

GREEN-SCHOOLS
TRAVEL
ANNUAL REPORT



2013



An Taisce

The National Trust for Ireland

An Taisce – The National Trust for Ireland is the foremost environmental organisation in Ireland. Its range of interests extends from the natural heritage of land, air, water, flora and fauna, to the heritage of buildings and gardens. Through its local, national and international networks, it seeks to educate, inform and lead public opinion on the environment and influence policy and development. Strategies to achieve these aims include awareness and education programmes and campaigns such as:

• Green-Schools • Green-Schools Travel • Blue Flag • Clean Coasts • National Spring Clean • Green Communities • Green Home

www.antaisce.org www.greenschoolsireland.org

FEE (The Foundation for Environmental Education) – seeks to promote environmental education by carrying out campaigns and improving awareness of the importance of environmental education. It is composed of a network of organisations which undertake individual projects in their own countries and participate in international efforts. An Taisce as the Irish member of FEE co-ordinates these campaigns in Ireland.

A key objective of the **Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport** is the promotion of sustainable transport. The Department takes a two pronged approach to increasing sustainable travel rates: investment in infrastructure to support cycling and walking; supported by the active promotion of cycling and walking as healthy, cheap and safe ways to travel. The Department has provided funding for the Green-Schools Travel programme since 2009 to educate children and their parents on the benefits of sustainable transport and to encourage them to reduce the number of cars on the school run.

The **National Transport Authority**, through its predecessor the Dublin Transportation Office, sponsored An Taisce Green-Schools to establish the Green-Schools Travel theme. The National Transport Authority now oversees An Taisce's Green-Schools Travel module on behalf of the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. We are delighted with the success of the programme in reducing the numbers of pupils travelling to school by car; improving their health and fitness, reducing the economic and environmental impact of the school run, and delivering a safer pupil-centred front of school environment.



An Roinn Iompair
Turasóireachta agus Spóirt
Department of Transport,
Tourism and Sport



smartertravel>>>
>>> schools



Contents

Executive Summary

1. Introduction	1
2. Big Changes	3
3. Action on the Ground	5
4. Case Studies	17
Appendix I	23
Appendix 2	33



In 2013...



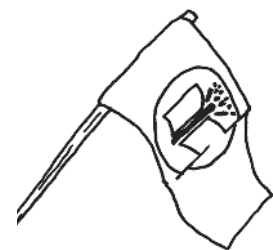
32,000+ students walked to school on National WOW (Walk on Wednesday) Day 2013.



6,300+ students cycled to school on National COW (Cycle on Wednesday) Day 2013.



Green-Schools Travel allocated grants for cycling training to 103 schools around the country. This helped put 4460 pupils through a cycling safety and skills course. Grants were also awarded for 470 cycle park spaces.



178 Green-Schools flags were awarded for sustainable travel in May 2013.



Executive Summary

The Green-Schools Travel Programme has been operating at a national level since 2008 and by the end of 2013 over 1,200 schools had or were participating in the programme. The programme is funded by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and supported by the National Transport Authority. The Green-Schools seven-step methodology is a key component of the programme and enables participating schools to achieve modal shift within a two year period.

- Car journeys to school fell by 25.8% from the initial baseline survey.
- The proportion of students walking to school increased by 16.4% between September 2011 and May 2013.
- Cycling levels to school increased by 71% over the same two year period.
- Of the 41.9% of students who are driven to school, 14.6% of these car share an increase of 12% from 2011 figures.
- The proportion of students who participate in weekly walking events has increased to almost 66.5% for schools completing the programme, compared with just 5.1% at the beginning of the programme.
- The proportion of students who participate in weekly cycling to school events increased to 10.9% for schools completing the programme, compared with just 7.1% at the beginning of the programme.
- 178 schools were awarded the Green Flag for Travel in 2013.
- Since 2008 1019 schools have been awarded the Green Flag for Travel, representing successful completion of the Travel theme of the Green-Schools programme.
- Once awarded the Green Flag schools are required to maintain their work on Travel to ensure progress is sustainable and lasting.

- 269 schools joined the Travel theme in September 2013 bringing to approximately 650 the total number of schools working on the theme in the calendar year 2013.
- An Taisce completed over 2,618 visits to Green-Schools Travel schools over the 2013 calendar year. This level of direct support is essential for schools implementing the programme.
- 470 bicycle spaces were provided to 32 schools participating in the programme in 2013.
- Over 4,460 students from 103 schools received subsidised cycle training as part of the programme, in 2013.
- Over 32,000 students participated in National Walk to School week and over 6,300 cycled to school on national COW day as part of National Bike Week
- In 2013, the Green-Schools Travel competition sought entries from the best travel schools around the country, which saw Belgrove Senior Boys School awarded the title of Ireland's Travel School of the Year for 2013. There were also seven category winners and seven runners-up in this year's competition.
- The Green-Schools website received over 86,000 visits during the year.





Schools all over Ireland worked hard to promote sustainable travel to school in 2013. The number of actions, initiatives, events, audits and workshops which were undertaken is impressive and continues to highlight the value of the Green-Schools seven-step methodology in supporting and achieving modal change within a two year period.

The following report outlines the work undertaken by schools during 2013, some of these schools began the two year theme in September 2012, some completed the theme in June 2013 and others started the theme in September 2013. Therefore the range of activities undertaken throughout the calendar year is a snap shot of the work schools are engaged in at different stages of the two year programme.

The opportunity for modal change varied according to school profile, school location and the availability of services and infrastructure. However the vast majority of schools achieved some level of modal change on the journey to school and schools that completed the theme in 2013 achieved on average a 25.8% reduction in car journeys to school over a two year period.



BIG CHANGES

IN SCHOOLS

Walking
increased by
16.4%

Cycling
increased by
71%

25.8%
Reduction in
car journeys



15%

of car journeys to school
are shared journeys

Participation in weekly walking days



Schools who run weekly walking/cycling days have a higher number of students walking or cycling throughout the week compared to schools who do not run these initiatives.



Schools making **Big Changes**

of pupils walking increased where pedestrian facilities were in place as did the percentage of pupils cycling to school. This confirms the need for pedestrian and cycling infrastructure that supports permeability and connectivity in and around schools.

Schools around the country have worked hard to engage pupils, support parents and motivate teachers to make the change from car journeys to sustainable journeys to school. There were over 650 schools nationwide working on the Travel theme during 2013; these schools were at different stages of the theme with some finishing the theme and some only beginning their journey. The Travel theme takes two years from start to finish and the 7 Steps are the vehicle which schools use to successfully achieve the Green Flag Award.

The schools which completed the Travel theme in 2013 achieved significant changes in terms of the journey to school with walking increasing by 16.4% and cycling increasing by 71%. The biggest change came from the reduction in car journeys to school of 25.8%, these journeys are now being taken in a more sustainable, active way. In addition, of the 41% of journeys taken to school by car almost 15% of these are shared journeys representing 35% of car journeys. The number of families that now carpool is significantly higher than when schools started the travel theme when carpooling only represented 2.6% of the journey to school.

The changes not only took place in large, urban schools but also in smaller rural schools. These changes took place even though schools faced big problems such as a lack of basic infrastructure, reduced capacity within the school and diverse school profiles and locations. There is evidence to suggest that where infrastructure is available pupils have a greater choice when it comes to how they come to school. The percentage

of pupils walking increased where pedestrian facilities were in place as did the percentage of pupils cycling to school. This confirms the need for pedestrian and cycling infrastructure that supports permeability and connectivity in and around schools.

There is consistent evidence to show that awareness of sustainable journeys increases as pupils participate in the Travel theme. This is reflected in the number of pupils who wish to travel to school in a sustainable way. The majority of pupils show a preference for cycling to school which has increased to 52% and where they have received cycle training this increases further to 54%. In reality however the number of pupils who actually cycle to school is 4.8%, therefore barriers are still in place when it comes to pupils switching to cycling. The question is what are the main barriers and how can schools, parents, local authorities and Green-Schools help pupils to make the switch.

There is evidence to suggest that schools who run weekly walking and cycling days have a higher number of pupils walking or cycling to school throughout the week compared to schools who do not run these initiatives. The participation of weekly walking days (WOW, Feet First Fridays, No Car Tuesdays etc) has increased from 5.6% in 2011 to 66.5% in 2013. The proportion of students who walk to school in these participating classes is 37.9% compared with the average of 28.3%.

To find out more about how schools changed their travel patterns in 2013 please read the full survey analysis in Appendix I.



Green-Schools' new sustainable travel initiative, SOW was launched in November 2013. SOW, which stands for Scoot on Wednesday (or Scoot on a Weekday), is the newest facet of An Taisce's Green-Schools Travel programme.



Action on the Ground

staff an opportunity to have a say in how streets are re-designed and used. Audits also allow children to take part in the decision making process and learn about their local natural and built environment.

School Visits

The Green-Schools Travel programme is designed to provide practical and tailored support to schools, which is primarily provided through individual school visits. These visits support schools in implementing the programme on the ground by providing information, advice, resources and training to students, staff and parents. A wide variety of practical workshops and resources are available for schools to choose from to help them in promoting and implementing their travel programme.

WOW, COW & SOW Days - The WOW Day (Walk on Wednesdays/Weekdays) and COW Day (Cycle on Wednesdays/Weekdays) events have proven to be great tools for raising awareness about the benefits and possibilities of active journeys to school. These initiatives, which encourage whole-school participation in walking and cycling to school, have been running successfully for years nationwide. A newer arrival on the Green-Schools scene is the SOW Day (Scoot on Wednesdays/Weekdays), which we have been actively promoting for the first time this year! All of these special initiatives are typified by highly visible, colourful and fun mass-events and act as a very effective aid to introduce the concept of active travel to students and parents that have previously avoided it due to either real or perceived barriers.

Walkability Audits – Green-Schools Travel Officers assist the school population to evaluate the quality of the pedestrian environment, specifically from the viewpoint of the people who use it rather than those who manage it. These audits give students and

Cycleability audits – The cycle audit is used as an educational tool to raise awareness of the issues facing cyclists on their journey to school. This initiative encourages objective assessment of the cycling environment by the students, and in doing so facilitates students' ideas to be shared. Another aim of the activity is to generate a more positive attitude and culture towards cycling, as a mode of school transport.

