the cars won't park at the side now so that we can get past... I think it's a lot safer" Cole and Jackson, aged 9 and 10.*

*"It makes our school a happier cooler place."*  
Ollie, Age 8

*"I can come on my bike now."* Brogan, Age 7



***"The school zone on St Peter's Rd for the St Peter's National School where my son attends has been a blessing. It has given him the confidence to walk from school to Tesco on the Phibsborough Rd without the fear of a car flying up or down St Peter's Rd. Congestion has been greatly reduced."*** Parent, St. Peter's NS, Phibsborough

# Positive impact



*Before and after photos, Canal Way Educate Together National School*

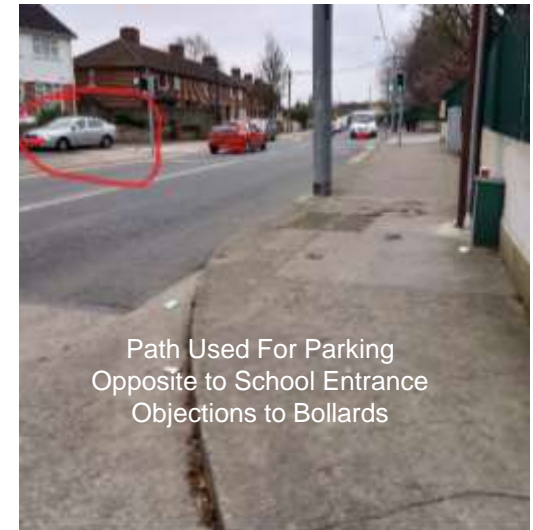
*The safety on the street in front of our building has improved far greater than we would have ever expected. Families walk on the road now - it is completely pedestrianised.... All families have commented on how more relaxed and safer the journey is to the front gates. Principal, Canal Way Educate Together NS, D8.*



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# Challenges

- *Staffing Resources within DCC, engineers had to return to Traffic Advisory Group Post COVID, AECOM NTA contract on School Zones ceased 2021 . DCC Tender offering not picked up on external suppliers early 2022.*
- Neighbours Objections, aesthetics, loss of parking including using paths for parking;
- Removal of Parking Bays;
- Deterioration in painted circles due to undercarriage pollution;
- Suitability for arterial roads heavy traffic ;
- Processes of sharing information that School Zones are being installed.



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# Technical challenges

Gaelscoil Cholaiste Mhuire, Parnell Square,  
National Cultural Site Not Suitable For Pencil Bollards



St Louis Rathmines Granite Edged Kerbing not suitable For Pencil Bollards



Georges Hill Primary School,  
Cobble Stones Historic Markets  
Not Suitable for Pencil Bollards



Existing Road Surface Does  
not Take surface paint



Roads Too Narrow for Bollards





# Post Installation Challenges

- Parking and U-turns in the School Zone;
- Parking on footpaths and blocking driveways; on edge of School Zone;
- Aggressive behaviour towards Principals and school wardens and neighbours;
- Parents misinterpret School Zones as a drop off.

*There are still quite a number of parents parking on St Peter's Rd and some taking the opportunity to throw their kids out of the car as the Lollipop Lady stops traffic. This is a concern, should an accident occur not only will this have a negative effect on the children, the school but the surrounding community in general. I think the parents could do with some educating on how the school zone is meant to work.*



Scoil Aine , All Saints Drive Customer Complaint 12 Sep



## SCHOOL TRAFFIC

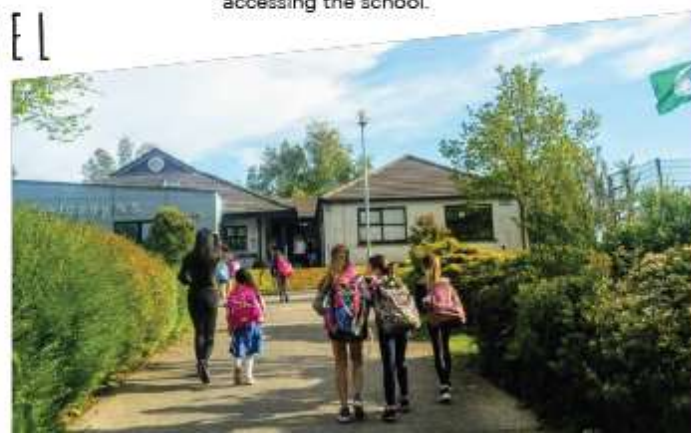
Traffic at the front of school presents a safety hazard and contributes to poor air quality. Traffic/parked cars can make it difficult to see children crossing the road. If a car parks on a kerb it can block access and cause overcrowding, forcing children, prams and wheelchairs onto the road. Leaving an engine running (idling) creates unnecessary air pollution at the school gate and is harmful to the health of children.

## USING THE SCHOOL ZONE

To support children traveling to school safely and actively, traffic and congestion must be reduced within the School Zone. To achieve this, drop-offs and pick-ups by car could be made outside of the School Zone. Traffic should slow down when passing through the School Zone and drivers must be extra vigilant of walkers, cyclists and scooting children who are accessing the school.

## SUPPORTING ACTIVE TRAVEL

Parents and guardians can support the School Zone by walking, cycling or scooting to school with children. By reducing the presence of cars at school gates, children can travel to school actively, safely and independently. If you are driving a child to school, be mindful of the School Warden's signals and drive/park sensibly, legally and with consideration for vulnerable road users at all times.





# Opportunities



## Green Schools Leaflet



## Protection of Cycle Lane St Gabriels BallyFermot, D10



*Neighbourhood Regeneration Armagh Road  
Crumlin*



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# Partnerships and Collaboration

- Communications Toolkit with Green-Schools;
- Liaising with An Garda Síochána and Dublin Parking ; Enforcement;
- Liaising Roads and Safety Education and Training / school warden service;
- Engaging with Local Area Offices & Sports Development to support Park and Strides , Walking , Cycling Buses;
- Development Of Bike Heroes , School Zone Superheroes using the Bicycle Heroes ( BYCS) and Green School Active Travel Officers



*Students Auditing Their School Zone Scoil Íde,  
Cromcastle Green, Dublin 5*



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***Thank You***



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