



# SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

## Outline Delivery Plan

### Saint Rynagh's National School

Main Street

Banagher

Co. Offaly

R42 H221

Roll Number: 18157J



Green-Schools

An Taisce



National Transport Authority

## Purpose of Outline Delivery Plan

This Delivery Plan contains concept designs of interventions to improve infrastructure outside and on the routes to school with the aim of increasing the number of children who walk, cycle or scoot to school. These proposed interventions are based on survey findings, audits, consultation with the school and the Local Authority, and have been reviewed by the NTA and have been developed by the Safe Routes to School Officer.

The proposed interventions will require further work including detailed design, and input from stakeholders such as landowners and the local community. Some interventions may require planning permission. It is important to note that concepts and agreed solutions may not progress at the same time and some concepts may not be suitable, however all parties aim to work together to improve infrastructure in and around schools.

There is currently funding available to Local Authorities from the NTA to progress works arising from the Safe Routes to School programme.

**Prepared for:** Offaly County Council

**Prepared by:** Safe Routes to School

**Reviewed by:** National Transport Authority

**Date:** April 2023



## School Summary

- St. Rynagh's National School has approximately 240 students and 25 staff. The school is located on the Main Street of Banagher town and has one vehicular entrance and a separate pedestrian entrance. The speed limit throughout Banagher town is 50 km/ph.
- Staff parking, only, is on school grounds and students do not use the vehicular entrance to access the school. Parents vehicles do not access school grounds.
- Currently there are no cycling facilities leading to the school and no cycle access to the school; however cycle parking is available on school grounds.
- School buses drop off to the front of the school on the main road.

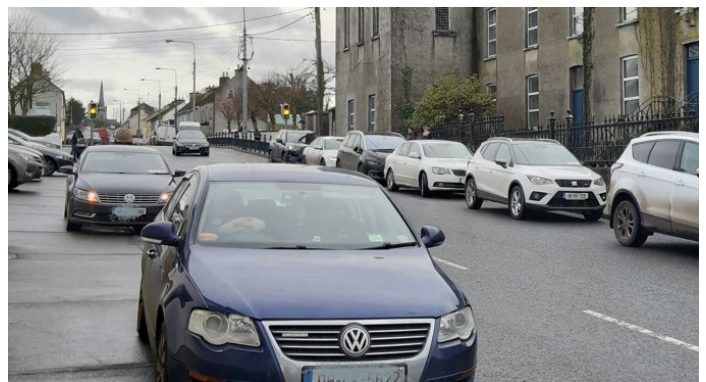
## Key Audit Findings

- Congestion and illegal / dangerous kerb side parking is prevalent in the vicinity of the school.
- Throughout the centre of the town the majority of streets are flanked by footways on both sides. Several have recently been upgraded. However, many are narrow, uneven, in a poor state of repair and lacking dished kerbs for accessibility.
- Footpath immediately to the front of school has a lengthy guardrail reducing the effective width and comfort for pedestrians.
- Poor driver behaviour is prevalent at pick up and drop off time with double parking and illegal U-turns commonplace.
- Main Street (R439-1) is wide and encourages excessive speed creating a danger for children cycling or walking to school.
- There are no cycling facilities in the town, however, there is scope to provide cycle infrastructure through narrowing of carriageways and removal of parking which will also contribute towards calming traffic speed.
- There are numerous potential park and stride locations within 500 metres of the school. There is potential for these to be linked to the school with cycle infrastructure.
- There is scope for enhancement of the public realm through improved pedestrian and cycle infrastructure providing a safer, lower speed environment for children to walk or cycle to school.
- Offaly CC has recently tightened the junction and provided a pedestrian crossing near top of Cuba Avenue across from the school, on opposite side of Main Street (R349-1) which has made a significant improvement to student safety.
- There are insufficient safe crossing points in the town.

## Supplementary information

- Banagher College Secondary School is located to the rear of St. Rynagh's NS and is also on the Safe Routes to School programme. There is pedestrian permeability leading to the secondary, from the Main Street (R439-1), less than 100 metres from St. Rynagh's NS. This Delivery Plan must be viewed in conjunction with the Delivery Plan for Banagher College Secondary School.

## Current Front of School Environment



St. Rynagh's National School is located on a T-junction along Main Street (R439-1) of Banagher town. Parents park along Main Street (R439-1) and Cuba Avenue for drop-off and collection. Bus parking is immediately outside the school and staff parking is on school grounds. Children do not use the vehicular entrance for access to the school. Speed of traffic is a danger with many examples of poor driver behaviour creating additional hazards for children that may walk, scoot or cycle to school.

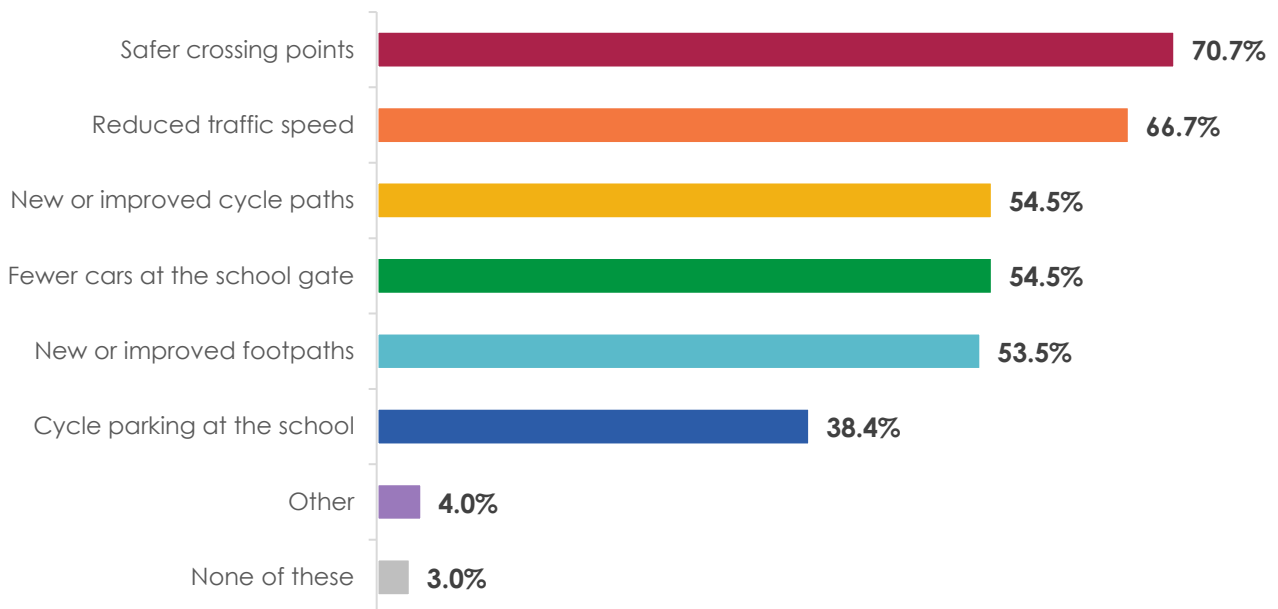
## Key Survey Findings

The school distributed the SRTS Parents Survey to all families of Saint Rynagh's National School.