The Golden Boot and Golden Bike Awards– These awards are incentives to motivate students to walk or cycle to school. The award can be issued to a student or class that walks or cycles the most during a set timeframe usually a month or fortnight. It can be used to support other school-initiatives such as WOW, COW or SOW Days.



2618

the number of school visits made by
Green-Schools Travel Officers



Mapping Exercises – Officers encourage schools to map out their catchment area and main access routes to schools. This information can then be used for car-sharing projects, mapping out journey times for cycling and walking, routes for walking-buses, or identifying black-spot areas.

Cycling Skills & Games – Cycling skills courses can be set up and relay games carried out at schools, putting into practice key things learned in cycle training. The cycle games are a great way to check students' knowledge and can act as a refresher to any cycling training undertaken.

Bike Safety & Maintenance – Green-Schools Travel Officers provide advice and training on how to cycle safely and how to look after your bicycle. School cycling campaigns also encourage students, teachers and parents to look after their bicycles and learn how to spot any faults and provide them with the confidence and skills to make repairs using their own tools.

Get in Gear – Cycling with your Children - is an initiative aimed at parents of children that are in attendance at schools involved with Green-Schools Travel. The aim is to provide adults with the necessary skills and confidence that will encourage them to cycle to school with their children.

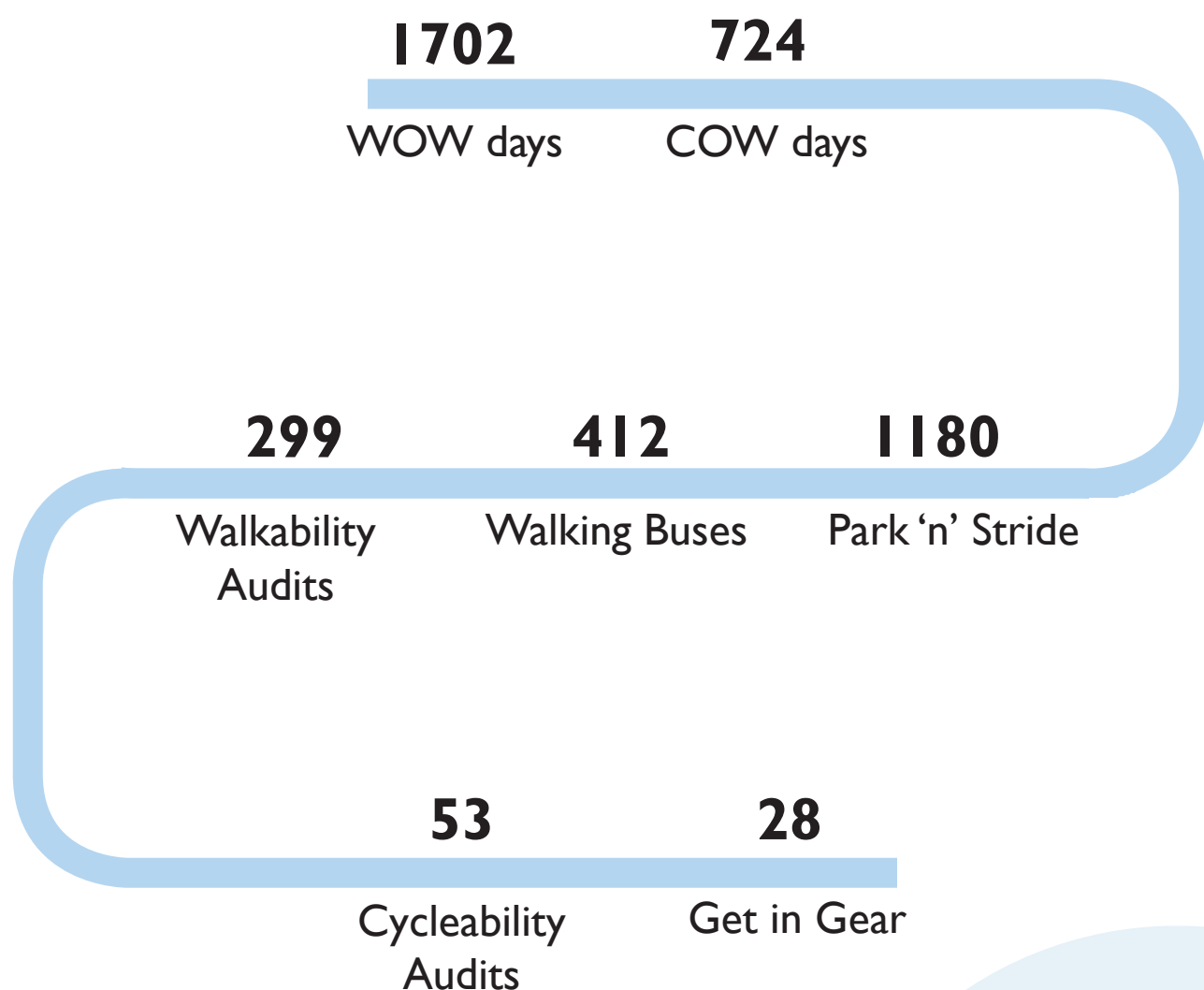
School Gate Assessments – Green-Schools has developed an audit to assess how the front of school environment operates during school opening and closing times. The audit can then inform schools and local authorities about the key issues facing pupils during this time and offer recommendations as to how to improve congestion, safety and access to the school for all users.

Cycling Updates

Bicycle Parking - The provision of good quality cycle parking can be integral in the promotion of cycling to and from school. Grants for cycle parking are available to schools that are actively participating on

the Green-Schools Travel theme. Schools must be able to demonstrate through their application form a real commitment to the promotion of cycling to and from school. Schools are awarded spaces based on existing cycling numbers, school population and the potential to increase cycling in the school. **In 2013 Green-Schools Travel funded cycle parking in 32 schools, this equates to 470 spaces of parking.**

Cycle Training - The Travel programme continues to support the provision of cycle training in participating schools with the aim of increasing on and off-road cycling proficiency and skills in schools. Cycle training allows children to practice and master key skills to enable them to make the journey to school by bike. It is lifelong skill which ensures children become confident, safe adult cyclists. As part of Green-Schools Travel, schools are encouraged to avail of off-road and on-road training for their pupils/students by their local training provider. Green-Schools Travel offers grants to schools to help subsidise the cost of cycling training. **In 2013 Green-Schools Travel allocated grants to 103 schools around the country, this supported 4,460 pupils to undertake a cycling safety and skills course.**



National and International Events

National Walk to School Week - is now one of the most important action awareness weeks in the Irish school calendar and is the only one of its kind in Ireland which promotes active and sustainable travel on the journey to school. Green-Schools took up the walking challenge in their own unique ways with schools organising events such as Walk on Wednesday Days, Feet First Fridays, walking competitions and fancy dress walks to school, to encourage everyone to get on their feet for the school journey. Many schools across the country were declared a car-free zone for this walking action week! National Walk to School Week ran from May 13th - 17th. All schools undertaking the Travel theme or previously awarded the Flag for Travel were invited to participate. Green-Schools Travel Officers actively promoted and facilitated events and activities with the schools over the course of the week. Building on the success of previous National Walk to School Week events, An Taisce hoped that schools would help achieve their target of 20,000 pupils walking to school all over Ireland. **Indeed on National WOW (Walk on Wednesday) Day on May 15th over 32,000 students walked to school.**



Ms. Patricia Oliver and the Minister of State, Alan Kelly T.D., launching Walk to School Week 2013

Cross Border Walking and Cycling Challenges - Green-Schools Travel ran the Cross Border Challenge in partnership with Travelwise NI during National Walk to School Week May 2013. Families from ten primary schools in the Republic of Ireland and ten from Northern Ireland were invited to take part in the Cross Border Walking Challenge. In addition the Cross Border Cycling Challenge took place during

National Bike Week in June with 10 schools from the border counties participating. In both cases the ultimate goal was to achieve 100% participation.



Travelwise Northern Ireland and Green-Schools staff along with all the school children and their teachers at the Cross Border Challenge Awards in Derry/Londonderry

Green-Schools from Sligo, Leitrim, Donegal and Louth participated in the challenges and winning schools attended the Cross Border Challenge Awards with schools from Northern Ireland. The ceremony was held in St Columb's Park House, Derry/Londonderry on 18th September 2013 to celebrate their success. Schools were presented with their winning certificates and cash prizes to congratulate them on their achievements. The event helps to establish cross border relations between schools, communities and organizations involved in promoting sustainable travel to school.





“Green-Schools is dedicated to promoting walking to school as a real alternative to the car. Walking to school is a great way to build in activity into your day as well as reducing congestion at the school gates. It’s also a great way to connect with friends, learn about your environment and promotes a healthier lifestyle.”
*Jane Hackett,
National Manager for Green-Schools Travel*



National Bike Week - The aim of which is to promote the bicycle and to encourage more people to cycle to school, work or for leisure. Primary schools involved in the programme are encouraged to participate on **National Cycle On Wednesday**, which was held on 19th June. In 2013, 159 primary schools registered that they had participated on **National COW Day**, which equates to 6331 pupils. Primary schools held lots of different events during the week, including: cycling training, bike skills, cycle trips, bike maintenance and competitions.

European Mobility Week (EMW) - runs from 16th to 22nd of September each year and Green-Schools promoted the week in partnership with Local Authorities all around Ireland. EMW is a voluntary European wide initiative to promote a complete shift towards sustainable urban transport. Travel schools in their second year of the programme are encouraged to celebrate this week, and to use it to re-start the programme, and in particular to re-launch their WOW and COW days for the new school year. EMW is promoted through the Green-Schools website and e-zine, and Travel schools are sent a list of initiatives, ideas and competitions that assist them to get involved.

