Sustainable School Travel Strategy Engagement Survey Analysis

Summary

Cycling is coming up as the most popular mode of travel to education and this is supported by most parts of the engagement survey. A recurring theme is around the desire of respondents for an improved and safer cycling infrastructure, training, and accessibility to a variety of purpose built cycles.

Another particular recurring theme is around improvements to the pedestrian infrastructure. Respondents have expressed concern around the safety of pupils walking to school, particularly noting the poor behaviour of those driving their children to school and other drivers who do not respect the safety of pedestrians or cyclists.

In addition, there is much support for an extended bus network to cater for travel to education, particularly for those pupils living in rural areas who generally have less travel choices than those living in urban areas.

In terms of encouraging active travel modes, the survey has demonstrated strong support for some of the actions listed under the Council's priorities and ideas. Respondents particularly felt that improving cycling and walking routes to school were very important, along with delivering road safety education to all primary school pupils. The top three most important accessibility measures supported by respondents were much along the same lines: better quality footways; more pedestrian crossings; and improved cycling facilities.

The actions stated as being most important to enable respondents to use sustainable travel modes included more regular well-timed buses, cheaper bus and rail travel, and more cycle training for all primary school pupils and parents.

Participant data:
- 537 Different respondents participated with varying nos. of responses, depending on questions
- 50.4% (275) of 546 responses were from parents/carers of primary school pupils
- 22.2% (121) of 546 responses were from parents/carers of secondary school pupils
- Colleges and other venues each represented 7.4% of responses.
- 164 responses were related to 1 particular venue (Europa school)

How people travel to education in order of highest used mode:
1. Car (32.53% of journeys)
2. Walking (23.8% of journeys)
3. Cycling (18% of journeys)
4. School bus (11.82%)
5. Public bus (3.56%) & Scooting (3.56%)
6. Car Share (2.92%)
7. Wheeling (1.14%)

All other modes represented less than 1%

By far the largest share of walking to school (73.8%) was recorded at primary school phase. Primary phase share of car travelling (61%) and cycling (66.9%) appears much higher than the secondary phase share, which has car use at 14.5% and cycling at 27.46%.

This data reflects the high proportion of responses from parents/carers of primary school pupils (50.4%) so this caveat needs to be taken into account when examining travel data across the board.

If we examine the data by school phase rather than by overall travel mode, this is the picture:

Looking independently at secondary school phase,
- the highest mode of travel is cycling (23.3%)
- car use (22.2%)
- school bus (20.3%)
- walking (16.8%).

At primary school phase,
- car travel is highest at 31% of journeys
- walking represents 27.4%
- cycling represents 18.8%
- school bus represents 11.7%

At college phase, car use is the main mode of travel, representing 87.9% (51) of all responses relating to colleges (58).

Responses relating to other venues (58) showed
- walking as the highest mode of travel at 31%
- cycling at 12%
- car use at 10.7%
- public bus use at 8.62%

How people would prefer to travel on education journeys:
1. Cycling 33.8% (231)
2. Walking 21.2% (145)
3. School Bus 17.9% (122)
4. Car 12.9% (88)
5. Public Bus 6.0% (41)
6. Scooting 2.6% (18)
7. Car Share 2.0% (14)

All other modes represented less than 1%

In comparing data relating to how people currently travel and how they would actually like to travel, the following points are noted:

- Cycling is the most popular preferred mode of travel at 33.8% and only 18% of journeys are currently made using this mode

- Walking is the second preferred mode of travel at 21.2% yet 23.8% of journeys are currently made using this mode
- Only 12.9% of respondents prefer car as their mode of travel and 32.5% of journeys are currently made using this mode
- 17.9% of respondents would like to travel by school bus compared to the 11.8% who travel by this mode at present
- More people would like to travel by public bus (6%) compared to the 3.56% who currently travel by this mode
- More people travel by scooting mode (3.56%) than would prefer to (2.6%)

Car Travel:
For those people who have said they prefer to travel by car, these are the list of the reasons provided:

1. Safety concerns (18%)
2. Follow on journey to work (16%)
3. Time pressures (15.8%)
4. Distance (15.5%)
5. No alternative option (10.7%)
6. Multiple drop-offs (9.6%)
7. Health issues (4.2%)
8. Mobility difficulties (3.4%)
9. Other (6.8%)

Journey Times:
Journey times were intended to include 4 time bands but due to an error in the survey document the band of more than 60 mins was omitted. Other bands were:
- Less than 15 mins (38.7% of responses)
- 15 – 30 mins (40.3% of responses)
- 30-60 mins (21% of responses)

Overall, the majority of journeys (40.3%) fell into the 15-30 mins band, followed closely by the less than 15 mins band (38.7%).