There was a 65.0%\* response rate to the survey.

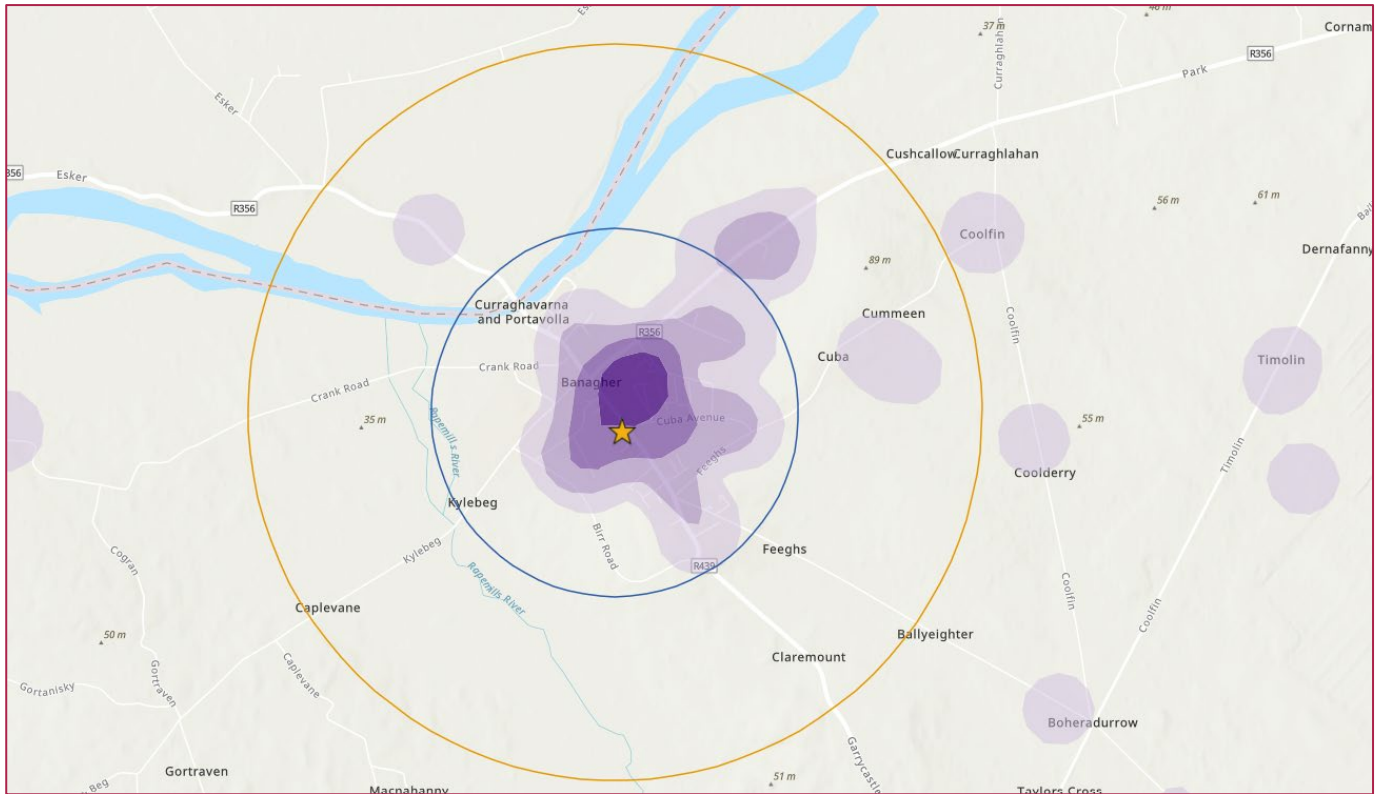
- **81.8%** of parents surveyed agreed that **road safety** is a problem around the school
- **99.0%** of parents would support works at the **front of school** that improve student safety, putting pedestrians and cyclists first
- **99.0%** of parents would support works that would improve the **walking and cycling** links to school

Parents selected the following, when asked what improvements would support them walking, cycling or scooting to school:






## Where students are travelling from




 School location

 1km radius

 2km radius

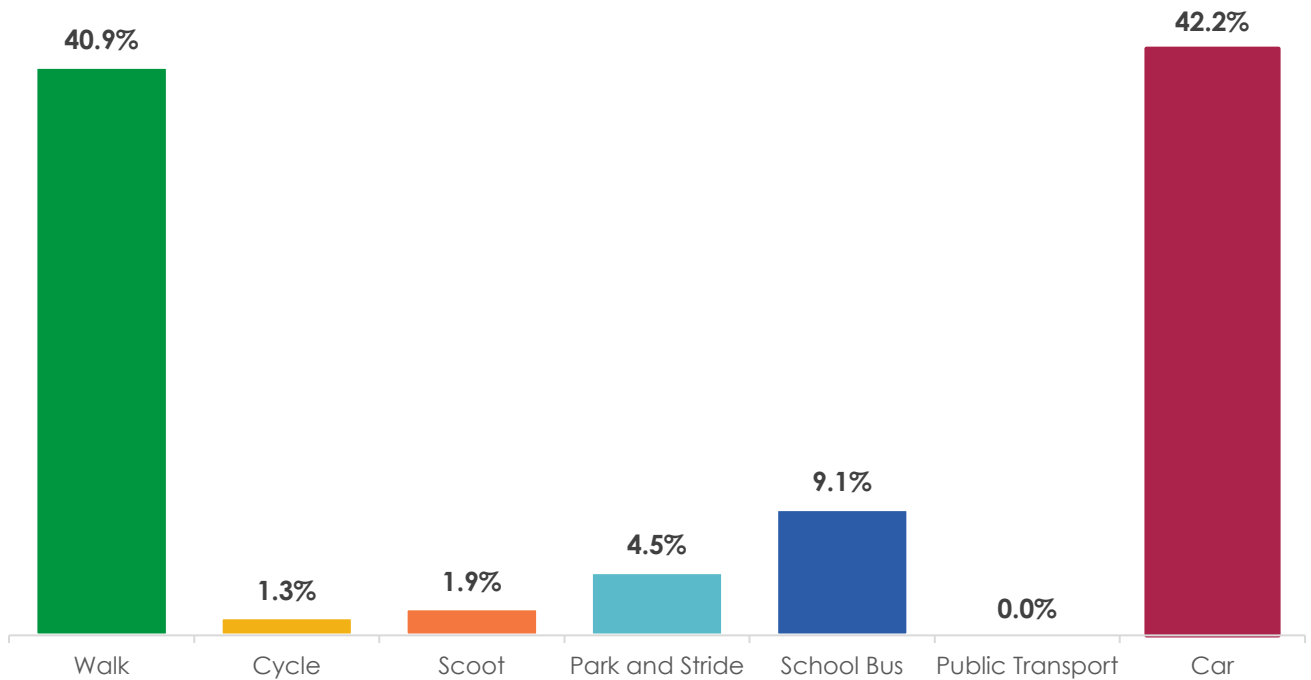
 Higher density of students travelling from this area