The week is also a good opportunity to team up with other organisations who are promoting sustainable travel. In 2013 Green-Schools Travel and Limerick Smarter Travel linked up with Bus Eireann and An Garda Síochána to deliver an innovative project as part of European Mobility Week 2013. The purpose of this workshop was to provide students with a first-hand experience of public transport in Limerick City and learn more about the various measures in place to facilitate sustainable transport in the city (cycle routes, real time passenger information, bus stops). Over 150 1st Class students from four different inner city schools– St. Patricks BNS, St. Patricks GNS, St. Brigids NS and Maria King Presentation were involved in the initiative, which extended over two days. This workshop was the first of its kind and was structured so as to incorporate as many local features as possible and included talks from the local Bus Eireann Inspector and a pitstop at Henry St. Garda Station where students received a safety talk from the community Gardai. A full outline of this event is available from: <http://www.greenschoolsireland.org/news/all-aboard-for-as-limerick-students-take-the-bus.3048.html>



Innovative public transport workshop in Limerick as part of European Mobility Week 2013

200,000+

of students engaged with
the programme since 2008

Green Flag Renewal Assessment

Renewal Visits - Prior to applying for the Green Flag for Travel all schools in their second year of the theme are required to facilitate and pass an external assessment visit. These visits are either undertaken by the relevant local authority or by An Taisce staff. Following a successful assessment visit, schools must complete a detailed renewal application form in order to be eligible for an award. Schools that have successfully applied the Green-Schools' 7-Step process, and have thereby carried out recommended actions and initiatives to promote sustainable travel to school, are awarded the Green Flag for Travel by An Taisce.

Green Flag Awards - Throughout May 2013 a total of 178 Travel Schools were awarded the Green Flag in recognition of their achievements in promoting and implementing sustainable travel over the preceding academic years. Over 88% of these schools had started work on the Travel Theme in 2011 and thus had successfully completed the Green-Schools Travel Programme in the standard two year period allotted for the theme. The remaining 21 schools (i.e. 12% of all Travel Schools awarded this year) started their programmes pre-2011, indicating a longer period required for successful implementation.



Green-Schools Awards ceremony, Kilkenny, with Minister Hogan, T.D.

All successful schools were presented with their flags at twenty awards ceremonies located at eight venues around the country; Cork, Donegal, Dublin, Galway, Kilkenny, Meath and Westmeath. In total, 1,092 schools working on various Green-Schools themes were awarded Green Flags in 2013. The awards events were a great success with over 4,300 teachers and students in attendance as well as a number of special guests.

Green-Schools Travel Competition Awards Ceremony 2013

The annual Travel Competition ran during the month of February and was entitled 'Ireland's Sustainable Travel School of the Year'. The award ceremony was held in Croke Park, Dublin on Tuesday 23rd April. At the awards ceremony Mr. Alan Kelly, T.D., Minister of State with special responsibility for Public and Commuter Transport, presented prizes, trophies and certificates of achievement to the winning students in the Green-Schools Travel competition. There was an overwhelming response to the competition, which called for schools to explain why they deserved the title of Ireland's Travel School of the Year 2013; a claim they were asked to back up with statistics showing their school's shift from non-sustainable to sustainable modes of transport. There were seven category winners and seven runners-up in the competition with awards presented to schools for their outstanding work promoting particular modes of transport including: walking, cycling, carpooling, public transport and a combination of modes. The full list of winners can be reviewed in Appendix 2.



Minister Alan Kelly, T.D., speaking to students at the Travel Competition Awards

Minister Kelly said, **"Seeing the innovative ways these students have taken up the challenge of making their commute to and from school active and sustainable is very encouraging. The schools have shown that, regardless of whether your school is located in an urban or rural environment, sustainable transport is an option."**

Teacher Training

This year was the fourth year that Green-Schools has offered summer courses to teachers on the topic of environmental education and sustainable development. The courses were approved by Drumcondra Education Centre and in total four courses were run throughout the country in: Dublin, Cork, Kerry and Donegal, to a combined audience of 62 teachers. The course covered the five themes of Green-Schools and had daily field trips, lectures from experts, and used active participation teaching methodologies. The Travel course covered topics including: road safety, walkability audits, raising awareness of unsustainable travel and a bicycle safety check. The feedback from participants was very positive as follows:

‘Very informative and helpful. A great introduction to Green-Schools Travel. Activities were great and I learnt a lot’.

Dublin Participant

‘I really enjoyed the course – plenty of practical activities. Loved the outdoor trips/activities. Excellent presenters. Thank you’.

Kerry Participant



Travel Day of Teacher Training, Donegal

Travel Seminars

Green-Schools Travel Officers organised and facilitated 21 introductory seminars for teachers around the country during September and October 2013. The seminars were held in the following locations: Clare, Cork, Donegal, Dublin, Galway, Leitrim, Limerick, Mayo, Monaghan, Tipperary, Sligo, and Waterford. This included a teacher training seminar in Dublin that was organised specifically for secondary school teachers.

The courses aimed to:

- Educate participants about school travel, local and global sustainable transport issues,
- Provide practical, low cost solutions to implementing the programme within the school structure,
- Give interested and skilled individuals the opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences,
- Equip the participants with the confidence and skills to coordinate the Green-Schools Travel programme in their schools,
- Work in cooperation with Local Authorities (and other agencies) and to introduce the participants to their local Environmental Awareness Officer (EAO) and Road Safety Officer (RSO) and other stakeholders,
- Gain insights from experienced educators on how best to support them in implementing the Green-Schools Travel programme in schools.

The seminars are a key method to engage schools and anecdotal evidence suggests that if teachers do not attend the seminar they are slower to engage in the programme and to undertake actions.

Co-operation and collaboration with Local Authorities

The Green-Schools programme is run in partnership with all local authorities across Ireland. Many Environmental Awareness Officers (EAOs) support the Travel theme of Green-Schools. It is common for Travel Officers and EAOs to liaise with each other regarding; developments and updates on Travel schools; to run teacher training courses; and to establish what support and resources the councils can provide to Travel schools.

In particular Green-Schools Travel Officers and staff regularly liaise with Road Safety Officers, planners



and engineers within their respective local authority areas. Data from school surveys and from walkability/ cycleability audits, which are routinely conducted as part of the Green-Schools Travel programme, are shared with local authority staff, as they can help inform decisions on how best to improve infrastructure on the roads and streets in the vicinity of the schools.

Road Safety

Promoting safer use of the roads is paramount to the success of Green-Schools Travel and this was achieved in 2013 through a blend of Travel Officers direct engagement with schools and collaboration with other organisations to promote safer journeys to school. Green-Schools Travel is proud to work with schools, the Road Safety Authority (RSA), The Health & Safety Authority (HSA), An Garda Síochána and other local community members to spread the Road Safety message in schools. The RSA acknowledged our valuable work in their 2013-2020 Strategy and stated their intention to further develop mutually beneficial links with us.

National Road Safety Week, held in October each year, takes place during International Walk to School Month and Travel Officers take this opportunity to encourage teachers to incorporate road safety into their curriculum to promote safer ways to travel to school.

A typical Road Safety lesson from a Travel Officer will cover a range of subjects including; holding hands, using the 'Safe Cross Code', 'Bright is Right', the importance of wearing seatbelts on the bus or when carpooling and how to be a safe pedestrian and cyclist.



Officers also demonstrate to children how to wear a cycle helmet correctly and encourage them to check their bicycles for roadworthiness.

Many schools incorporate safety into their Green-Schools Travel Code, Step 7 of the programme, for example Holy Family NS in Tubbercurry, Co Sligo's 2013 code: **Walk, Cycle, Park 'n Stride, It's the way to travel with pride. Helmet, Dynamo, High Viz Vest, We think that's the very best.**

Communications

Website - The Green-Schools website was redesigned and relaunched in January 2012 (www.greenschoolsireland.org). In 2013 the online presence of Green-Schools Travel continued to grow. The website is monitored by Google Analytics and the key statistics for the site are calculated from January 1st 2013 - December 31st 2013:

309,325 pageviews
86,454 visits/sessions*
58,979 unique visits/sessions*

Green-Schools Travel is a prominent theme on greenschoolsireland.org. Pages related to the theme are placed highly in the pageview rankings on the website. Like all Green-Schools themes Travel has a theme page, a resources page, a case studies page and a useful links page dedicated to it. All of these are easily navigable from the homepage. In addition to this the news section, which feeds to a prominent space on the homepage, contains a majority of Travel-related items. These are submitted by staff and schools and are accompanied by images and often link to a corresponding online image gallery on Flickr.

Social Media in 2013 - The homepage of www.greenschoolsireland.org also contains links to the programme's various social media platforms: Twitter, Facebook, Flickr, YouTube, Soundcloud, Google + and Instagram. During 2013 the programme's presence on Twitter continued to grow. From a starting point of 652 followers in January 2013 the account grew to 1500+ in early 2014. The presence of Green-Schools

on Facebook was revitalised in mid 2013 and the page is now a central facet of the programme's social media presence with many news items and interactions related to Travel. Flickr and YouTube are the image and video hosting sites used by Green-Schools. The Green-Schools Flickr account has accumulated over 500,000 photos views since its establishment. The account contains many Travel-related albums including albums dedicated to events such as Bike Week, National Walk to School Week and the Travel Competition. The Green-Schools YouTube page was created in January 2011 and has a lifetime views figure of 23,312 views with 39,642 minutes watched since creation. Travel is a prominent theme on the YouTube channel and has a dedicated playlist of all Travel-related videos created by Green-Schools Travel staff and schools participating in the programme.

Green-Schools Ezine - The Green-Schools Ezine is distributed via direct email. In 2013 eight ezines were circulated. Each ezine is delivered to 4,000+

Welcome to the May 2013 Green-Schools Ezine!



Hello and welcome to the May 2013 Green-Schools Ireland Ezine; we hope you enjoy our news this month and that there's plenty to inspire and inform your Green-Schools programme. This month we have the winners and runners-up from the Green-Schools Travel Awards 2013 – well done to all of the schools who entered and exhibited in Croke Park on the day! Don't forget to keep an eye on GreenSchoolsIreland.org for updates from schools around Ireland alongside resources, case studies and materials to help you. You can also follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/GreenSchoolsIreland) for real-time updates and to keep in touch. Happy reading!

Dates For Your Diary & National Walk to School Week

May sees the return of National Walk to School Week! During Walk to School Week Green-Schools across the country will encourage pupils, parents and teachers to walk to school by holding events such as Walk to School days, Walk on Wednesdays, Feet First Fridays, sponsored walks and walking challenges. Schools also take part in National WOW (Walk on Wednesday) Day on May 15th and will aim to reach the target of 20,000 students walking to schools all over Ireland on the day. Stay tuned to GreenSchoolsIreland.org for more information and to download posters for your school.