Due to the high proportion of responses being in primary phase, it may be more representative to look at the data in school phases:

Primary phase (high to low)
- 42% of journeys take less than 15 mins
- 39.6% of journeys take 15-30 mins
- 18.3% of journeys take 30-60 mins

Secondary phase (high to low)
- 47% of journeys take 15-30 mins
- 29.5% of journeys take less than 15 mins
- 23.5% of journeys take 30-60 mins

College phase (high to low)
Numbers of responses are included in this list due to the low numbers involved (12).

- 41.7% (5) of journeys take 30-60 mins
- 33.3% (4) of journeys take 15-30 mins
- 25% (3) of journeys take less than 15 mins

Other venues (high to low)
Numbers of responses are included in this list due to the low numbers involved (26).
- 50% (13) of journeys take less than 15 mins
- 34.6% (9) of journeys take 30-60 mins
- 15.4% (4) of journeys take 15-30 mins

As would be expected, journey times tend to increase as pupils move up from primary phase schooling to secondary and college phases, mainly due to the increased distance of catchment areas which occurs at these different education stages.

The Council's Priorities and Ideas

Under the actions listed in the survey which the Council could do to achieve it's priorities within the Sustainable School Travel Strategy, respondents indicated what they felt were the most important. The actions are shown below in priority order of importance to respondents:

Action	Priority	Support Nos. *
Improve cycling routes to schools and colleges	1	496
Improve walking routes to schools and colleges	2	484
Deliver road safety education to all primary school pupils	3	460
Deliver advanced road safety education to all secondary school students	4	433
Provide more independent travel training to young people with special educational needs	5	380
Increase the numbers of school streets* in the county	6	355

* *Nos calculated using 'very important' and 'quite important' categories added together.*

Respondents Priorities and Ideas

Accessibility measures

Respondents indicated how important each of these measures were in enabling them to use active travel modes on their school journeys. Listed in order of respondents importance:

Action	Priority	Support Nos. *
Better quality footways	1	468
More pedestrian crossing areas	2	465
Improved cycling facilities	3	463

More street lighting	4	356
Dropped kerbs	5	311
Signed quiet routes	6	203

* Nos calculated using 'very important' and 'quite important' categories added together.

Other measures

Respondents indicated how important each of these measures were in enabling them to use sustainable travel options on their school journeys. Listed in order of respondents importance:

Action	Priority	Support Nos. *
More regular, well-timed buses	1	444
Cheaper bus/rail travel	2	438
More cycle training for all primary pupils and parents	3	412
Lower traffic speeds	4	377
Traffic reduction around schools/colleges	5	361
More walking to school initiatives	6	341
Encourage more walking buses / cycling trains	7	336
More pedestrian safety training	8	334
More park and stride facilities in practical locations	9	289
More enforcement of parking restrictions	10	283
More parking restrictions around school/college areas	11	263

* Nos calculated using 'very important' and 'quite important' categories added together.

In addition to the above measures, free text boxes were available for respondents to suggest other measures to help encourage sustainable school travel.
The most popular measures suggested were:

- More pedestrian crossings
- Improved cycling infrastructure including safe & segregated cycle routes
- More extensive school bus provision/network
- Driver education to improve safety (poor driver behaviour)
- Parking enforcement
- Safer pedestrian infrastructure
- Keep spare seat scheme/school buses

Sustainable School Travel Strategy Engagement

The health and wellbeing of children, young people and their families in Oxfordshire is the leading priority within this strategy. We know that walking and cycling along with other methods of active travel (walking, wheeling, scooting, cycling, bus) can make a big difference to air quality, road safety and the health and wellbeing of children and young people, as well as the adults who travel with them.

To support these goals, we are developing a plan which will set out our vision and the principles that will underpin how we can work together to achieve this. The plan we are developing is the Sustainable School Travel Strategy.

We are already doing work that aims to support sustainable travel to school and college including cycle training, road safety education, school streets, and travel planning (action planning for schools to promote sustainable travel).

Oxfordshire County Council is committed to tackling climate change as this is the biggest challenge the planet is facing. The council's overarching vision is to *'lead positive change by working in partnership to make Oxfordshire a greener, fairer, and healthier county'* ([Strategic Plan 2023-2025](#)).

The Sustainable School Travel Strategy and the actions we identify **with your help**, will support us to achieve this vision and to meet the climate change challenge.

Please click the survey link below to give us your feedback.

More information:

We want to ensure that the strategy:
 '*Supports the health and wellbeing of our children and young people by enabling active and sustainable travel to school on a safe, net-zero Oxfordshire transport system.*'

We want this strategy to focus on the following:
- Improving health and wellbeing for children, young people, and their families
- Facilitating more sustainable travel choices for school and college journeys
- Making active travel (walking, wheeling, cycling, scooting) a safe and comfortable choice for school and college journeys.

Encouraging everyone to make sustainable travel choices for school and college journeys will contribute to healthier and safer living and a zero-carbon economy.

We would like to understand what will encourage people to make sustainable travel their preferred choice and how we can provide support to make this happen. From the information and feedback you provide, we will create an Oxfordshire County Council led action plan for improving sustainable travel to school and college.

