

Walkability Audit

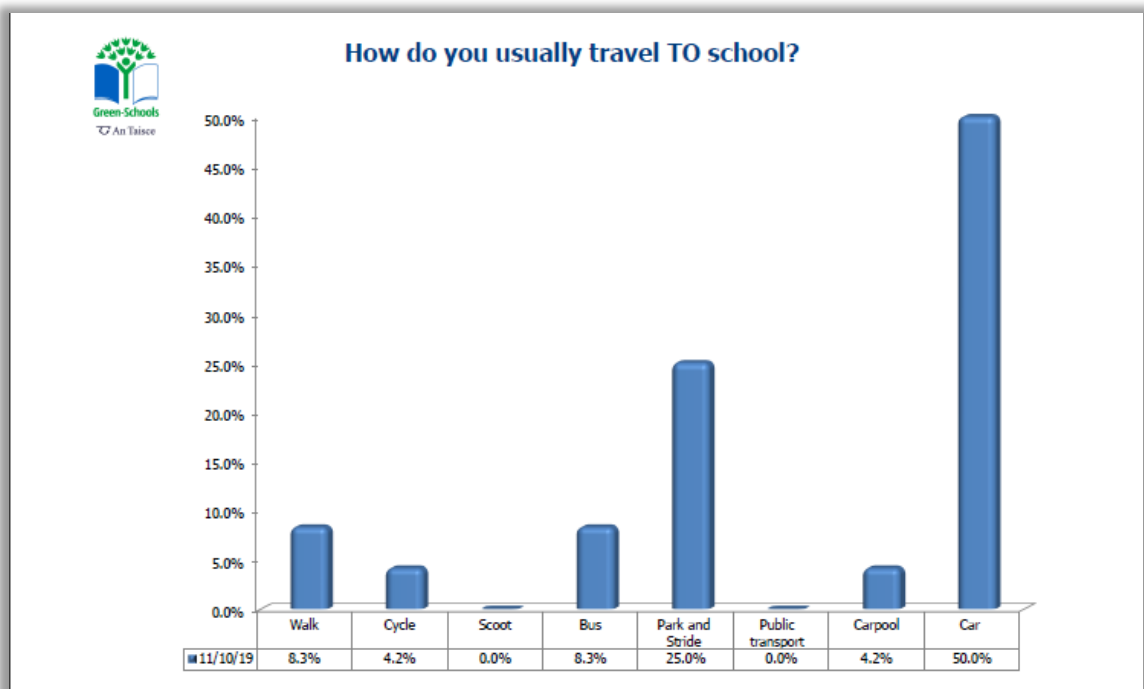
05/11/2019



Scoil Raifteri
Castlebar, Co. Mayo

Roll Number: 19832D

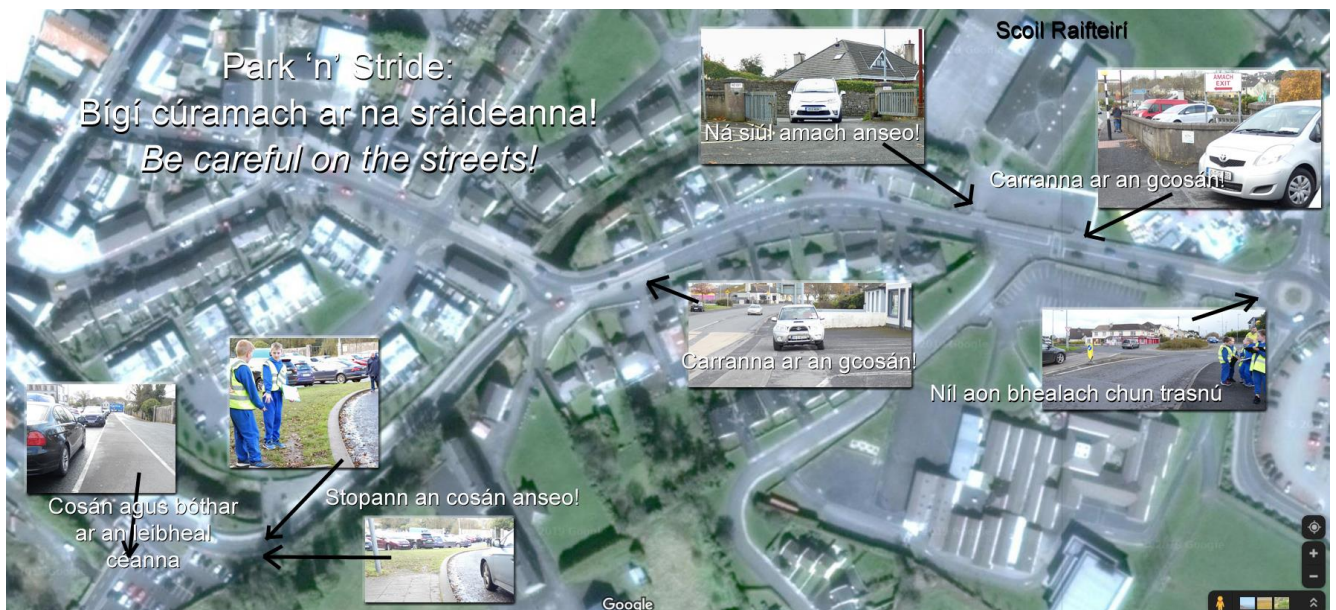
Scoil Raifteri is located on the busy road in the centre of Castlebar. It has a population of 227 students with 13 staff. The school is currently working on the Global Citizenship Travel programme and reviewing the travel habits at school. The school has designated some park'n'stride locations in different directions. Recently there were changes to the pedestrian crossing in front of the school, which at the time of the audit was still not finished. At the moment, as the baseline survey shows, at least 50% of the school population drives to school, but roughly a quarter of the school's population already regularly park'n'stride to school and 8% walk to school, which makes it one third of the children using walking infrastructure around the school.