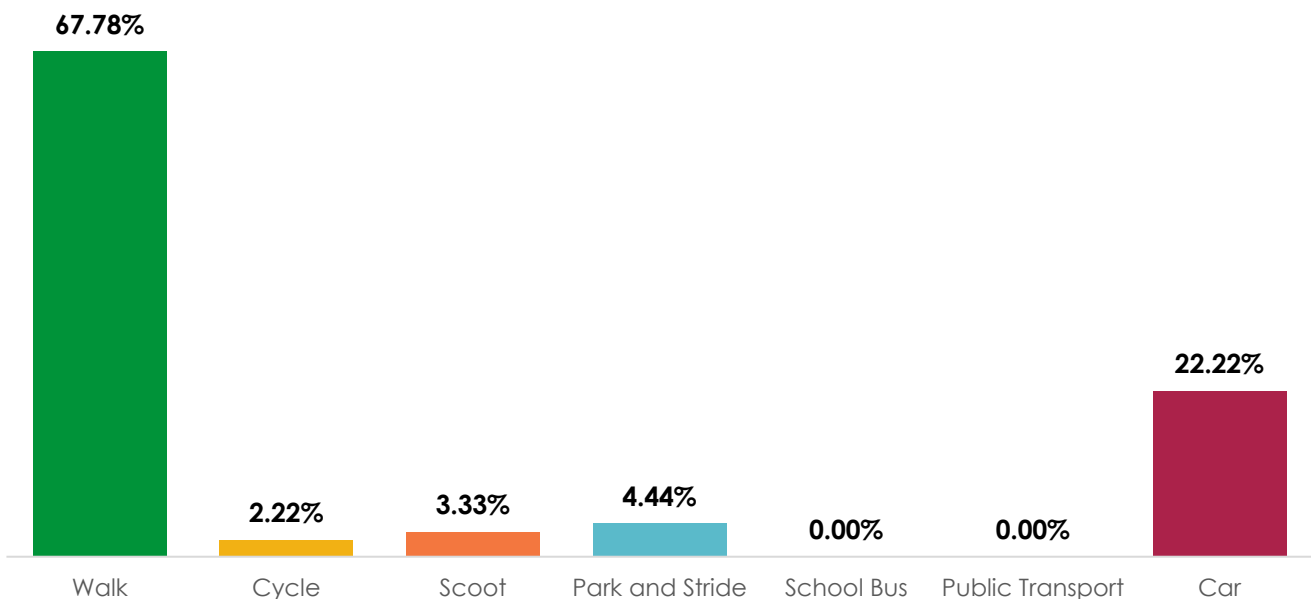
 Lower density of students travelling from this area

90 students (58.4%) start their journey within a 1km radius of the school  
108 students (70.1%) start their journey within a 2km radius of the school

## How students surveyed (154) are travelling to school



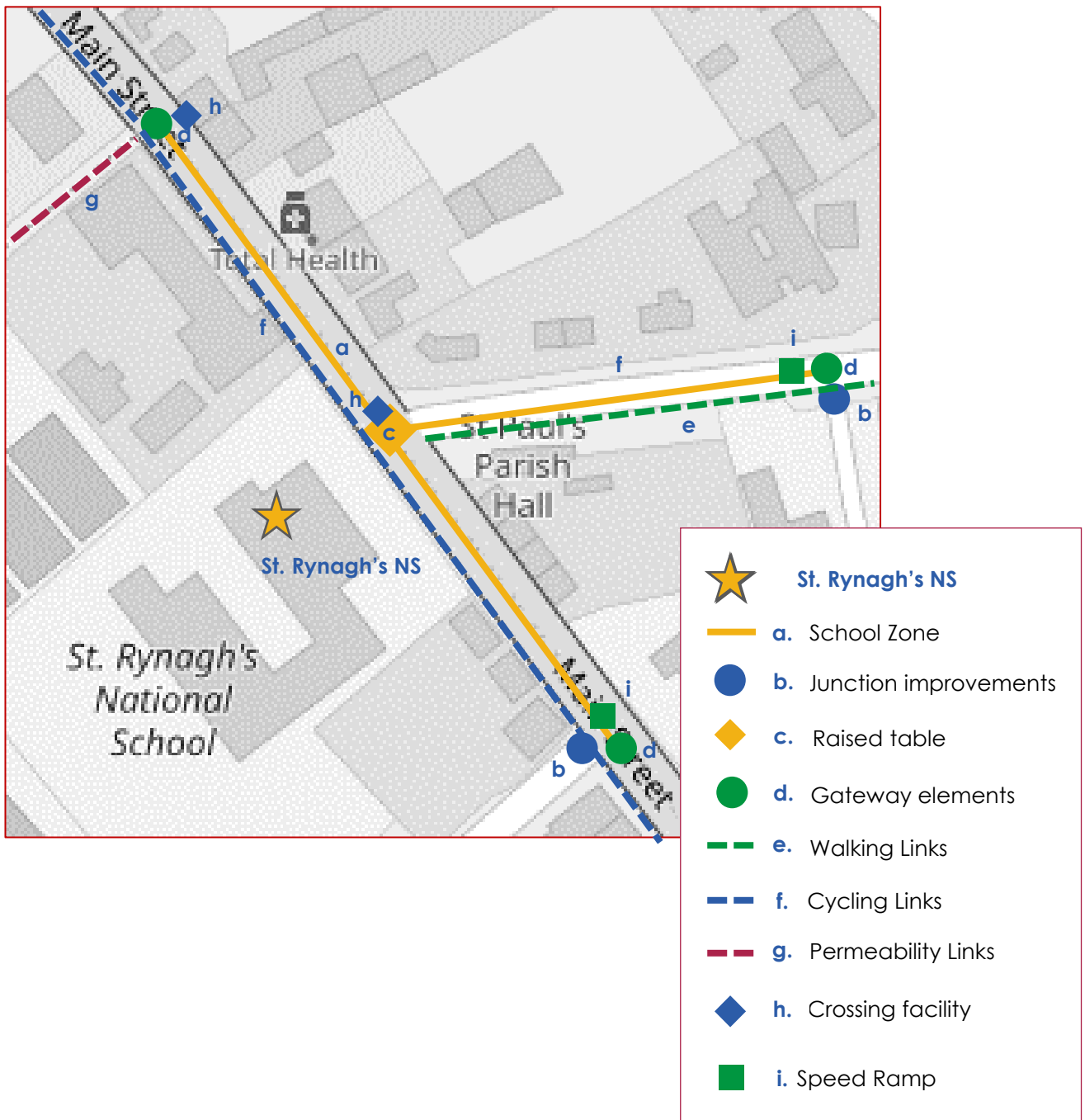
## How students within a 1km radius (90) are travelling to school



