



South Dublin County Council

School Street Pilot Project Information Report for ACMs

1. Overview

A school street is a road outside a school, or schools, with a temporary restriction on motorised traffic during school drop-off and pick-up times. The restriction, generally, applies to school related traffic and through traffic. There are several examples of School Streets within the U.K. the first in London was introduced by the [Borough of Camden in 2016 on Macklin Street, Covent Garden at St. Joseph's Catholic School](#), they have since gone on to develop three more and with plans to undertake feasibility studies on two more streets. In Ireland, the School Street is a relatively unknown concept, however, since November 2019, Fingal County Council is delivering a [School Street Pilot at St. Oliver Plunkett's N.S., Malahide](#), but with benefits for neighbouring St. Andrew's N.S. on Church Road, Malahide. Figure 1 and 2 demonstrate an example of the before and after implementation of the school street in Malahide.



Fig 1: Grove Road, Malahide.



Fig 2: Church Road, Malahide.

A mixture of interventions can be used, depending on the street environment and appetite of those involved, to curtail school traffic and through traffic from entering the street during hours of operation. For example, Fingal County Council adopted a mixture of signage, educational initiatives and pop-up barriers as part of their school street.



Fig 3: Pop-up bollards Macklin St., London.



Fig 4: School Warden manning bollards Grove Rd.

The South Dublin County Council School Street Project aims to follow a similar process as those cited above by exploring the feasibility of introducing key interventions into the wider school environment to facilitate a reduction in the number of cars arriving at the school gate. Among interventions that may be considered are, but not exclusive to, the use of the provisions of the Section 75 of the Roads Act, 1993 which enables temporary road closures.

2. Rationale

Many schools within the South Dublin County Council administrative area suffer from road safety related issues outside their school such as traffic congestion and inconsiderate parking. Statistics sourced from the CSO show that for South Dublin children aged 5 - 12 years travelling to school the car is the most preferred mode followed by: walking; travelling by bus and cycling to school being the least preferred mode.

Children at School aged between 5 - 12 yrs	Children at School aged between 5 - 12 yrs (2011)	Percentage Modal Share (2011)	Children at School aged between 5 - 12 yrs (2016)	Percentage Modal Share (2016)
On foot	12,770	43%	13,875	43%
Bicycle	478	2%	756	2%
Bus, minibus or coach	1,620	5%	1,477	5%
Train, DART or Luas	25	0%	72	0%
Motorcar: Passenger	14,866	50%	16,201	50%
	29,759	100%	32,381	100%

Table 1: Comparison of 2011 and 2016 Means of Travel Census Data for Children Aged 5 - 12 yrs within South Dublin County.

In addition, a research report by [Dr. Grainne O'Sullivan](#) cites road deaths as the main cause of child mortality in Ireland, accounting for approximately 37% of all childhood deaths. Almost 50% of these fatalities are pedestrians, while 20% are passengers. Road traffic injuries were the second leading cause of hospital admission over a 5-year period, 2010- 2015. This view is supported by the [2018 Pedestrian and Cyclists](#) report from the European Road Safety Observatory (ERSO) which suggests that pedestrians and cyclists comprise around 21% and 8% of all road traffic deaths in EU countries respectively with children (younger than 14yrs) having the highest percentage of pedestrian deaths and children between 5 and 14 years of age having the highest cyclist deaths.

Despite these worrying trends according to a [2018 Annual Report](#) by Green-Schools Ireland 82% of students would prefer to travel to school in a sustainable way. Cycling, walking and scooting are examples of active (sustainable) modes of travel, they provide an opportunity for children to gain exercise on the journey to school, they reduce traffic congestion as there are less cars and they improve the local environment by reducing noise and air pollution. Active travel is generally promoted for its environmental, health and social benefits. However, a key prevention to more children using active modes of travel is having a safe space in which to do so.

3. Schools - selection criteria

The Council has set out a list of criteria to be weighted against primary schools to scope potential schools for the project. The list of criteria is:

1. Presence of School Warden;
2. Road category outside school i.e. Regional, Local or Residential;
3. Bus route outside school;
4. Whether the school is involved with the Green-Schools Programme;
5. Is there opportunity to better connect the local environment to encourage walking and cycling;
6. Existing issues with parking and traffic congestion.

The presence of a School Warden has been identified as being critical to any potential school street project as they may be utilised to assist with the implementation phase of the project and provide feedback from the ground. Therefore, primary schools that have the services of a School Warden have been selected to be weighted against the selection criteria. A list of the schools is provided in Appendix 1.

In keeping with the current methodology of the Road Safety Strategy the school street project will take a three-pronged approach (Engineering, Education and Enforcement) and shortlisted schools will be further assessed for their suitability under the following:

1. Engineering - interventions available, appropriateness of interventions for location of project and opportunity for greater connectivity to the school;
2. Education - what level of engagement is required to inform school population and wider community of project aims/objectives and whether there is an appetite for such a project;
3. Enforcement - what level of enforcement is required to encourage road users to observe intervention measures.