*A session is a group of interactions that take place on your website within a given time frame. For example a single session can contain multiple screen or page views, events, social interactions, and ecommerce transactions.

subscribers and is posted online and shared via Twitter and Facebook. Travel forms a large part of the ezine content and features in multiple articles in each ezine. The ezine also links back to news items from the website and contains notice about upcoming events such as National Walk to School Week and Bike Week.

Television and Radio Media - Events directly and indirectly associated with Green-Schools Travel continued to receive coverage in print, broadcast and online media throughout 2013. Approximately 234 print and broadcast items across regional and national media featured Green-Schools Travel during 2013. This figure is approximate as no national clipping service is employed by An Taisce at present. Radio mentions were high with most regional stations featuring the work of Green-Schools Travel throughout the year alongside national shows including 2FM's Breakfast with Hector show, Radio One's Drivetime, Newstalk's Lunchtime with Jonathan Healy and Today FM's Ray D'Arcy show.

During 2013 Green-Schools Travel also featured on television. Bike Week 2013 school events were filmed by RTE's News2day show and RTE's Nationwide interviewed Green-Schools Travel Officer Eva McIntyre for their feature on Westport. Initiatives featuring the work of Green-Schools Travel also featured on TV3 News and ITV4.

During 2013 many schools also featured their own Green-Schools Travel programme on their own websites and in community newsletters. Both are effective methods of circulating news and informing and involving the wider community in school activities.



234

print and broadcast items across regional and national media featured Green-Schools Travel



Case Studies

St. Thomas' Junior National School, Lucan

St. Thomas' Junior National School in Lucan, Co. Dublin are a school that adapted the programme to suit their strengths, and achieved great success in reducing car journeys.

St. Thomas' is a large junior school (512 students) in Esker, Lucan. It shares a campus with a senior school (with 489 students) and is situated close to Lucan shopping centre and Lucan Community College (over 800 students). As a result, traffic in and around the entrance was causing major bottle-necks, and creating a relatively unsafe environment for young children.

The school faced a number of challenges namely; the age of the pupils who are between five and seven years of age and therefore dependent on their parents, the serious traffic issues in and around the school due to its location; and the fact that almost 1800 pupils share the campus. The school took three years to complete the Travel theme due to the barriers they had to overcome and also the school's commitment to changing the habits and behaviours of the community and to truly instil a culture of walking in the school.

Baseline surveys showed that 53% of students usually walked to school, while 42% travelled by car. A small number of children typically opted for Park 'n' Stride (3%), School Bus (1%) and cycling (<1%). The impressive shift to more sustainable travel in the school can be seen in the graph below. This change occurred on the back of many important steps taken by the school, to promote sustainable travel and road safety. Some of the main steps are listed in the box below.

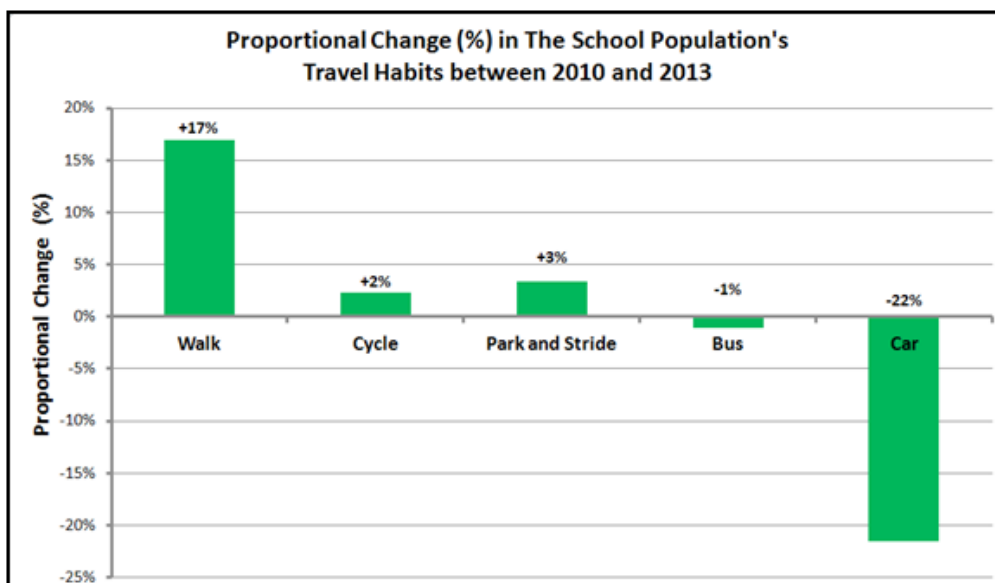


Figure 1: Change in mode of travel to school

No of pupils: 512

Travel start date: September 2010

GS Travel Officer: Áine O'Loughlen

Actions

Committee Actions

- Conducted an Environmental Review.
- Developed a Travel Action Plan based on their review.
- Staff attended the teacher training seminar in Autumn 2010.

WOW Actions

- Held a big WOW Launch Day in April 2011.
- Participate in National Walk to School Week every May with:
 - 'March on Monday'
 - 'Trot on Tuesday'
 - 'Walk on Wednesday'
 - "No Car Thursday" and a
 - "Feet First Friday"!
- Nov 2012 held official opening of new pedestrian gate and footpath in Finnstown Shopping Centre was designated as a Park 'n' Stride location.
- Celebrate Mobility Week every September.

Awareness Raising

- Ran sustainable travel workshops throughout the school.
- Letters were sent home for students and parents to inform them of why people should walk as much as possible.
- Feb 2012 participated in the Green-Schools Travel Competition, and won!!
- Used the prize money to commission several Green-School themed outdoor posters to help raise awareness of sustainable transport in the school.
- Held three Travel Action Days over the three years.
- Organised media coverage for all of the Action Days.
- Road safety was taught in each classroom.

Monitoring of Progress

- Run Green Trees Class Awards.
- Run Golden Boot Class Awards.



Case Study

Scoil Bhríde BNS, Tullamore

Scoil Bhríde is a Senior Primary school for boys based in Kilcruttin Tullamore, Co. Offaly that achieved great success on the Green-Schools Travel Programme.

This school is a DEIS school and also has a number of pupils with special needs. It is located in the town of Tullamore at a busy road that is part of the western ring road around Tullamore. Neighbouring school Scoil Mhuire is located on the same road and although there are parking outside the two schools there wasn't enough parking space for all the local bus services and parents bringing children to school. Consequently, there was often chaos outside the school at peak times.

The Green-Schools Committee identified activities that the school could undertake to promote the travel programme. They motivated the staff and families to move away from the car and as a result they saw a reduction in the number of cars at the school gates..

The success of the travel programme in this school was mainly achieved because of the enthusiasm and perseverance of the GS coordinators, the support of all the staff and the Principal. Regular reflection and the follow up of suggestions towards improving the programme helped to encourage more children to walk to school. The decision to monitor travel movements on a daily basis and award the Golden Boot brought in a competitive element that resulted in an overall increase in sustainable travel modes.

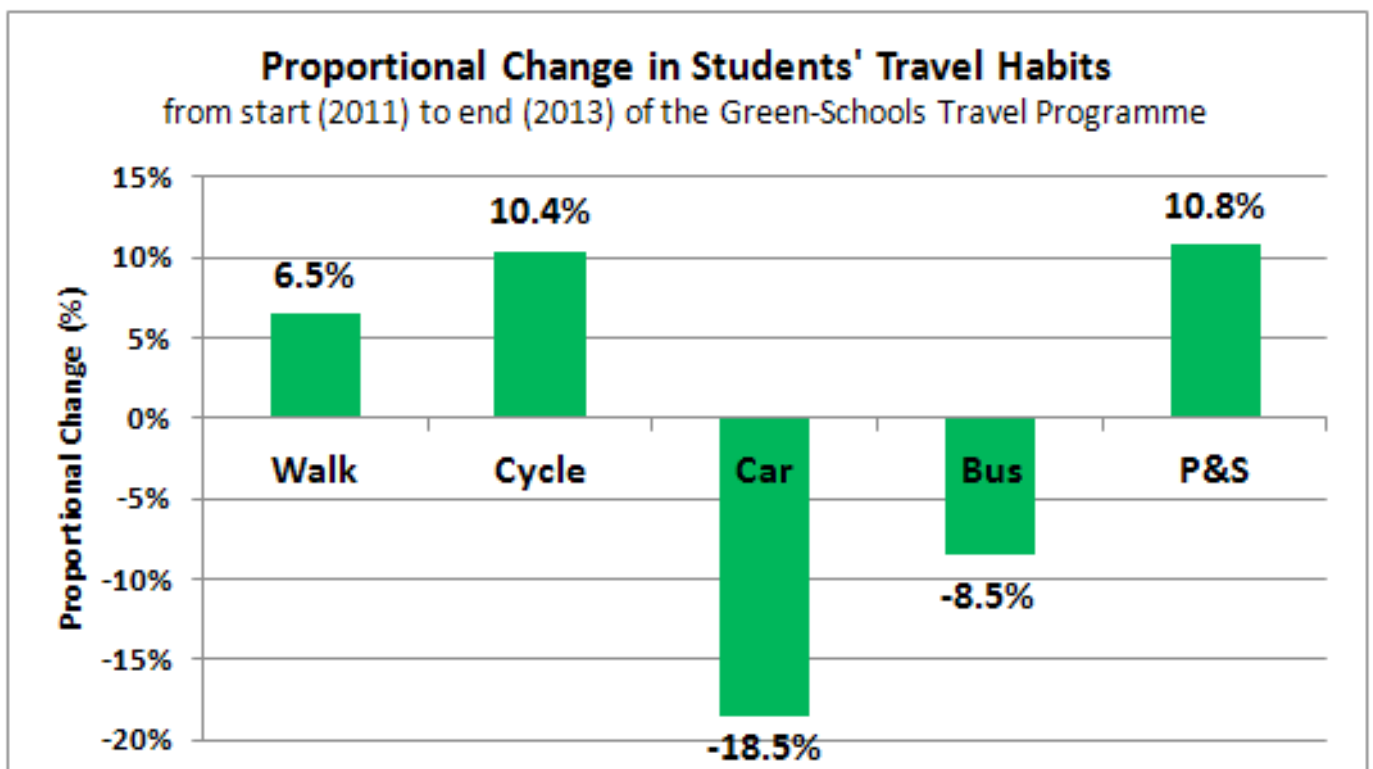


Figure 2: Change in mode of travel to school

No of pupils: 166

Travel start date: September 2011

GS Travel Officer: Mieke Scholte

Actions

Committee Actions

- Committee consisted of the coordinator and two representatives from each class.
- Held monthly meetings to brainstorm and update action plan.

