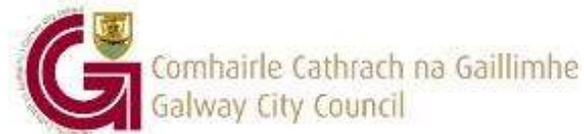




Sráideanna Scoile School Streets

Pilot Recommendations

Update Report to the Ordinary Meeting of Galway City
Council, and Transport SPC, September 2021



Context



Final Report drafted for the pilot School Streets project 2020/2021

Currently under review by project stakeholders and funders (Scoil Iognáid, National Transport Authority)

This presentation is a summary of the draft Final Report

Presentation Overview

1. Context
2. Pilot Delivery
3. Consultation/ Evaluation
4. Outcomes/ Recommendations
5. Next Steps



Sráideanna Scoile
School Streets

Context



Scoil Iognáid



Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe
Galway City Council



School Streets Pilot

Late 2019 - Galway City Council contacted by Elected Members & parents in Scoil Iognáid, regarding a potential 'School Streets' project

Child safety concerns at school pick up/ drop off



A '**School Street**' is a road outside a school with a temporary restriction on motorised traffic at school drop-off and pick-up times - creating a calm, safe space for children, parents and residents to walk, scoot or cycle.

Lots of examples in Europe, originates in Italy



Differs from **‘School Zones’**

Irish design approach developed by the National Transport Authority (2020/2021) for the front of school gate

School Zones being progressed through Green-Schools Safe Routes to School Programme from 2021

2021/2022 GCC SRTS Schools - GETNS, St Joseph’s Special School, Scoil Chaitríona, Scoil Iognáid

Front of School Environments



Front of School Environments



Photo: Dublin City Council

School Streets - Precedent Ireland



Malahide School Streets pilot - began late 2019

Initial results - 43% shift from car travel to active modes

Positive feedback from parents, residents and the school.

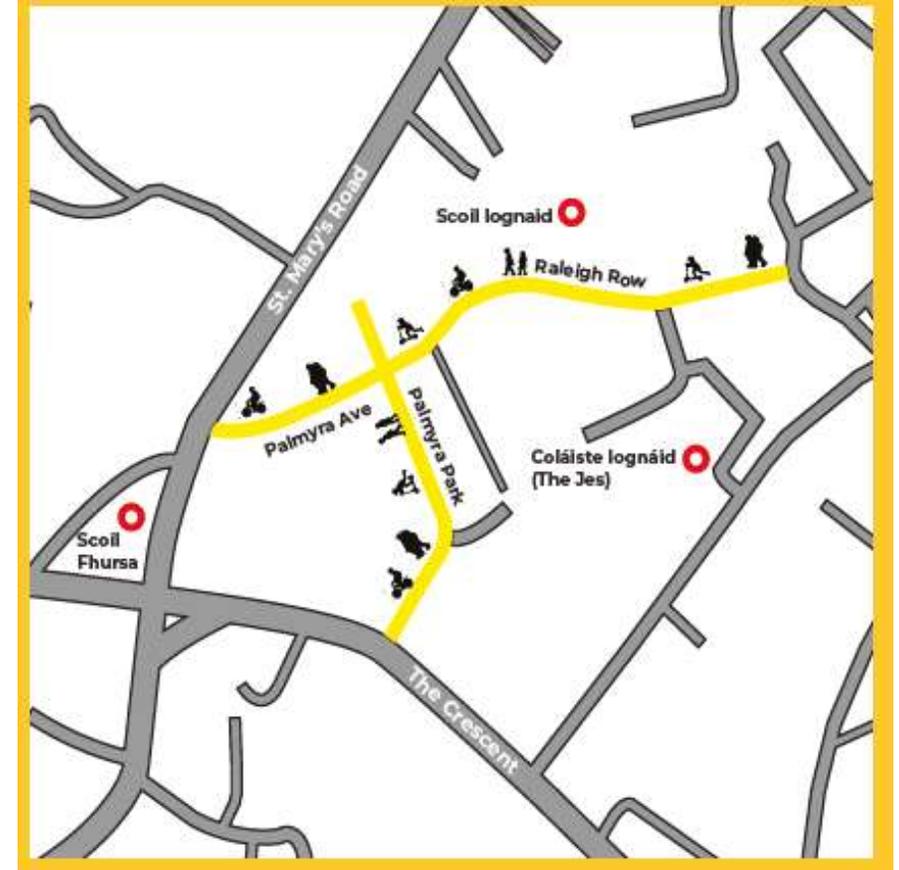


School Streets Pilot - Scoil Iognáid

Galway City Council working with Scoil Iognáid, the National Transport Authority, and Green-Schools on **Galway's first pilot 'School Street' project**

Partners working together to create a safer space for children, residents and the school community.