4. Next steps and timeframe

Each of the schools in appendix 1 will be assessed against the criteria outlined above. Once this phase has been completed (June/July 2020) potential schools identified for the school street project will be shortlisted based on their assessment against the criteria. There will be one school/school street selected for each of the Area Committees and these will be presented at each of the ACMs in September 2020. On further consultation with project stakeholders a potential school street pilot will be selected and presented to each of the ACMs in October.

Only one School Street Project will be designed and delivered as part of this pilot project. A review of its success will follow on completion of the pilot (June 2022) before progressing to any potential new project. Figure 1 shows a timeframe for the initial selection phase of the school street project.

	TIMELINE						
ACTION	April 2020	May 2020	June 2020	July 2020	August 2020	September 2020	October 2020
1. Project criteria development							
2. Project introduction presented at ACMs							
3. Schools assessment against criteria							
4. Identification of school(s) for each Area Committee and presented at ACMs							
5. School Street Selection and presented at ACMs							

The National Transport Authority (NTA) provided funding towards the Fingal County Council School Street. It is envisaged that following the shortlisting and selection of the most appropriate site an approach will be made to the NTA to seek support for this project. Once funding has been secured for the project an extensive consultation period will commence with relevant stakeholders. On completion of the consultation period works can be expected to commence in 2021 for a launch date of September 2021. This timeframe is anecdotally supported by Fingal County Council who have suggested that a more appropriate start date for a project of this nature should be at the beginning of the school year.

Appendix 1 - South Dublin Primary Schools with provision of a School Warden

1. Lucan Palmerstown Fonthill Area Committee

St. Mary's B.N.S., Lucan
St. Mary's G.N.S., Lucan
St. Andrew's N.S., Lucan
Scoil Mhuire Primary School, Lucan
St. Thomas' J.N.S, and St. Anne's S.N.S., Lucan
Gaelscoil Eiscir Riada, Lucan
St. Bernadette's J.N.S. and S.N.S, Fonthill
St, Lorcan's B.N.S. and St. Brigid's G.N.S., Palmerstown
St. John the Evangelist N.S., Adamstown
Adamstown Castle E.T.N.S., Adamstown
Lucan East E.T.N.S., Griffeen
Griffeen Valley E.T.N.S. Griffeen
St. Mary's J.N.S. and S.N.S., Rowlagh
Divine Mercy J.N.S. and S.N.S. Balgaddy
St. Peter Apostle J.N.S. and S.N.S., Neilstown

2. Clondalkin Area Committee

St. Ronan's N.S., Deansrath
Scoil Nano Nagle J.N.S., Bawnogue

Talbot Senior N.S., Bawnogue
Clonburriss N.S., Clondalkin
Gaelscoil Chluain Dolcain
Gaelscoil na Camoige
Scoil Mhuire, Clondalkin
Scoil Naomh Íde, Clondalkin
Scoil Naomh Áine, Clondalkin
St. Finian's N.S., Newcastle
Holy Family N.S., Rathcoole
Scoil Chronain, Rathcoole
St. Mary's N.S., Saggart
Brittas N.S., Brittas

3. Tallaght Area Committee

St. Killian's J.N.S. and S.N.S., Castleview
St. Kevin's B.N.S. and G.N.S., Kilnamanagh
St. Brigid's J.N.S., Brookfield
St. Aidan's S.N.S., Brookfield
St. Anne's Primary School, Fettercairn
St. Mark's J.N.S. and S.N.S., Maplewood
Scoil Aonghusa J.N.S. and S.N.S., Balrothery
Scoil Rose, Balrothery
St. Dominic's N.S., Tallaght

St. Thomas' J.N.S. and S.N.S., Jobstown
Scoil Chaitlin Maude, Killinarden
Scoil Cnoc Mhuire Junior and Senior, Killinarden
Sacred Heart Primary School, Killinarden
St. Martin de Porres N.S., Aylesbury
Scoil Maelruain J.N.S. and S.N.S., Old Bawn

4. Rathfarnham Templeogue Firhouse Bohernabreena Area Committee

St. Cillian's School, Robinhood
St. Damian's N.S., Perrystown
Holy Spirit J.N.S. and S.N.S, Limekiln
St. Pius X B.N.S. and G.N.S., Terenure
Bishop Galvin N.S. and Bishop Shanahan N.S., Templeogue
St. Mary's B.N.S., Rathfarnham
Loreto Primary School, Rathfarnham
Scoil Carmel, Firhouse
Scoil Treasa, Firhouse
Gaelscoil Chnoc Liamhna
St. Colmcille's J.N.S. and S.N.S., Knocklyon
Scoil Naomh Pádraig, Rathfarnham
Ballyroan Boys' S.N.S., Rathfarnham
Scoil Mhuire, Whitechurch
Holy Rosary Primary School, Firhouse