Actions and Awareness Raising

- Ran sustainable travel workshops throughout the school.
- Ran a competition to raise awareness and devise their Green Code for Travel.
- Conducted a walkability audit and made recommendations to the council.
- Launched their first WOW day during National Walk to School Week in May 2012, with group walks from their designated PnS locations at the town car park and the Lidl car park.
- Ran themed WOW days for Halloween and Valentine's Day.
- Students participated in road safety workshops, which covered cycle safety, helmet fitting and the importance of hi-viz.
- Students from 5th and 6th class took part in cycle training and Dr Bike workshops as part of National Bike Week. Some also took part in Tullamore's Lunchtime Cycle during that week.
- Gained publicity for their travel work by inviting the Tullamore Tribune to the school to take photos and interview pupils.

Monitoring of Progress

- Run Golden Boot Class Awards.
- Ran Scores on Doors.



Case Study

Our Lady of Lourdes Secondary School, New Ross

Our Lady of Lourdes Secondary School is a school in New Ross, Co. Wexford that achieved great success on the Green-Schools Travel Programme.

Our Lady of Lourdes is a medium sized secondary school of approximately 350 students in an urban area of New Ross. A key element of their success on the Travel Programme was the Green-Schools committee who communicated their aims to the whole school.

Members of the committee were elected by their class; therefore there were representatives from each year in the school. These representatives attended the Green-Schools meetings once a term and were charged with conveying information from the meetings back to their classes. The committee members actively encouraged students in their respective classes to make environmentally sustainable choices in many aspects of their life, and most specifically regarding the commute to school.

Over the two-year period working on the Green-Schools Travel programme the school population of Our Lady of Lourdes Secondary School reduced their car journeys to the school by almost 10%; in real terms this now means that up to 30 fewer cars are arriving to the school each and every morning! The environmental and economic savings in fuel emissions and fuel costs respectively are obvious. Added social benefits experienced by students are likely to include increased health, fitness and concentration in class on a daily basis.

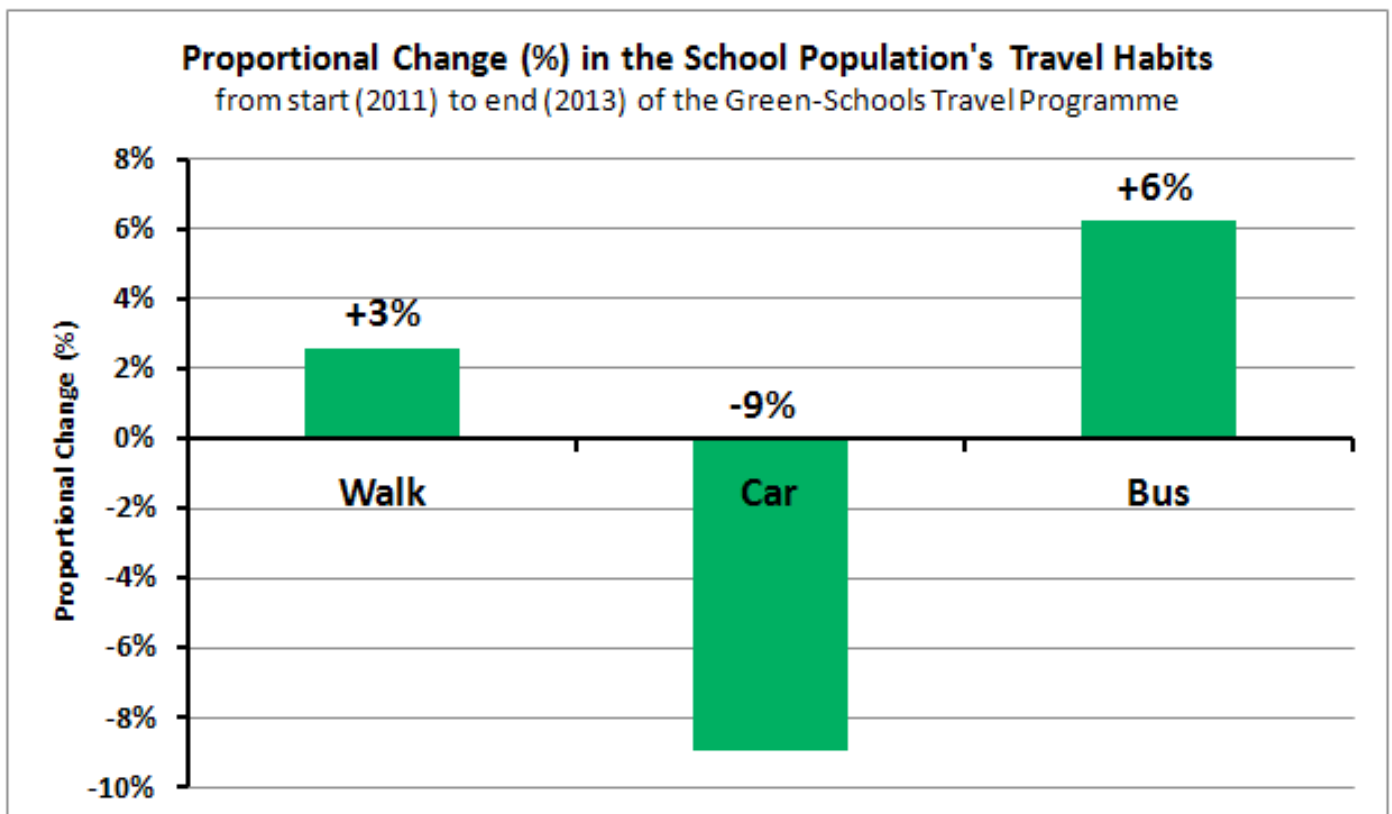


Figure 3: Change in mode of travel to school

No of pupils: 353

Travel start date: September 2011

GS Travel Officer: Dara Dever

Actions

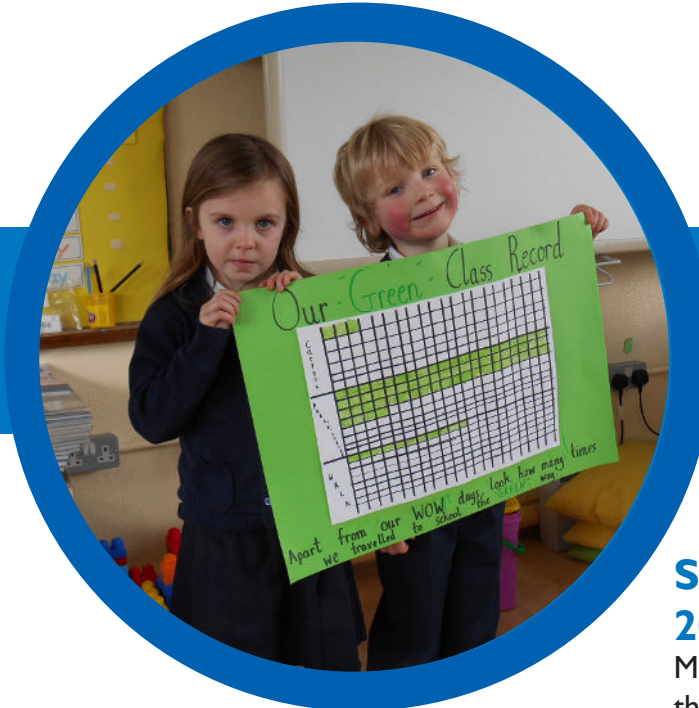
Committee Actions

- An introductory presentation on the Travel Theme was organised, with An Taisce, to prepare the committee for their work on the programme.
- Organised an action planning meeting with An Taisce to start planning out their first steps.
- Staff from the committee attended the teacher training seminar in Autumn 2011.
- Conducted four surveys across the duration of the two-year programme.

Actions and Awareness Raising

- Posters were made to introduce the new Green-Schools theme.
- Organised a 'walk in the park' to John F Kennedy park. This highlighted the health benefits of walking to the students.
- Invited a local Garda to visit the school and talk about the importance of road safety on the journey to school.
- Held a healthy breakfast morning.
- Ran an essay competition comparing the past and present modes of transport to school.
- Throughout the two years the message was built upon to encourage students to walk to school as often as possible.
- Ran a slogan competition; the winning slogan was 'Beat the blues, get out them shoes'; this was displayed all around the school.
- Held a big Action Day and tried to get all students to travel to school in a sustainable manner on that day.
- Promoted 'Park and Stride' from the Dunbrody Ship to school.
- Updated the notice board regularly and used it to display survey results, events and reminders about the Green-Schools.
- Displayed posters around the school; these were found to be an effective way of communicating the Green-Schools message to the whole school.





Appendix 1

Travel Survey Results and Analysis

Student Survey - Final Results May 2013

May 2013 was the final survey date for schools that started the Green-Schools Travel theme in September 2011 and is compared to their original baseline survey results and also interim surveys carried out in May and October 2012. The May 2013 final survey records responses from students in 150 schools. This compares to 178 schools in the baseline survey, 159 schools in the first follow-on, and 170 in the second follow-on survey. The following analysis compares the current sample with previous samples. In addition, for some key travel questions, it provides a better indication of the success of Green Schools Travel by comparing 1) the same schools represented in the final survey and the baseline survey, and 2) a like-for-like comparison for the same classes from the current and baseline sample.

A total of 13,944 students are included in the survey of whom 46.7% (6,507) are boys and 53.3% (7,437) are girls. Over half, i.e. 55% (83) of the schools are rural, but at 5,624 students they have less than half, i.e. 40.3% of the sample. The higher number of students, i.e. 8,320, found in urban schools is due to the larger school size together with the inclusion of some urban secondary schools. However, as noted above, many of the "urban" schools, as well as those defined as "rural", are actually located in small (or on the edge of) communities where the student population catchment would be both urban and rural with walking obviously more feasible in the former.