90 students start their journey within a 1km radius of the school, representing 58.4% of students surveyed.

## Front of School Improvements

The aim of the Front of School improvements are to create a safer, calmer and more attractive environment to encourage children to walk, scoot or cycle to school. Enhanced footpaths will narrow the carriageways, calming traffic and creating a safe route from Park and Stride locations to the school. Junction tightening and relocating the existing controlled crossing upon Main Street (R439-1) to incorporate with the gateway elements to the north-west of the school along with a new crossing from Cuba Avenue to the front of school will accommodate the desire line enabling children to cross the road safely. Speed ramps at the gateways will further slow traffic.





## **a. School Zone**

1. Antiskid road markings (SZ – 116) applied within school zone.
2. Existing barriers to be removed and replaced with pencil bollards (SZ – 109) along front of school.
3. A mix of planters, pencil bollards (SZ – 139) and low-level planting throughout school zone to delineate pedestrian space and prevent footpath parking.
4. Incorporate elements of art ( SZ – 139) and , where space allows, street furniture (SZ – 132).
5. The footpath to the immediate front of school is narrow. Investigate the feasibility of moving the school wall back to create additional width and opportunities for congregation with enhanced placemaking.

## **b. Junction Improvements**

1. Junction tightening with continuous footpath / raised crossing prioritising pedestrians to be provided across all junctions within the school zone.

## **c. Raised Table**

1. Raised table at T-junction directly facing school.

## **d. Gateway elements**

1. School zone banners (SZ – 133) and coloured gateway totem (SZ – 134).
2. School road markings (SZ – 114).
3. Traffic calming ramps (SZ – 123) at gateways on Cuba Avenue and South-east Main Street gateway.

## **e. Walking links**

1. Enhance and repair footpaths on Cuba Avenue with bevelled kerbs at house entrances to maintain a level surface.
2. New footpath where it discontinues approaching the school on Cuba Avenue.
3. A mix of planters and bollards to prevent illegal footpath parking.

## **f. Cycling links**

1. Investigate installation of segregated bike lanes, possibly parking protected, along Main Street in an effort to link with the town, however, available space will have to be a consideration.

## **g. Permeability Links**

1. Existing permeability link connecting Main Street (R439-1) with Banagher College.

## **h. Crossing facility**

1. Controlled, raised pedestrian crossing at North end of School Zone to connect to existing permeability link.
2. A zebra crossing across Main Street from Cuba Avenue directly to the front of school to accommodate the desire line from Cuba Avenue.