A **Walkability Audit** is a methodical examination of how pedestrian-friendly a route may or may not be.

The word **Walkability** means the "ability to walk".

Members of the school population identified a possible walking route to school to audit.



Objectives:

1. Identify the park'n'stride locations
2. Examine how walkable is the route Castle Street Car Park
3. Write the report and think about what improvements are needed to make the route more pedestrian friendly

We used a number of tools on the audit to record our findings:

- Maps of the routes
- Recording sheets
- Recording devices (timer)
- Hi-visibility vests
- Camera
- Pencils/Clipboards
- Analysis sheets
- Google Maps

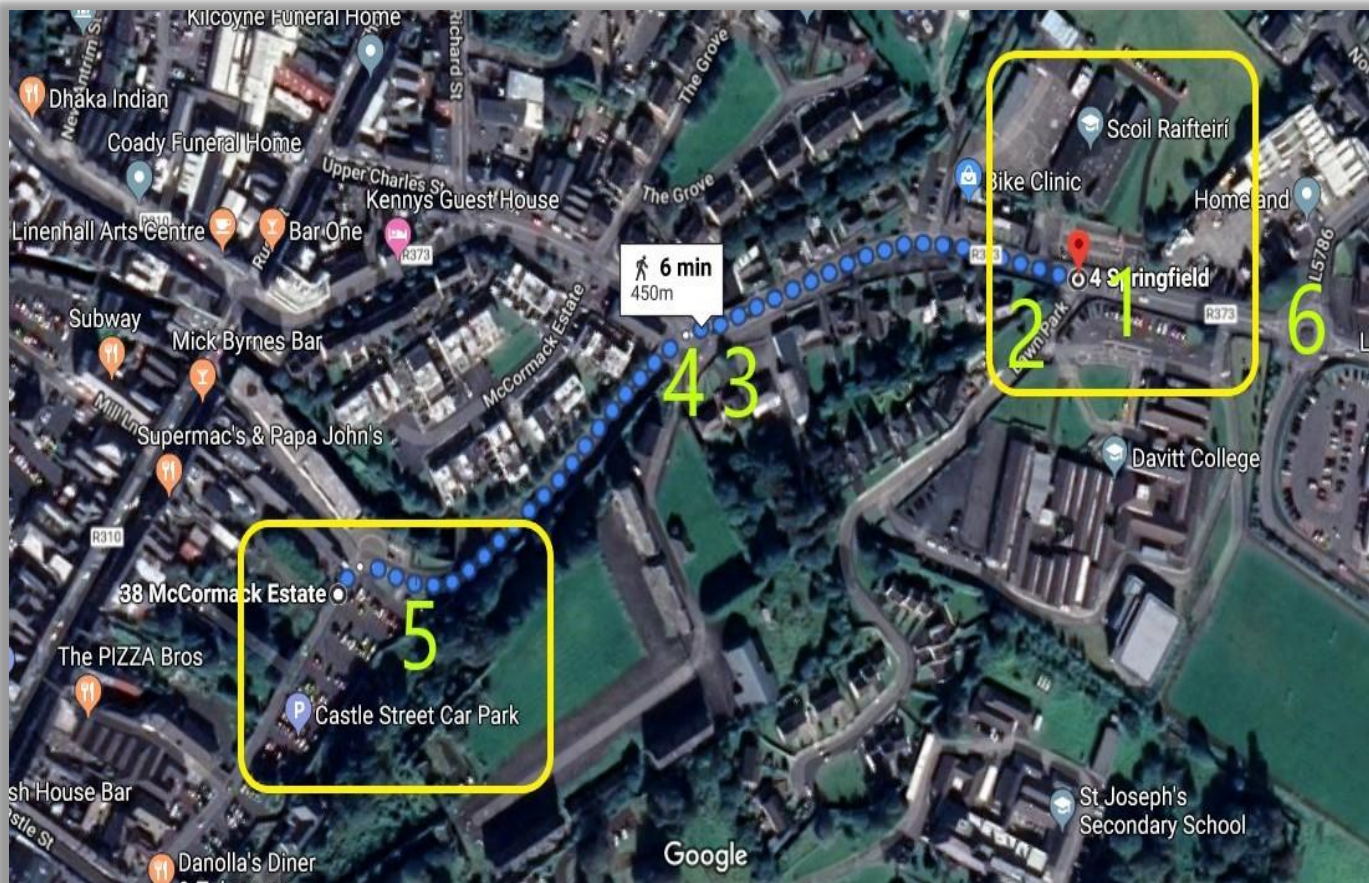


Description of the route audited:

The group walked from the school (red pin) to the Castle Street Car Park (5) using the newly laid out pedestrian crossing (1) in front of the school. On the way back the group went a bit further on the main road leading to school to look at the roundabout (6) near Lidl and Davitt College.

The school identified some places where cars are put first instead of pedestrians (2,3,4)

The distance of 650 m to the car park takes about 7 min to walk and the children counted 551 steps.



We noted the following findings from our Walkability Audit:

1. The road is very busy during the day, children counted 354 vehicles during the audit, 48 walkers and 4 cyclists. It's much busier during the school drop off and pick up hours
2. The air quality around the school and all the way to the Castle Street car park is poor, children could smell the pollution coming out of cars
3. Children found broken glass outside school gate and some occasional rubbish on the way to the car park
4. There is a footpath in the schools' car park that leads to the school gate and out to the main footpath
5. The way into the school car park is tempting for the walkers to enter or go out, but it's dangerous as the vehicles driving not see what happens in the car park
6. The way in and out the school car park is a shared space between people walking and cars which doesn't make it pedestrian friendly
7. The new pedestrian crossing has no clear markings (yet) and it makes it a bit tricky to cross the road. Our group watched a woman with children trying to cross the road and she seemed very unsure

More details and photos of these findings can be viewed in the pages following.

A summary of our recommendations is below:

1. Finish the new crossing opposite the school (See 1 on map above and photo below) This currently presents a safety risk to students using the crossing on a daily basis
2. Clearly indicate pedestrian priority at the school gate with raised paving to slow vehicles entering and exiting and a new stop sign for vehicles exiting. The current arrangement prioritises vehicle movement and presents a safety risk to students on a daily basis. (See 1 on map above and photo below).