The over-whelming majority of schools, i.e. 96.0% (144) are primary, i.e. with 94.2% (13,137) of students. Only six are secondary with 5.7% (807) of students. Over the period of the programme (September 2011 to June 2013) participating schools recorded an overall mode share reduction in private car use on the journey to school of

Introduction

In order to monitor the progress and performance of participating schools over the two year period of the programme An Taisce conducts up to four surveys per school at various stages across both academic years. Schools undertake an initial baseline travel survey during the first two months of the programme, followed by another survey towards the end of the first academic year. This methodology is repeated over the second year of the programme to ensure a comprehensive and complete set of results. This is an extensive process which allows An Taisce to monitor the overall performance of the programme and also provide information at an individual school level throughout the year. Schools are also required to monitor and measure progress themselves as part of the programme. Surveys monitor travel patterns and attitudes of pupils and staff over the period of the programme. Student surveys are conducted by Green-Schools Travel Officers via a class questionnaire where pupils respond to questions by raising their hands. In a minority of cases student surveys are conducted by the class teacher. Staff surveys are carried out in a similar format and usually in the staffroom by Travel Officers. Results are collated and analyzed independently by Optimize Economic Consultancy which is affiliated with UCD Urban Institute. This report focuses on results for two distinct groups of schools; a comparison of results for schools that completed the programme in May 2013 (final survey results); and, interim results for schools that will complete the programme in 2014 (follow-on survey results).

15 percentage points. The share of students walking to school increased by 4 percentage points, cycling increased by 2 percentage points and the mode share for park and stride increased by 9 percentage points. As a result the mode share split for walking, cycling and park and stride increased to 16%, 71% and 235% respectively (Table 2-1). The share of students travelling to school by car dropped significantly to 25.8%.

Travel to School

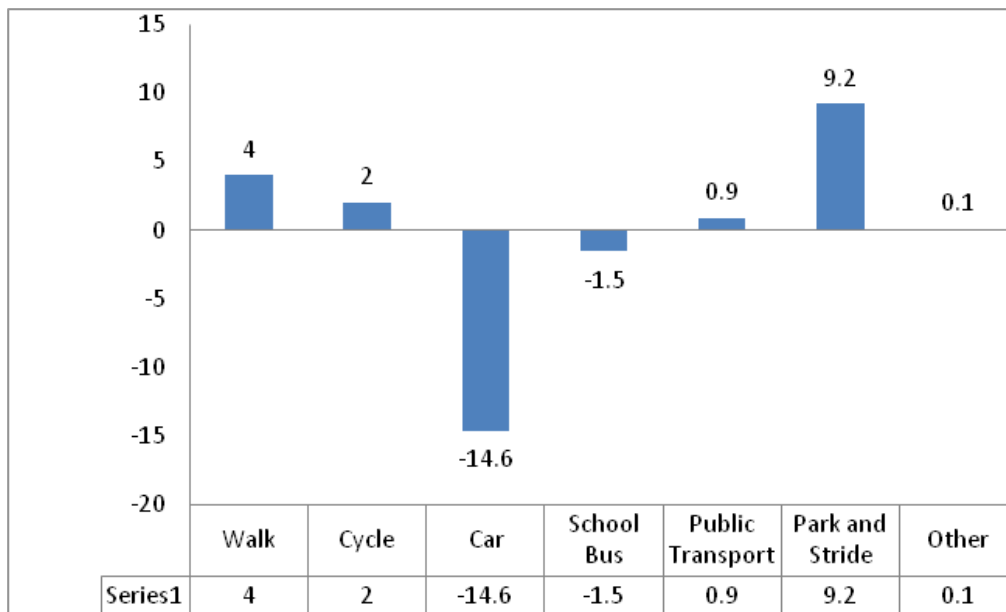


Figure 1: Mode Share Change for travel to school from 2011 to 2013

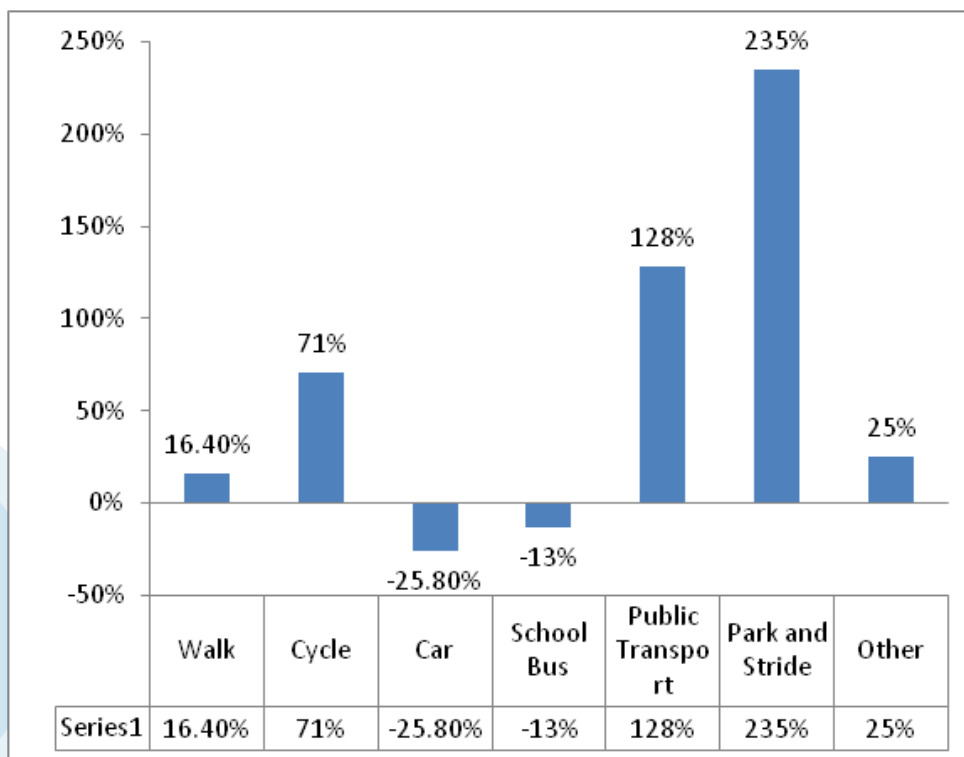


Figure 2: Percentage Mode Share Increase/Decrease for travel to school from 2011 to 2013 Survey

Survey	Walk	Cycle	Car	School Bus	Public Transport	Park n Stride	Other
Baseline	24.3%	2.8%	56.5%	11.2%	0.7%	3.9%	0.4%
Final Survey	28.3%	4.8%	41.9%	9.7%	1.6%	13.1%	0.5%
Mode Share Change	4	2	-14.6	-1.5	0.9	9.2	0.1
Percentage Change	16.40%	71%	25.80%	13%	128%	235%	25%

Table 1: Comparative Results between the Baseline Survey 2011 and Final Survey 2013

Car and Carpooling

Final survey results show that the majority of children are brought to school by car at 41.9% (5,837). However this figure is lower than in the previous follow-on survey when it was 46.1%, but significantly less than at the Baseline when it was 56.5%. It is important to note that of the 41.9% of children who arrive to school by car, 14.6% of those carpool on the journey to school. This accounts for 34.6% of those who travel to school by car. This figure compares with 31.6% in the previous follow-on survey, 18.8% in the first follow-on survey and just 2.6% at the time of the Baseline. On average in the schools for which there is car pooling, over one third, i.e. 39%, of students arriving by car are in a car pool. In 36% (231) of classes the proportion car shares is greater than 50%.

Walking

The proportion of students who walk to school has increased from 24.3% in 2011 to 28.3% (3,953) in 2013. The gender breakdown is 47.3% boys and 52.7% girls. Where infrastructure and services are available the proportion walking is higher. For instance, the presence of a lollipop crossing service increases the proportion of students walking to school to 39.7% compared with the average of 28.3%. For schools with a pedestrian crossing, the proportion is 31.6%, while for schools with a footpath the proportion walking is 35.8%. It is important to note that the majority of infrastructure and services are located in larger towns or cities, however it is still the case that the more facilities there are the more inclined students are to walk to school with the support of their parents.

walking average	crossing service	pedestrian crossing	footpath
28.3%	39.7%	31.6%	35.8%

Table 2: Increased Walkers where Infrastructure or Services Exist

Cycling

Overall there is a small increase in the number of students who cycle to school at 4.8% in 2013 compared to the baseline of 2.8%. Of those; boys account for 64.4% of those who cycle which equates to 6.7% of all boys compared with just 3.3% of girls. The presence of cycling facilities has an influence on the number of students who cycle. In total only 4.7% of schools have a cycle path however, where there is a cycling path the proportion cycling is higher at 7.8%. Where bicycle parking is available the average proportion cycling is 6.8%, although it is not clear whether parking increases cycling or if facilities (namely bicycle parking) have been provided in response to cycling demand. Where cycle training has been provided, the average figure is of 6.9%. These figures for these facilities are slightly higher than for previous surveys and so suggest that facilities do have an effect.

Cycling Average	Cycle Path	Cycle Parking	Cycle Training
4.8%	7.8%	6.8%	6.9%

Table 3: Increased Cyclists where Cycle Facilities or Services Exist.

Park and Stride

Park-and-Stride accounts for 13.1% (1,820) of journeys to school, this compares with just 3.9% at the time of the baseline. Park n Stride encourages students to walk some of the distance to school; it increases exercise, mental awareness and reduces the risk of accidents, congestion and pollution at the front of the school gate.

Bus

The proportion of students arriving by bus is 11.3% (1,581), of these, 9.7% (1,356) arrive on a school bus. Only 1.6% (225) of students arrive by public bus, although this may be related to the age profile of students. However, both schools buses and public buses are not available for travel to all schools. Where a school bus is available, the proportion choosing this mode is 15.3%. Where there is public transport available, the proportion using this service is only 2.8%.

Urban and rural

In terms of urban and rural characteristics, more than twice as many students, i.e. 37.3% (3,103), walk to an urban school than walk to rural schools, i.e. 15.1% (850). Both these figures are slightly higher than the 36.5% and 13.8% recorded in the previous follow-on survey. However, they are significantly higher than at the Baseline when the respective figures were 31.8% and 11.3%. Only slightly more students cycle to urban schools at 5.2% (429) than to rural schools for which the respective figure is 4.4% (250).

The proportion of urban students using school buses is 5.3% (441) compared with rural areas where the share is higher at 16.3% (915). Despite its relative availability in some urban areas, public transport is used by just 1.7% (139) of urban students, while the figure for students at rural schools is little different at 1.5% (86). Most students in the sample are young children so would understandably be less inclined to travel on public transport.

Travel by car makes up most of the balance and accounts for 35.55% (2,951) of journeys by urban students and 51.3% (2,886) of rural students. Car pooling amongst urban students accounts for 12.0% (1,002) of journeys, but for a higher proportion of rural students at 18.3% (1,030).

Park-and-stride is more popular in urban areas where it is used by 14.3% (1,193) of students compared with 11.1% (627) of rural students.

Survey	Walk	Cycle	Car	School Bus	Public Transport	Park n Stride
Urban	37.3%	5.2%	35.5%	5.3%	1.7%	14.3%
Rural	15.1%	4.4%	51.3%	16.3%	1.5%	11.1%

Table 4: Comparison between urban and rural schools

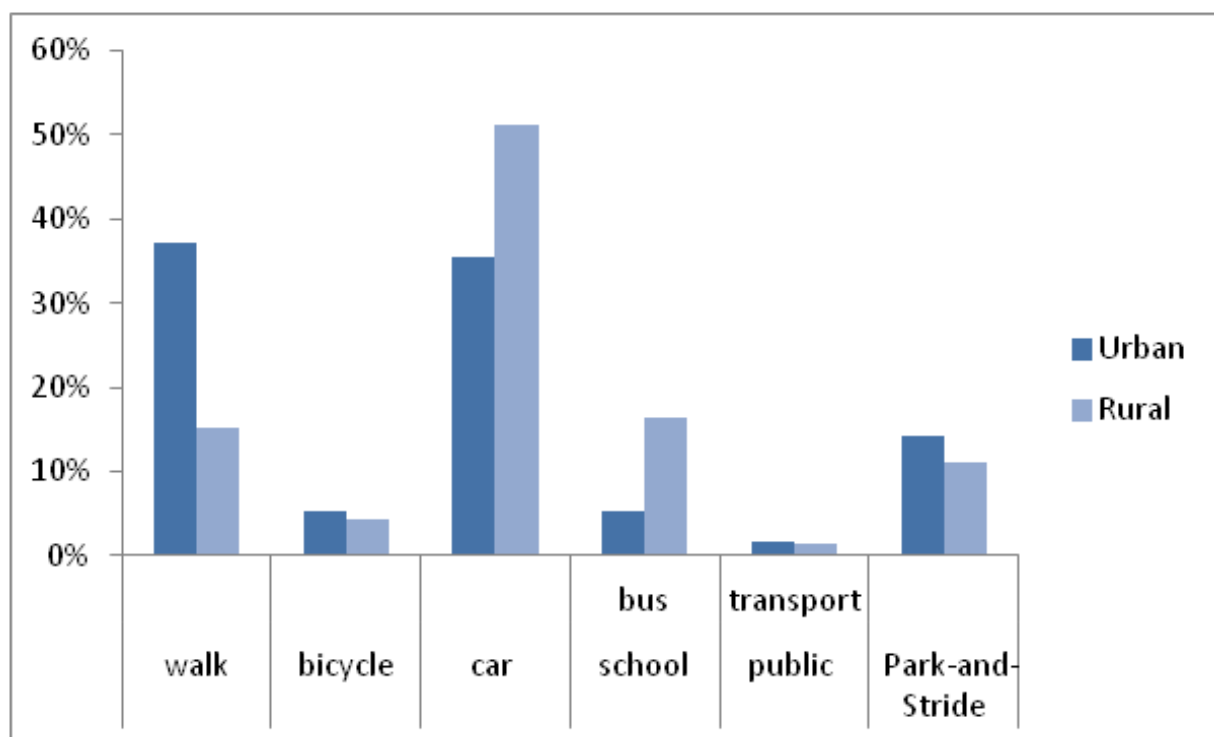


Figure 3: Urban and rural modes of transport to school, final survey

Travel from School

There is no significant difference between travelling to school and travelling from school, although less students use park-and-stride when returning home and slightly more walk or return by car. Of the number of students who travel by car, 14% (1,948) car pool.

	walk	bicycle	car	school bus	Public transport	Park-and-Stride	other
from school	30.7%	4.8%	43.2%	10.7%	1.5%	8.5%	0.5%
to school	28.3%	4.8%	41.9%	9.7%	1.6%	13.1%	0.5%

Table 5: Mode of travel from school (as proportion of respondents to question)

Preferences for Travel to School

Students were asked how they would prefer to travel to school given the choice. The proportion of students who prefer to walk is 23.5% (3,243), a figure that is not so very different from the proportion who actually do walk and which is little changed from the baseline figure of 24.0%. As with previous surveys, many more students said they would prefer to cycle given the choice, i.e. 52.1% (7,199). This proportion is slightly higher than that of 46.7% at the baseline. The proportion of students who prefer to cycle is also slightly higher at 54.3% where they have received cycle training.

In practice, it might be impractical for some students to travel to school by bicycle, but only 6.0% (832) expressed a preference to come by car, a reduction on the baseline of 12.1%. Park-and-stride similarly has a low level of preference at just 3.0%, although this may partly be because of the association with car trips. Quite a few students, 4.1% (564) also expressed a preference for coming to school by “other” means, possibly scooting.

A slightly higher proportion of girls expressed a preference for cycling in this survey at 26.9%. This figure

accounted for 50.0% of girls compared with 53.5% of boys. However, these figures compare with 3.1% of boys and 1.7% of girls who actually do cycle.

	walk	bicycle	car	School bus	Public transport	Park-and-Stride	Other
Final Survey	23.5%	52.1%	6.0%	8.7%	2.3%	3.3%	4.1%
Baseline	24.0%	46.7%	12.1%	8.0%	1.5%	3.4%	4.2%
Actual	28.3%	4.8%	41.9%	9.7%	1.6%	13.1%	0.5%

Table 6: Travel to school preferences

Weekly Walking Events

In total, 66.5% (9,272) of students have participated in weekly walking events i.e. Walk on Wednesday or Walk Once a Week. This compares with a figure of 5.1% of students in the baseline survey. The proportion of students who walk to school in these participating classes is 37.9% (3,511) compared with the average of 28.3%.

Weekly Cycling Events

Answers to the cycling question were received from 27.4% (172) of classes. Just over ten percent (10.9%, 1,524) of students have participated compared with 7.1% at the time of the last survey (Oct 2012). Students who cycle as a share of the numbers who have participated in Cycle On Wednesday (COW) represent quite a high proportion at 25.4% (387).

Students Follow on Survey May 2013

Interim results were recorded for schools on completion of their first year of the Travel programme September 2012-June 2013. These results were compared to the schools' original baseline results to monitor overall progress and highlight areas for targeted action over year two of the programme. The follow on survey refers to 233 schools. This compares to 249 schools surveyed in the baseline.

Travel to School

Car

The majority of children are brought to school by car at 43.2% (11,375). This figure is lower than in the Baseline when it was 55.5%.

Car pooling

Car pooling and park-and-stride provide more sustainable travel alternatives for those students who may have little choice but to arrive by car. Indeed, the level of carpooling is greater in rural areas (see below). Although a large proportion of students arrive by car, many also carpool. In total, 13.5% (3,551) of journeys involve carpooling accounting for 31.2% of those who travel by car. On average in the schools for which there is carpooling, 23% of students arriving by car or using park-and-stride are in a car pool. In 11% (120) of classes the proportion who car share is greater than 50%.

Walking

The proportion of students who walk to school is 25.0% (6,591). This total compares with 22.9% at the time of the Baseline survey. The gender breakdown is 44.8% boys and 55.2% girls. The prospect of increasing the number of students who walk to school is greater where facilities are present to allow them to do so more safely. For instance, the presence of a lollipop crossing service increases the proportion of students walking

to school most at 32.3% compared with the average of 25%. For schools with a pedestrian crossing, the proportion is 29.9%, while for schools with a footpath; the proportion walking is 26.2%.

Admittedly, more pedestrian facilities are present at urban schools to which more students would be expected to walk. Nevertheless, it is still the case that the more facilities there are the more inclined students are to walk to school.

walking average	crossing service	pedestrian crossing	footpath
25.0%	32.3%	29.9%	26.2%

Table 7: Proportion walking with walking facilities

Cycling

A relatively small proportion of students arrive by bicycle at 3.4% (908), although this is an increase on the 2.9% recorded in the Baseline. Boys account for 67.1% of those who cycle which equates to 4.8% of all boys compared with just 2.2% of girls.

The scheme has only just begun to have an opportunity to increase the proportion who cycle by offering training. Only 1.4% of student's cycle in schools where training has been provided so there is the potential for an increase in the level of cycling. The proportion who cycle is also smaller than the overall average in schools with a cycle path and with cycle parking. Some of these facilities have been provided in rural schools in an attempt to increase the small proportions who cycle.

cycling	cycle path	cycle parking	training
3.4%	2.3%	2.4%	1.4%

Table 8: Proportion cycling with cycle facilities

Bus

The proportion of students arriving by bus is 15.4% (4,061) whereas in the baseline it was 14.7%. Of these, 13.7% (3,612) arrive on a school bus. Only 1.7% (449) of students arrive on a public bus, although this is not too surprising given that most of the sample is comprised of primary school children.

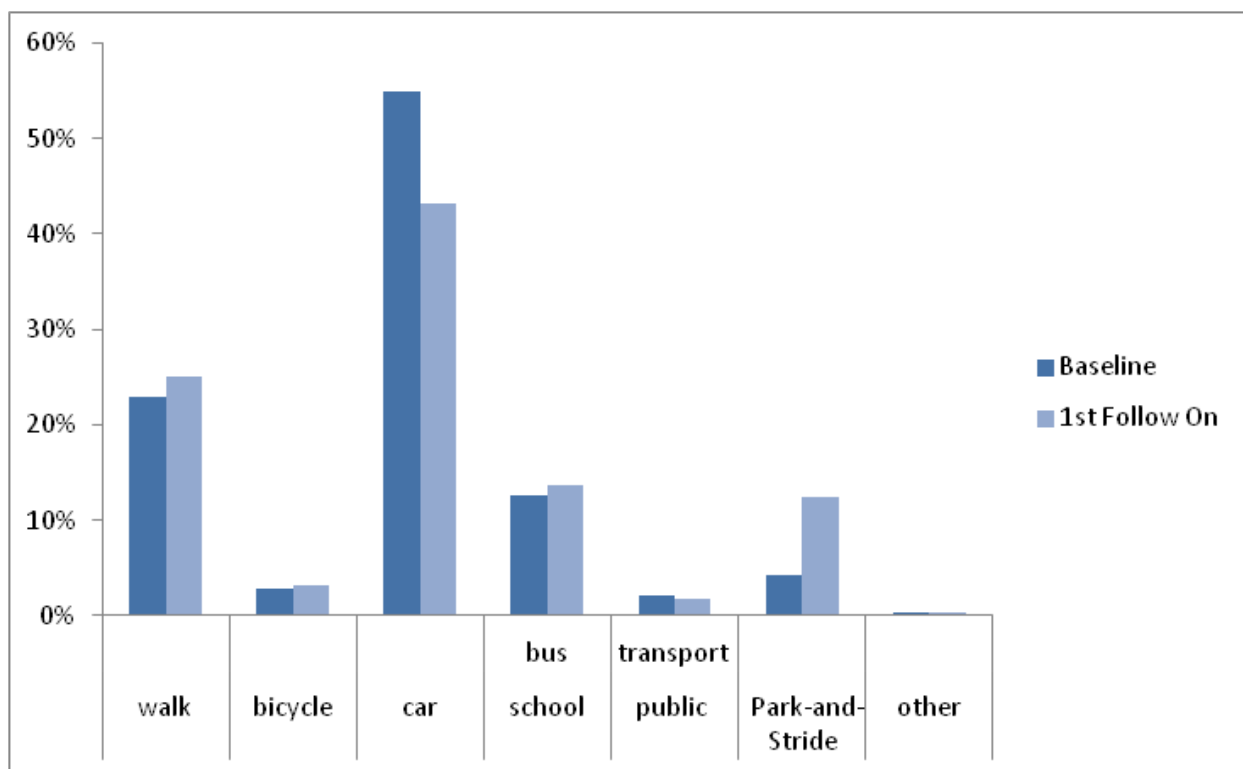


Figure 4: Mode of travel to school – Comparison between Baseline 2012 & 1st Follow on Survey June 2013

	walk	bicycle	car	school bus	public transport	Park-and-Stride	other
Baseline	22.9%	2.9%	55.0%	12.6%	2.1%	4.2%	0.3%
1st Follow-on	25.0%	3.2%	43.2%	13.7%	1.7%	12.5%	0.4%

Table 9: Mode of travel to school – Comparison between Baseline 2012 & 1st Follow on Survey June 2013

Urban and rural

In terms of urban and rural characteristics, more than twice as many students, i.e. 34.7% (5,263), walk to an urban school than walk to rural schools, i.e. 11.9% (1,328). Both these figures are slightly higher than the 31.4% and 10.6% recorded in the Baseline. More students cycle to urban schools at 5.2% (429) than to rural schools for which the respective figure is 2.4% (258). These figures show a slight increase on the 4.0% and 1.3% recorded in the Baseline.

The proportion of urban students using school buses is 6.7% (1,010) compared with rural areas where the share is much higher at 23.7% (2,602). Despite its relative availability in some urban areas, public transport is used by just 2.4% (365) of urban students, while the figure for students at rural schools is just 0.8% (84). Most students in the sample are quite young and so would understandably be less inclined to travel on public transport.

Travel by car makes up most of the balance and accounts for 36.6% (5,547) of journeys by urban students 52.2% (5,828) of rural students. Car pooling amongst urban students accounts for 11.4% (1,730) of journeys,

but for a higher proportion of rural students at 16.3% (1,821). This relative difference (although not huge) is in contrast to some other samples. However, park-and-stride is more common in urban areas where it is used by 15.0% (2,272) of students compared with 9.2% (1,027) of rural students.

Primary and Secondary

A comparison of travel mode for primary schools and secondary schools reveals that slightly more students proportionately walk to primary school at 25.1% (6,250) than to secondary school for which the figure is 24.2% (3,818). These figures compare with 23.4% for primary students, but 16.1% at the time of the Baseline. The proportion who walk is especially high for secondary girls who represent 80% of the total. For cycling the proportions are 3.5% (882) of primary students which compares with just 1.5% (21) of students in secondary schools.

School buses are used by 11.4% (2,823) of primary students. This figure is proportionately much less than the 53.7% (733) of secondary students who arrive by school bus. The corresponding figures for students arriving on public transport are understandably low for primary students at just 1.5% (384) compared with 4.8% (65) of secondary students.

The proportion of primary students arriving by car is 45.0% (11,182) which represents a small reduction on the 47.1% recorded in the last survey. This figure compares with 12.0% (164) of secondary students. The proportion of primary students using park-and-stride is 13.0% (3,242) compared with just 4.1% in the Baseline and just 3.8% (52) of students in secondary schools who arrive using this means.

	walk	bicycle	car	school bus	public transport	Park-&-stride
1st Follow On						
Secondary	24.20%	1.50%	12.00%	53.70%	4.80%	3.80%
Baseline secondary	16.10%	1.30%	39.00%	26.80%	14.90%	2.30%
1st Follow-on						
Primary	25.10%	3.50%	45.00%	11.40%	1.50%	13.00%
Baseline Primary	23.40%	3.00%	56.20%	11.30%	1.20%	4.30%

Table 10: Comparison between the 1st Follow On Survey and the Baseline; Primary and Secondary schools

Mrs. Margaret Jones, the Green-Schools coordinator at Walterstown N.S. in Cobh, won the title of 'Hero Teacher Award' by RTE's Operation Transformation in recognition of her efforts to introduce physical activity into everyday life at the school.





Appendix 2

Competition Winners

School	Location	Category	Position
St. Mary's Junior NS	Blessington	Junior Travel School of the Year	WINNER
St. Sylvester's Infant School	Malahide	Junior Travel School of the Year	RUNNER-UP
Belgrove Senior Boys School	Clontarf	Combination	WINNER
Presentation Girls School	Maynooth	Combination	RUNNER-UP
Scoil Chlochair Mhuire	Carrigtohill	Walking	WINNER
St. Declan's National School	Ashbourne	Walking	RUNNER-UP
St. Colmcille's Senior National School	Knocklyon	Cycling	WINNER
Aglish National School	Cappoquin, Co. Waterford	Cycling	RUNNER-UP
Geesala National School	Ballina	Park 'n' Stride	WINNER
Monkstown Educate Together National School	Dun Laoghaire	Park 'n' Stride	RUNNER-UP
St. Mary's National School	Waterford City	Car Pool	WINNER
Ballintleva National School	Athlone	Car Pool	RUNNER-UP
St. Aidan's CBS	Whitehall	Secondary Travel School of the Year	WINNER
Jesus & Mary Secondary School	Enniscrone	Secondary Travel School of the Year	RUNNER-UP

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
CLOHAMON





Green-Schools

 An Taisce



Is an international environmental education programme, environmental management system and award scheme that promotes whole school action towards a sustainable environment through the implementation of the Seven Step methodology. It is known internationally as Eco-Schools.

W. www.greenschoolsireland.org
E. greenschools@antaisce.org
T. +353 (0)1 4002 222



Encourages a partnership approach to environmental management in third level educational institutions. The programme places significant importance on the inclusion of all sectors of the campus community in environmental management, protection and enhancement.

W. www.greencampusireland.org
E. greencampus@eeu.antaisce.org
T. +353 (0)1 4002 211



An international award recognising beaches and marinas that meet strict criteria related to environmental education, information provision, water quality, environmental management and safety. The aim of the Blue Flag is to promote integrated coastal zone management and sustainable development in coastal areas.

W. www.blueflagireland.org / www.blueflag.org
E. blueflag@antaisce.org
T. +353 (0)1 4002 210



Is Ireland's largest and most popular anti-litter initiative. The campaign runs every April and encourages all members of the community to actively participate and take responsibility for their immediate environment. By participating in clean-ups, groups are making a positive and important contribution to their community.

W. www.nationalspringclean.org
E. nsc@antaisce.org
T. +353 (0)1 4002 212



Is an anti-litter programme for secondary schools. It involves students working with their peers to develop initiatives to tackle litter in their schools and local area. The programme is designed to facilitate and develop leadership, project management, citizenship and communication skills among students, through the design and implementation of an anti-litter campaign.

W. www.neatstreets.org
E. neatstreets@eeu.antaisce.org
T. +353 (0)1 4002 222



Is about protecting and enhancing our beaches, seas and marine life. It strives to improve the economic and aesthetic value of the coastline for community and visitors alike by involving local communities in beach management and encouraging them to be guardians of their coastline.

W. www.cleancoasts.org
E. cleancoasts@antaisce.org
T. +353 (0)1 4002 210



Provides practical tips and information on ways to save money and help to protect the environment. Green Home empowers householders on their journey towards sustainable living and promotes behaviour change on the themes of waste, energy, water and travel. Green Home is operated in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency.

W. www.greenhome.ie
E. greenhome@eeu.antaisce.org
T. +353 (0)1 4002 218



Is a joint initiative of the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, the EPA and An Taisce, to encourage the growth of Greening Communities. The programme recognises and celebrates the work being undertaken at community level throughout the country. It aims to enhance coordination and collaboration between the public, private, non-governmental and voluntary sector.

W. www.greeningcommunities.ie
E. greeningcommunities@eeu.antaisce.org
T. +353 (0)1 4002 229



Works towards empowering community groups to improve their local environment, enhance biodiversity and reduce their resource usage. This is largely achieved through community environmental improvement initiatives. These initiatives are supported by training sessions; action based environmental activities; and field trips.

W. www.greencommunitiesproject.org
E. greencommunities@eeu.antaisce.org
T. +353 (0)1 4002 202



An Taisce
The National Trust for Ireland

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 Environmental Education Unit, An Taisce
 5a Swift's Alley, Francis Street, Dublin 8
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