## Elements of Proposed Scheme



Colour themed asphalt features



School branding banner/totem



Cold applied high friction buff surface



Colour themed street furniture



Micro art



Low level shrub planting



Tree planting



Pencil shaped bollards



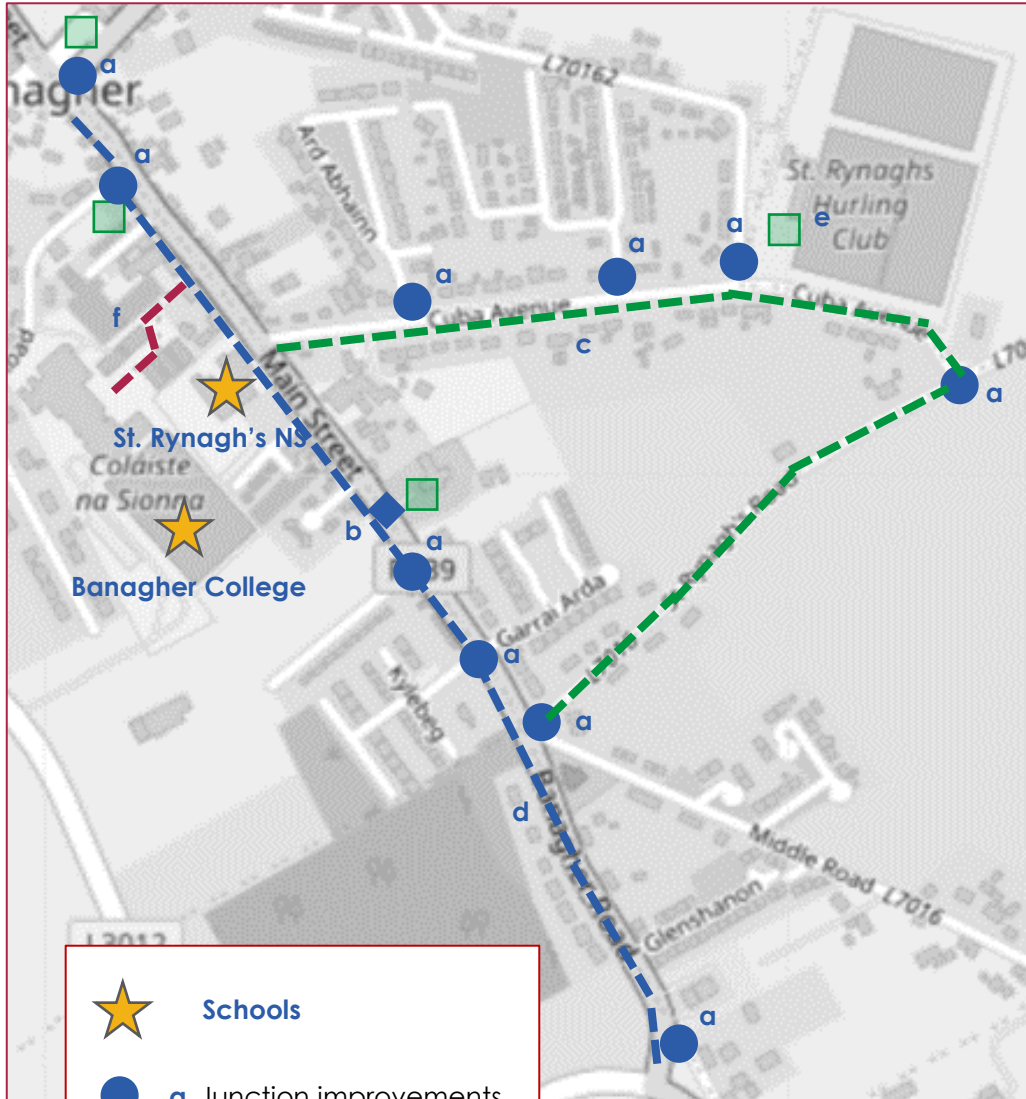
Segregated cycle track










Raised pedestrian crossing

## Routes to School Improvements

School zone on Main Street (R439-1) and Cuba Avenue will enhance visibility of the school while improved walking links will help students get safely to school from Park and Stride locations. Junction tightening with additional controlled crossings and traffic calming along Main Street (R439-1) will increase safety for children walking and cycling to school.



-  Schools
-  a. Junction improvements
-  b. Crossing facility
-  c. Walking Links
-  d. Cycling Links
-  e. Park and Stride location
-  f. Existing Permeability

## Routes to School Improvements

### a. Junction Improvements

1. Junction tightening with continuous footpath / raised crossing prioritising pedestrians to be provided across all junctions leading to the GAA grounds on Cuba Avenue.
2. Main Street (R439-1): junction tightening with continuous footpath at junctions:
  - Petrol Station on the Banagher Road.
  - St. Rynagh's Road / Middle Road / Main Street junction.
  - Chestnut Avenue / Upper Main Street.
  - Church Road / Main Street.
  - Harbour Road / Main Street at both entrances to car park.

### b. Crossing facility

1. Controlled, raised pedestrian crossings at church park and stride.

### c. Walking links

1. Enhance and repair footpaths on Cuba Avenue with bevelled kerbs at house entrances to maintain a level surface.
2. New footpath where it discontinues approaching the school on Cuba Avenue.
3. Continue footpath from junction of Cuba Avenue / St. Rynagh's Road and repair existing stretch of footpath.
4. Additional lighting on St. Rynagh's Road and eastern end of Cuba Avenue.
5. A mix of bollards and planters throughout to protect against illegal footpath parking.

### d. Cycling links

1. Investigate installation of segregated bike lanes, possibly parking protected, along Main Street (R439-1) with the intent of connecting to town. Space may be an issue however.

### e. Park and Stride Location

1. Park and stride location at GAA grounds on Cuba Avenue, approx. 500 metres. This is dependent on reaching agreement with the GAA to use their parking at school opening and closing times.
2. Park and stride location at the church on Main Street, approx. 200 metres.
3. Park and Stride location at Town Square where Harbour Road meets Main Street (approx. 300 metres).
4. Park and Stride location at Church Road (approx. 250 metres).
5. There are additional on-street parking spaces along Main Street.

## Summary of Key SRTS Interventions

As outlined earlier in the Plan, not all interventions proposed will be possible to implement following further consideration and design. Some elements may be progressed as part of other Local Authority schemes and a phased approach in delivery may be developed. Outlined below are key interventions identified, which could facilitate an increase in the number of children who walk, cycle, or scoot to school and enhance safety at the front of school.

### Key Considerations

#### Front of School (page 8)

##### a. School zone

All items to be considered

##### b. Gateway elements

All items to be considered

##### c. Crossing facility

Crossings on R439-1 at church, to existing permeability link and zebra from Cuba Avenue to the school.

##### d. Walking links (or Element E)

New footpath where missing on Cuba Avenue outside St Pauls Parish Hall

#### Routes to School (page 9)

##### a. Junction Tightening

Junctions along Cuba Avenue leading from St. Rynagh's National School to St. Rynagh's GAA.

### Additional Considerations

#### Front of School (page 8)

##### Walking links

Continuous crossings and junction tightening at all junctions leading from the school to the proposed park and stride at the GAA.

## Appendix A Parent Survey Results





# SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

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## Safe Routes to School Parent Survey Questions

**Q1. How many of your children attend this school?**

- Select a number (from 1 – 8) from a drop down

**Q2. Where does the journey to school begin?** *(Parents selected a location on a map)*

- To help improve routes to school, we want to get an idea of the locations from where students are travelling to school. Please indicate where your school journey begins on the map. It does not have to be directly on your home. It can be a point nearby, such as your estate entrance.

**Q3. For each child, choose their gender:**

- Select Male, Female or Prefer not to say

**Q4. For each child, choose their class:**

- Primary: Junior Infants, Senior Infants, 1st Class, 2nd Class, 3rd Class, 4th Class, 5th Class, 6th Class
- Secondary: 1st Year, 2nd Year, 3rd Year, 4th Year, 5th Year, 6th Year

**Q5. For each child, choose how they usually travel to school:**

- Walk, Cycle, Scoot, Park 'n' Stride, Car, School Bus, Public Transport

**Q6. Do you think road safety is a problem around your school?**

- Select either Yes or No

**Q7. Would you support works at the front of school that improve student safety, putting pedestrians and cyclists first?**

- Select either Yes or No

**Q8. Would you support works that improve the walking and cycling routes to your school?**

- Select either Yes or No

**Q9. What improvements would support you to walk, cycle or scoot to school?**

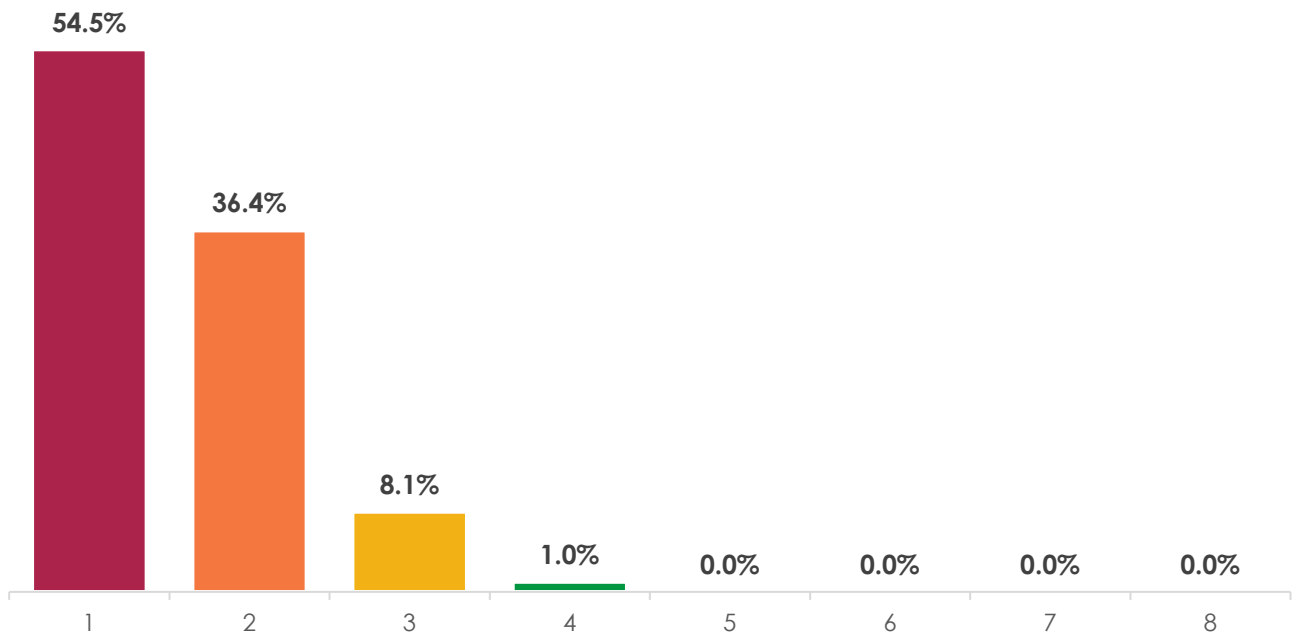
- New or improved footpaths
- New or improved cycle paths
- Safer crossing points
- Reduced traffic speed
- Fewer cars at the school gate
- Cycle parking at the school
- Other
- None of these

**Comments box (optional) up to 500 characters.**

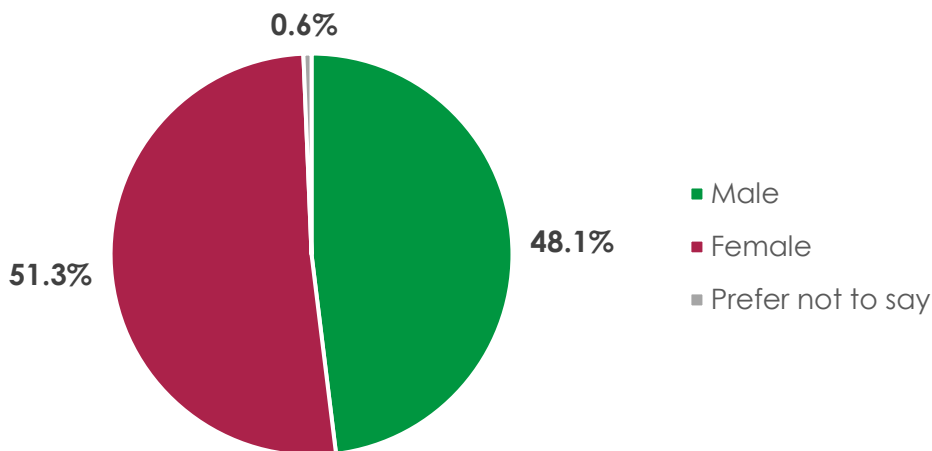
The school distributed the SRTS Parents Survey to all families of St Rynaghs NS via their usual communications methods, during October 2021. Reminders were also issued.

Responses received: 99  
Students represented: 154 = 65.0% of school population (based on a total of 237)\*