Your feedback is important to us. Please complete the survey below. This will help us to better understand the needs, aspirations, and practicalities of increasing levels of more sustainable school and college travel.

Participant Information:

I am responding to this survey as: (Choose one option which is the most relevant)

- an Oxfordshire resident
- a parent/carer of an Oxfordshire primary school pupil
- a parent/carer of an Oxfordshire secondary school student
- a parent/carer of an Oxfordshire of a Post 16 student
- an Oxfordshire young person
- an employee in an Oxfordshire school/college
- a representative of a school/college
- a representative of a group or organisation
- someone who travels in (or through) Oxfordshire on a regular basis
- a business
- a parish, town, district, or county Councillor
- Other (please specify)

Do you make a journey to school or college? Yes / **No (Skip to The Council's priorities and ideas)**

Which school, college or other educational venue do you or your children travel to? Please list all that apply.

Please note: all personal data you provide will be protected and not shared with anyone else.

Survey Questions:

1.School and College Journeys

How do you or your children usually travel to school or college (Please tick or leave blank if you do not travel to school, college, or other place of education)?

Please use 'other venue' column if you travel to an unlisted place of education.

If you are a parent with children at different schools please use the grid to indicate how they travel to each school eg primary child may walk and secondary child may travel by bus.

If your children use the same method of travel (ie walking) please tick the journey to the nearest school or college that they make.

Venue:	Primary School	Secondary School	College	Other Venue
Walking				
Cycling				
Scooting				
Wheeling				
School bus (inc. minibus)				
Public Bus Service				
Taxi				
Train				
Car				
Car Share***				
Park and Stride*				
Park and Ride**				

* Park and Stride refers to walking from a local parking area away from school gate.
** Park and Ride refers to travelling by car to a Park and Ride site, then using bus travel.
*** Sharing a car with someone else outside of your family.

If none of the above, please tell us what other method of travel you use.

How long does your home to school or college journey normally take (Please tick)?
If you are a parent doing more than one drop, please mark total journey time.

Venue:	Primary School	Secondary School	College	Other Venue
Less than 15mins				
15 – 30 mins				
30 – 60 mins				
More than 60 mins				

How would you prefer to travel?

Walking		
Cycling		
Scooting		
Wheeling		
School bus (inc. minibus)		
Public Bus Service		
Taxi		
Train		
Car		
Car Share***		
Park and Stride*		
Park and Ride**		
Other		

If none of the above, please tell what other method of travel you would prefer:

If you prefer to travel by car, please let us know why (Please tick):

Follow on journey to work		
Multiple drop-offs		
Mobility difficulties		
Health Issues		
Time pressures		
Distance		
Safety concerns		
No alternative option		
Other		

2. The Council's priorities and ideas

The council's main priority within this travel strategy is improving the health and wellbeing of children, young people, and their families in Oxfordshire.

We feel that some of the ways we can work towards this is by:

- Increasing the numbers of children and young people walking, wheeling, scooting, and cycling to school and college.

- Improving the air quality surrounding schools and colleges

- Reducing child and young person road casualties on journeys to school and college

- Improving road safety awareness in children and young people.

There are certain actions we could do to achieve these and we would like your views on how important or unimportant these are:

	Very important	Quite important	Neither important nor unimportant	Not very important	Not important at all
Increase the numbers of school streets* in the county					
Deliver road safety education to all primary school pupils					
Deliver advanced road safety education to all secondary school students					
Provide more independent travel training to young people with special educational needs					
Improve walking routes to schools and colleges					
Improve cycling routes to schools and colleges					

*   School streets are roads outside a school with a temporary restriction on motorised traffic at school drop-off and pick-up times.

3. Your priorities and ideas

If you don't already use sustainable travel options such as walking, cycling, wheeling, and scooting, buses, we would like to know what might support you or others to use these more often for the journey to school or college.

Accessibility measures

Please tell us how important or unimportant the following are to enable your journey to school or college to be undertaken using active travel methods:

	Very important	Quite important	Neither important nor unimportant	Not very important	Not important at all
Dropped kerbs					

Better quality footways					
Improved cycling facilities					
Signed quiet routes					
More pedestrian crossing areas					
More street lighting					

If you would like to see improved cycling facilities, please specify what facilities:

Other measures

How important or unimportant would the following measures be in supporting you to use more sustainable travel options for your journey to school or college?

	Very important	Quite important	Neither important nor unimportant	Not very important	Not important at all
More parking restrictions around school/college areas					
More enforcement of parking restrictions					
Traffic reduction around schools/colleges					
Lower traffic speeds					
More regular, well-timed buses					
Cheaper bus/rail travel					
More park and stride facilities in practical locations					

Encourage more walking buses / cycling trains				
More cycle training for all primary pupils and parents				
More pedestrian safety training				
More walking to school initiatives				

Other measures (Please describe):

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about sustainable school travel?

More detailed list of other measures suggested by respondents: