

Introduction



Everyday, lots of children and young people living in Northern Ireland travel to school using the bus, car, train, taxi, walking, cycling or by using some other form of transport.



What did we want to find out?

We wanted to find out more about **how** children and young people travelled to school and **what** they liked and did not like about this journey.

- We talked to pupils about their journey travelling to and from school
- We talked to parents and people who make decisions about transport
- We looked at how many pupils walk, cycle or use the car/bus/train to get to school
- We looked at the rules about how school buses operate
- We also looked at what other people had written about this

How did we do this?



Most pupils told us about their experiences of travelling to school using a questionnaire (which is

like a long letter which asks pupils questions). Some pupils told us their views through pictures, others drew posters, some pupils wrote stories and others simply talked about their experiences.



Pupils' Concerns about School Transport



Pupils told us they were worried about:

Buses

Many pupils did not feel safe travelling on school buses. They wanted more seatbelts, a proper bus shelter and thought that too many pupils crowded onto the bus. Others didn't like the bus drivers and wanted buses to arrive on time. Some children liked bus journeys because they could chat to friends.

Traffic

Many pupils didn't like the speed, noise and fast traffic outside their school.

Walking

Pupils wanted more school crossings. Some children living in the countryside felt there weren't enough footpaths on busy roads.

Cycling

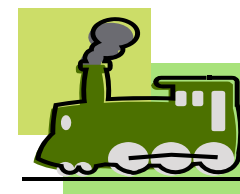
Pupils wanted more cycle lanes and better sheds to store their bikes at their school.

Bullying

Some pupils were frightened on buses because of fights and messing about at the back of the bus.

Special Needs

Pupils in special schools wanted their buses to arrive on time and were worried about wheelchairs not being firmly fixed into place.



Parents' Worries about School Transport



Adults who look after children also had concerns about school transport. These included:

Traffic

Parents wanted better parking when they were dropping off and collecting their children.

Buses

Parents wanted more seatbelts, less crowding on buses and an adult to travel on bus journeys to help make sure pupils were safe.

Footpaths

Parents wanted extra road crossings so children could cross the road safely.



What needs to happen next?

There are some things that would help children and young people travel safely to school.



1. We need people who make decisions about school transport to decide how they are going to solve these problems.
2. We need to look at how far pupils have to walk to school to see how this affects the number of pupils on buses.
3. We need to reduce the number of pupils travelling to school by car.
4. There should not be too many pupils on a bus.
5. We need better footpaths and cycle lanes.
6. School starting and finishing times could be changed to reduce traffic.
7. An adult should travel on the bus to make sure children travel safely.



If you would like to know more about what we do here at NICCY, or if you have an idea which you think we should listen to, you can contact us by:

By phone: 028 9031 1616

By e-mail: info@niccy.org

Or by our website: www.niccy.org

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Safer Journeys to School

A summary of how children and young people travel to school

For Children in Primary Schools