## Q1. How many of your children attend this school?

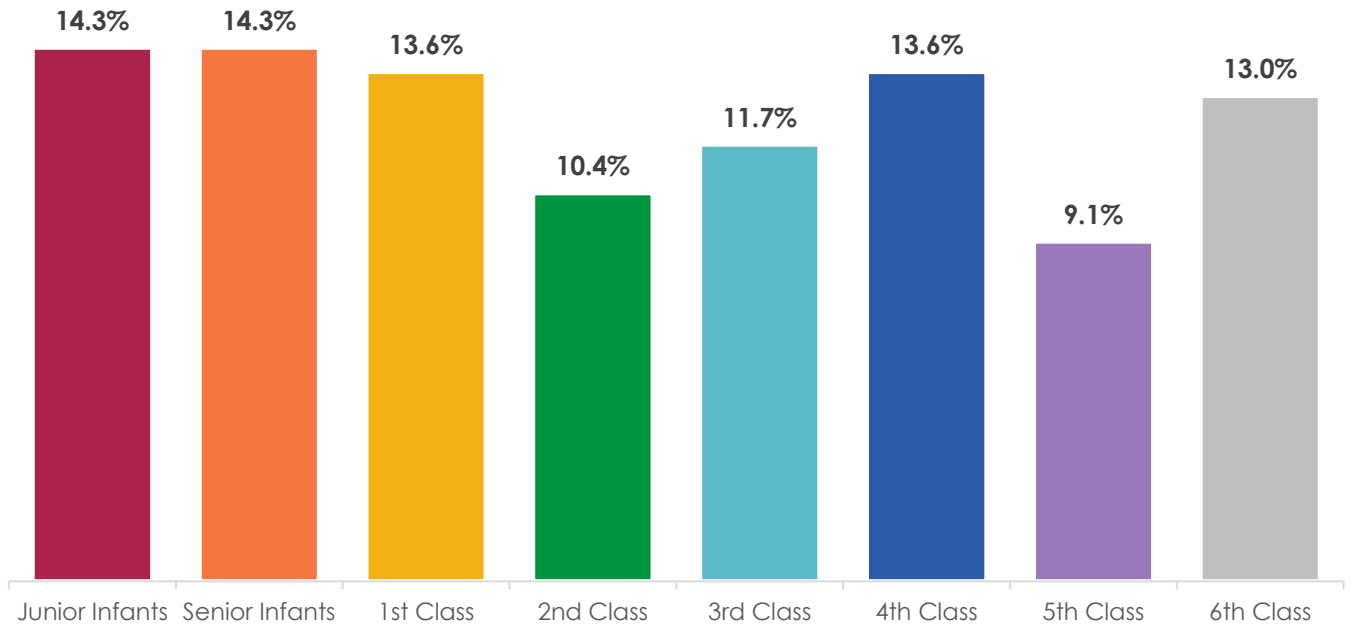


## Q3. For each child, choose their gender

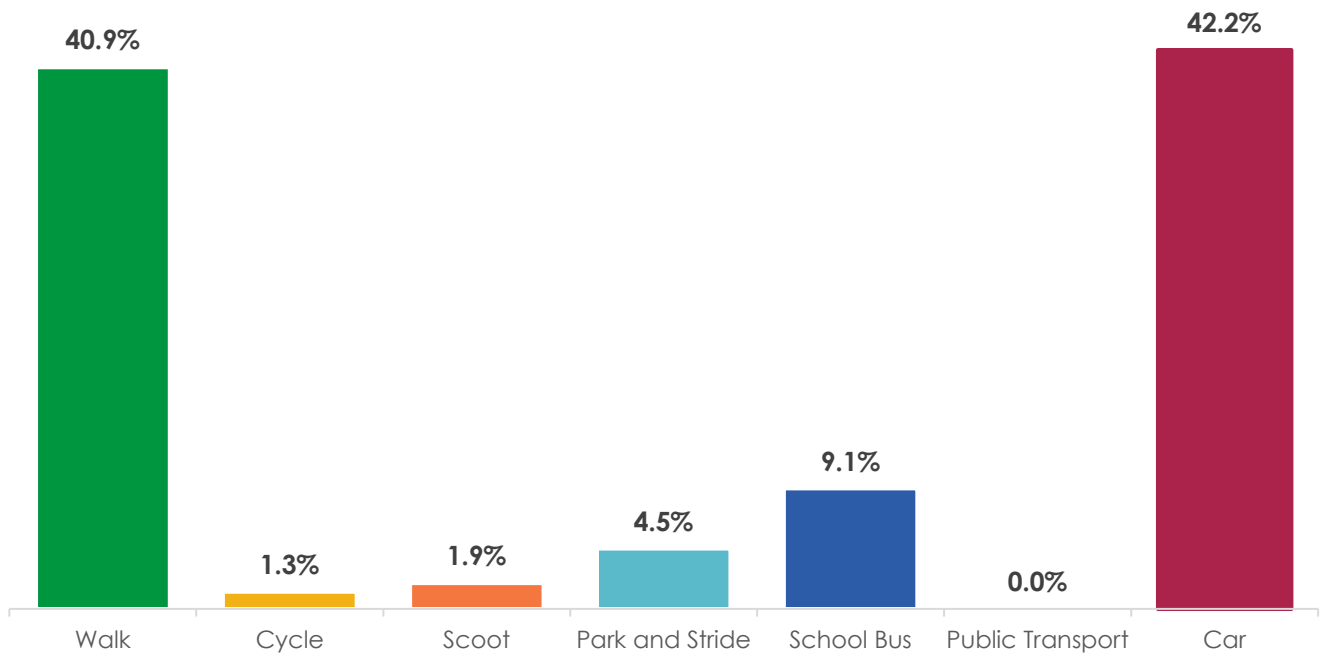


\*Figure taken from the Safe Routes to School Expression of Interest submitted by the school  
4.5% margin of error at a 95% confidence level

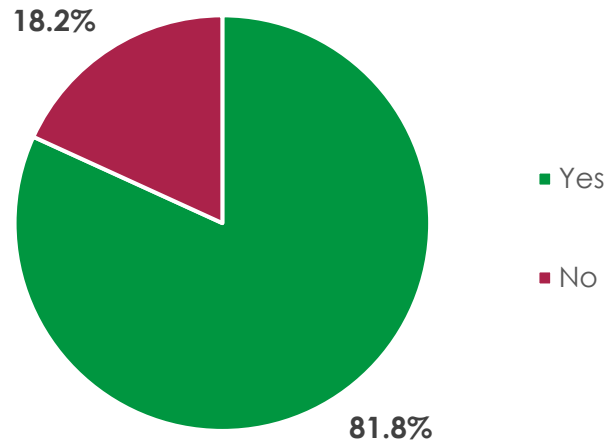
## Q4. For each child, choose their class



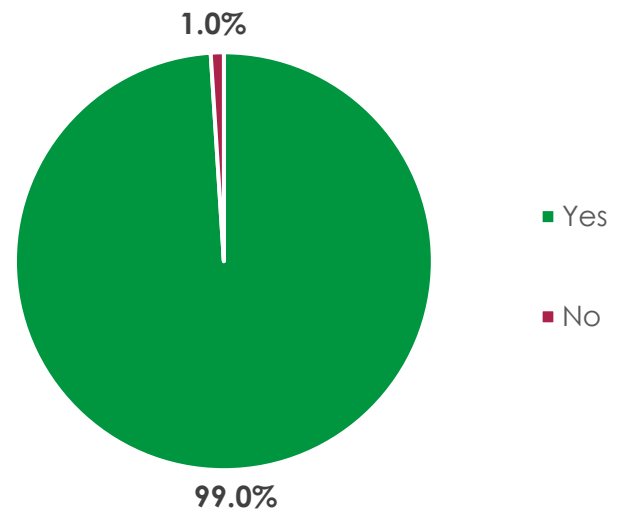
## Q5. For each child, choose how they usually travel to school