3. A new pedestrian crossing (or clear signage/ road markings) of Lawn Park at the junction of R373. This crossing point is heavily used by students and currently prioritises cars – side road by Davitt College (See 2 on map)
4. Remove or redesign the car parking near the Castle St roundabout so that vehicles do not freely cross the footpath. Currently this presents a safety hazard to students using this footpath on a daily basis. (See 3 on map above and in photos below)
5. More visibility for the crossing the Castle Street with the little safety island (See 4 on map and photos below)
6. Continuation of the footpath on Castle Street right to the Castle Street car park (See 5 on map and photos below)
7. Bollards at the Castle Street car park to divide the pedestrians from cars (See 5 on map and photos below)
8. Better surfacing, road markings and signage to signal pedestrians presence at the LIDL roundabout. This is currently presents a safety risk to students using this roundabout with clear vehicle priority.(See 6 on the map above)



Way in and out of school car park is shared space between cars and pedestrians, poor visibility for the drivers

Clearly mark the entrance and exit. Stop sign on the way out. Different paving to prioritise pedestrians



The new pedestrian crossing (2 on the map) is not finished, no markings on the road

Clear markings to make the crossing more visible



A lot of students need to cross this road (2) beside Davitt College to continue to the Castle Street car park, a wide road, that is marked for cars instead

Indicate a space for pedestrians with some markings or make a new crossing



Parking on the footpath beside the Castle Street (3) round about, used frequently the parents, cars need to go over the footpath to get to the parking space making it dangerous for walkers

No car park or redesign so cars can go in and out without driving on to the walkers space



Footpath suddenly ends before it reaches Castle Street car park. Pedestrians need to go on the road to get to the car park.

Follow the trail of the pedestrians on the grass where they try to shortcut it to car park and finish it with the footpath.



Same as above
(5 on the map)



Poor visibility of the crossing at Castle Street (4 on map)

Make the crossing more visible to the drivers with appropriate markings or



LIDL roundabout (6 on map)

Indicate clearly where pedestrians are to walk, use clear markings or bumps to slow down drivers



Castle Street car has some lines indicating where the pedestrians could walk but the cars are driving all over the lines

Bollards?



Pedestrians crossings around the LIDL roundabout are not clearly marked (6 on map)

Clear markings would make the pedestrians safer as it would alert the drivers

Thank you for reading our report.

Please contact us with your feedback using the details below.

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