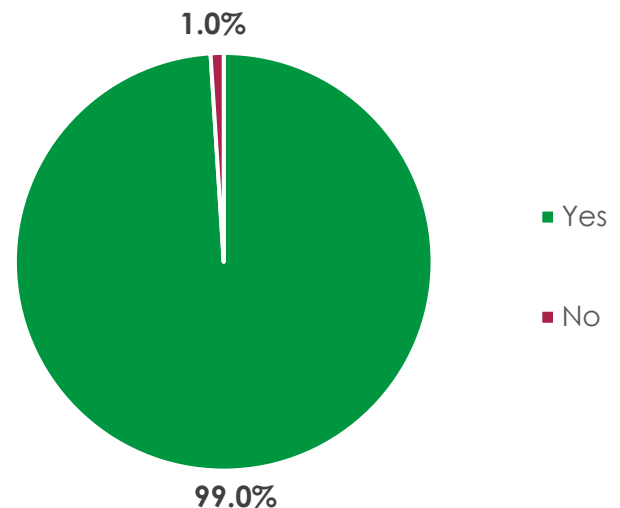
**Q6. Do you think road safety is a problem around your school?**



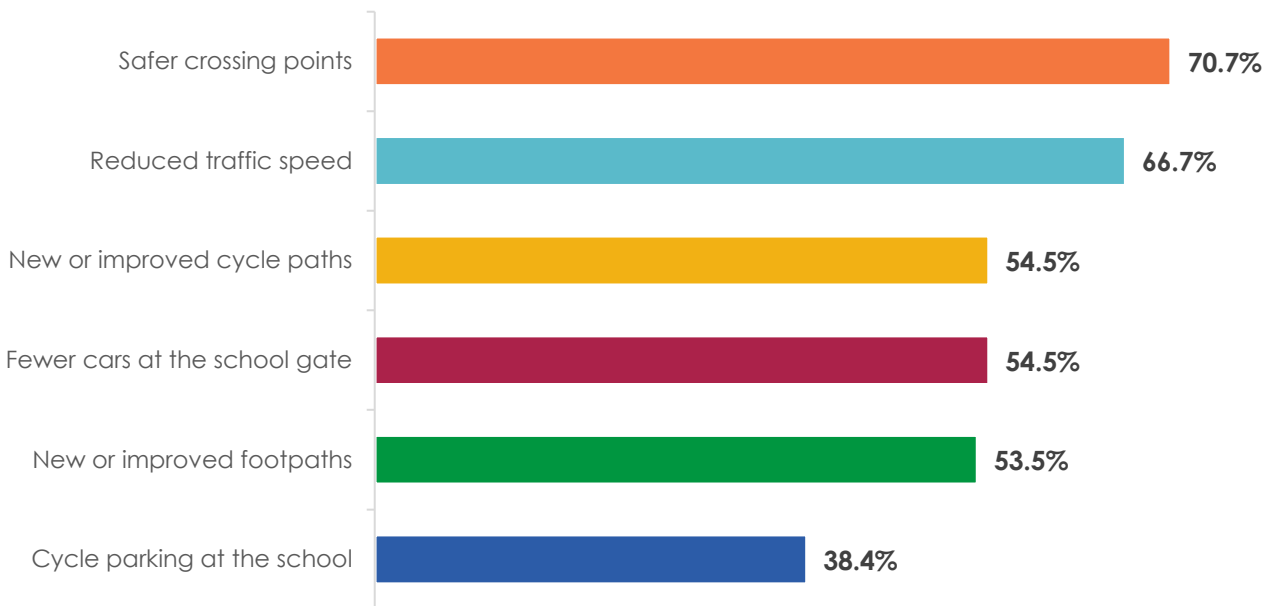
**Q7. Would you support works at the front of school that improve student safety, putting pedestrians and cyclists first?**



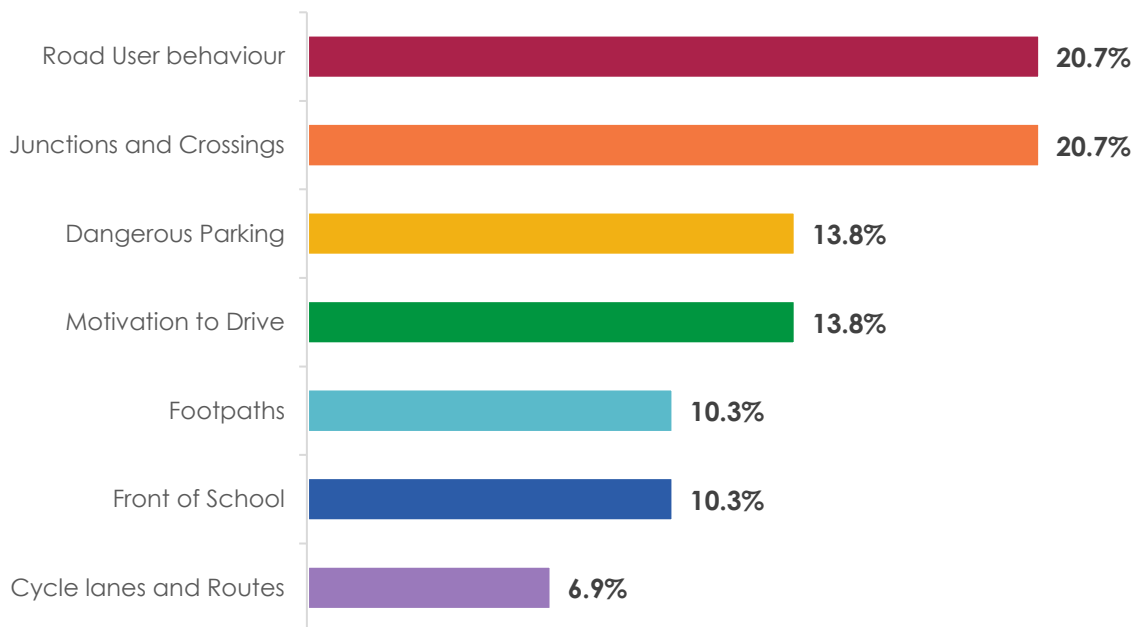
**Q8. Would you support works that improve the walking and cycling routes to your school?**



## Q9. What improvements would support you to walk, cycle or scoot to school?



## Parent Comments



29 parent comments were received in total and have been categorised in the chart. Each comment was placed in the [one] category most applicable, even if there was crossover into another category.