First City Centre School Streets project nationally



Scoil Iognáid Profile

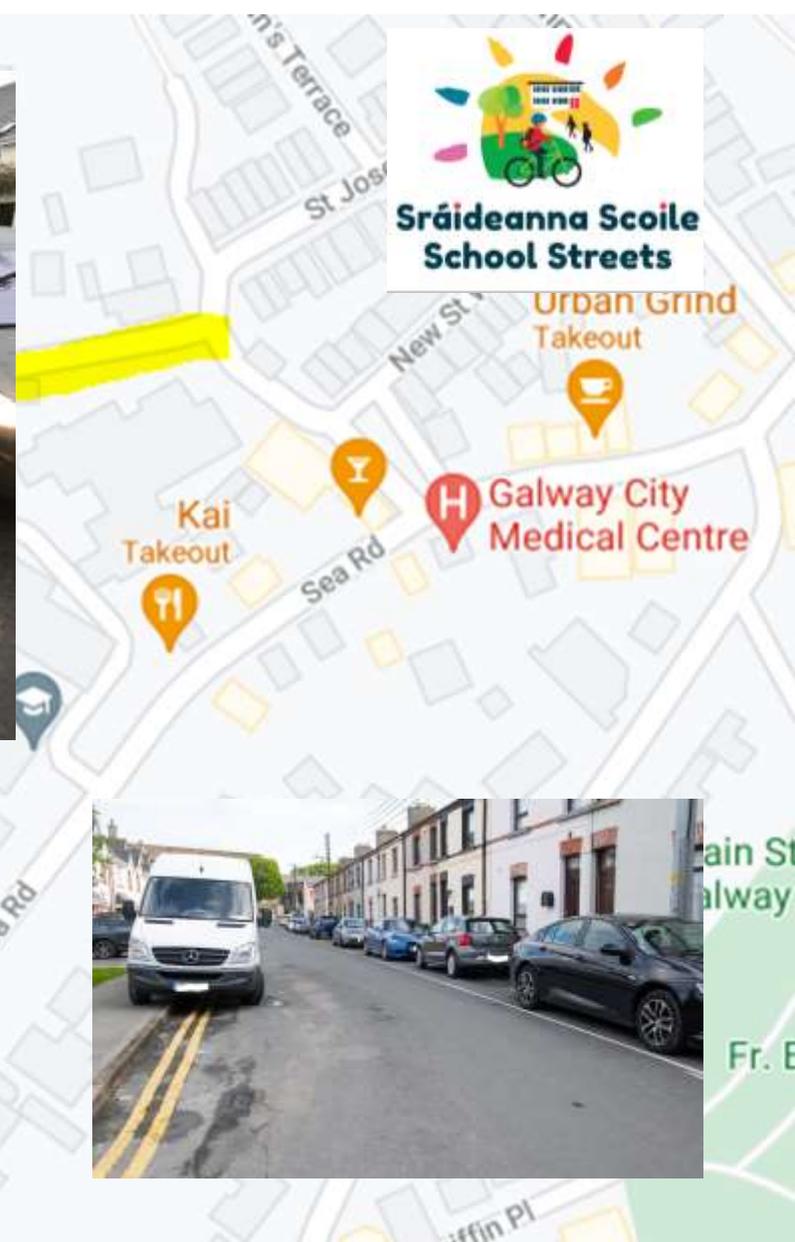
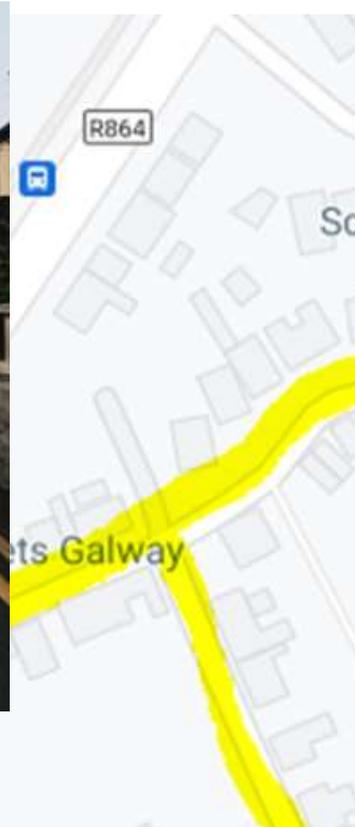
540 children from 349 families travel to Scoil Iognáid, Mon-Fri (2020/2021)

Approx. 250 children under 7 arriving every day

Additional 40 pre-school children in Naoínrí



Location



- Older part of Galway City
- Residential – businesses close by
- Narrow roads
- Uneven surfacing & line markings worn
- Narrow/ no paths in parts

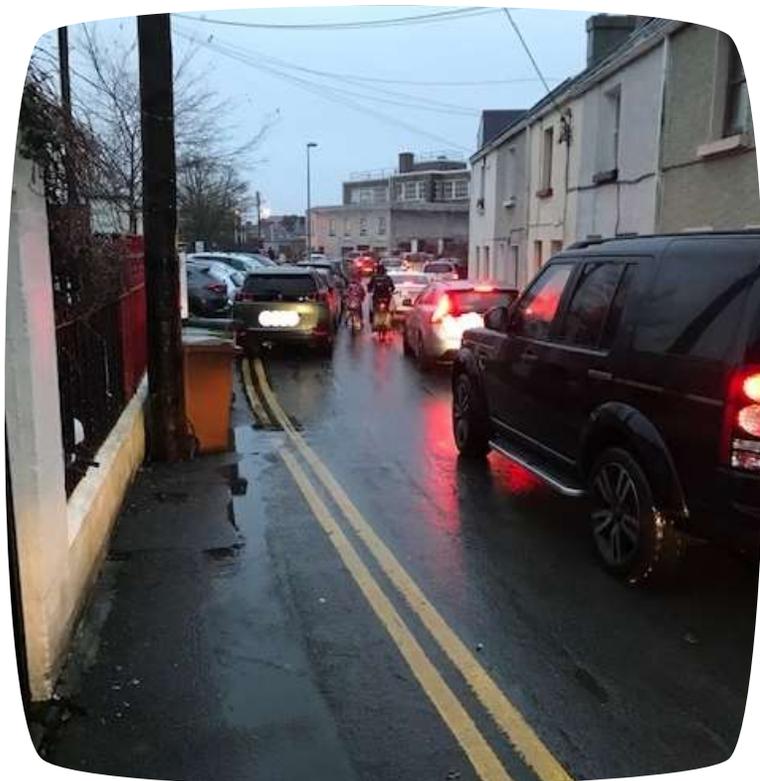


Pre-Pilot – Issues arising

- Volume of traffic converging at drop off/ pick up times
- Blocked entrances – impact on residents' access
- Potential impact on emergency services access
- Limited space – narrow paths with buggies, bins, scooters and cars in close quarters
- Child safety issues - near misses
- Potential conflicts – poor driver behaviour (u-turns, triple parking, parking on double yellow lines/ entrances, blocking access point for mobility impaired pupils`)



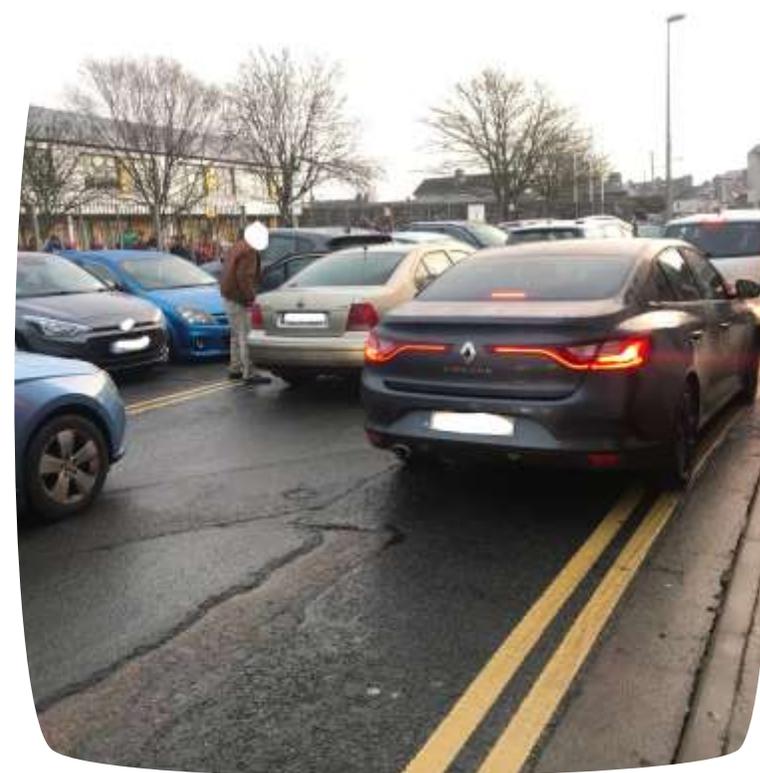
Pre-Pilot – Issues arising



Cyclists arriving between cars



Cars parking three abreast



Pre-Pilot – Issues arising



Pedestrians interacting with cars



Cyclists and pedestrians arriving with cars

It's important to state that this situation is **not unique** to Scoil Iognáid, and versions of this can be observed at schools around the country.

What is unique is that Scoil Iognáid took the difficult step to address these practices head on – by **removing them from the school gate.**

Sept 2020 – **voluntary School Street** project initiated when children returned after a long break from school – got buy in, and proved it could work



Official Launch Day! 30th November 2020



Pilot Delivery



Pilot Delivery

- Infrastructure
- Communications & Engagement

Iterative Process

Covid and Brexit had an impact on timings and activities



Infrastructure



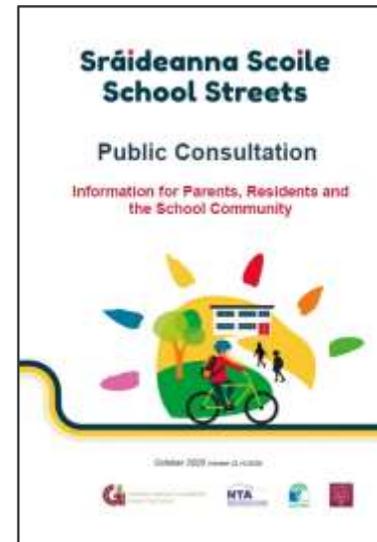
Receipt of poles/ signage – delayed by Brexit
Works commenced Feb 2021 – delayed by Covid & Brexit

Infrastructure



Communications & Engagement

- Community Wardens & An Garda Síochána – periodic engagement with drivers
- School - engagement with parents
- Visual cues – in addition to statutory signage



Communications & Engagement

- Variations on signage & poles trialled
- No in-person events – flyers, social media, advertising



 Galway City Council
Published · 19 May ·

'School Streets' Survey

In 2020 Scoil Iognáid, Raleigh Row, became the first pilot 'School Streets' project in Galway, and the first city centre School Streets project in the country. A 'School Street' is a road outside a school with a temporary restriction on motorised traffic at school drop off and pick up times – creating a safer, calmer space for children, parents and residents to walk, scoot or cycle.

As this is a pilot, and the first of its kind, Galway City Council and the National Transport Authority are keen to learn from this pilot – what worked and what didn't work so well.

Residents and businesses in the area around Scoil Iognáid, and Parents/ Guardians with children in the school, are now invited to share their thoughts on the pilot to date.

The first 100 survey respondents will receive a free coffee/tea voucher for a local coffee shop and there's a fantastic prize draw to win one of two Samsung tablets or one of three Huawei fitness trackers!

Fill out the survey here: <https://www.galwaycity.ie/schoolstreets#1>



9,042 People reached
62 Engagements

Communications & Engagement

Sráideanna Scoile School Streets

Fégra - Páirc Pháilmire, Ascaill Pháilmire agus Bóithrín na Sílagáin
Notice - Palmyra Park, Palmyra Avenue and Raleigh Row

Coisithe, Rothaithe, Ach Amháin Rochtain Áitiúil
Pedestrians, Cyclists, Local Access Only

Luan – hAoine
Monday – Friday

08:15 – 09:15
13:15 – 14:45

Map showing the school streets area with labels for Scoil Iognáid, Raleigh Row, Palmyra Ave, and Ascaill Pháilmire.

Suirbhé don Phobal, do Thuismitheoirí agus do Chaomhnóirí

"Cranncbur Duaiseanna – táblaíed nó rianaire corpacmhainne le buachan!"
"Fair cante saor in aisce do na chéad 100 freagróir!"

In 2020 ba é Scoil Iognáid, Bóithrín na Sílagáin, an chéad treosóim 'Sráideanna Scoile' i nGalway, agus an chéad treosóim 'Sráideanna Scoile' ar na cathracha sa tír. Thair gur treosóim í seo, agus an chéad cheangal dá leithéid, tá fann ar Chomhairle Cathrach na Galwayne agus ar an Uachtarán Náisiúnta le haghaidh foghlaim uachtar – said a d'obairigh agus cad nár obairigh go maith.

Lantar ar chomhairleoirí agus ar ghineálachtaí sa cheantar thair ar Scoil Iognáid agus tuismitheoirí/chaomhnóirí a bhfuil leasair acu sa scoil a gcaid an t-ábair ar an treosóim go dtí seo a rannair léir.

Gheobhaidh an chéad 100 freagróir deairthán do dhá h-ábair saor in aisce do shopa cáife áirithe, na thairnaí sin a duais rochtair le buachan – leasair amháin do dhá tháblaíed Samsung nó saor do trí rianaire corpacmhainne Huawei!

Glac páirt sa suirbhé ag www.galwaycity.ie/schoolstreets
Dónair an suirbhé ar an 21ú Bealtaine 2021.

Inochtaíneacht – mair fíde leat leasair digiteach den suirbhé seo a thair, tair leasair páipier oirainir ag roads@galwaycity.ie nó ar 091 536 400.

Suirbhé don Phobal, do Thuismitheoirí agus do Chaomhnóirí
Community, Parents & Guardians Survey

Sráideanna Scoile School Streets

In 2020 ba é Scoil Iognáid, Bóithrín na Sílagáin, an chéad treosóim 'Sráideanna Scoile' i nGalway, agus an chéad treosóim 'Sráideanna Scoile' ar na cathracha sa tír. Thair gur treosóim í seo, agus an chéad cheangal dá leithéid, tá fann ar Chomhairle Cathrach na Galwayne agus ar an Uachtarán Náisiúnta le haghaidh foghlaim uachtar – said a d'obairigh agus cad nár obairigh go maith.

Lantar ar chomhairleoirí agus ar ghineálachtaí sa cheantar thair ar Scoil Iognáid agus tuismitheoirí/chaomhnóirí a bhfuil leasair acu sa scoil a gcaid an t-ábair ar an treosóim go dtí seo a rannair léir.

Gheobhaidh an chéad 100 freagróir deairthán do dhá h-ábair saor in aisce do shopa cáife áirithe, na thairnaí sin a duais rochtair le buachan – leasair amháin do dhá tháblaíed Samsung nó saor do trí rianaire corpacmhainne Huawei!

Glac páirt sa suirbhé ag / Access the survey at:
www.galwaycity.ie/schoolstreets
Dónair an suirbhé ar an 21ú Bealtaine 2021 / Survey closes on 21st of May 2021

Inochtaíneacht – mair fíde leat leasair digiteach den suirbhé seo a thair, tair leasair páipier oirainir ag roads@galwaycity.ie nó ar 091 536 400.

Accessibility – If you can't access the digital version of the survey, please contact us to request a paper version at roads@galwaycity.ie or 091 536 400.

Táir / Coffee VOUCHER



Galway City Council Retweeted

Darren Frehill @Darrenfrehill · Jun 17

Such a lovely sight to see so many kids cycling to school. Brilliant campaign by @Slognaid stay safe x

6 28

Costs/ Resources

- Significant resources for GCC and the school – financial and human
- Resources deployed by GCC include:
 - Project Staff (AO EE CO Warden Operations)
 - Bike parking/ scooter stands
 - Graphic design and print
 - Advertising, including leaflet drops
 - Translation
 - Surveying
 - Infrastructure / contractors
- Also – School and Green-Schools staff, Garda Resources

Consultation/ Evaluation



Scoil Iognáid



Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe
Galway City Council



Consultation

- Consultation undertaken pre-pilot by school and by GCC in 2020 – supported proceeding with the formal scheme.
- Feedback on-going throughout the pilot – from the school, parents, residents, community wardens
- Formal consultation undertaken in May 2021 to inform the final report/recommendations
- Interactions Ltd contracted to undertake research with parents/guardians/local community
- Teachers survey also conducted by GCC

Consultation May 2021

- Survey live - Thursday 29 April - Friday 21 May 2021
- Flyers in letter boxes of over 875 homes/ businesses in the wider school community area
- Notices in the Advertiser for three weeks
- Posts on social media
- Contact from the school to parents, and to the residents association
- Direct drop of paper surveys into homes along Raleigh Row, facilitated by a parent/ resident

Consultation May 2021

Two surveys – parents/guardians, and school community

294 responses

188 parents of children in Scoil Iognáid

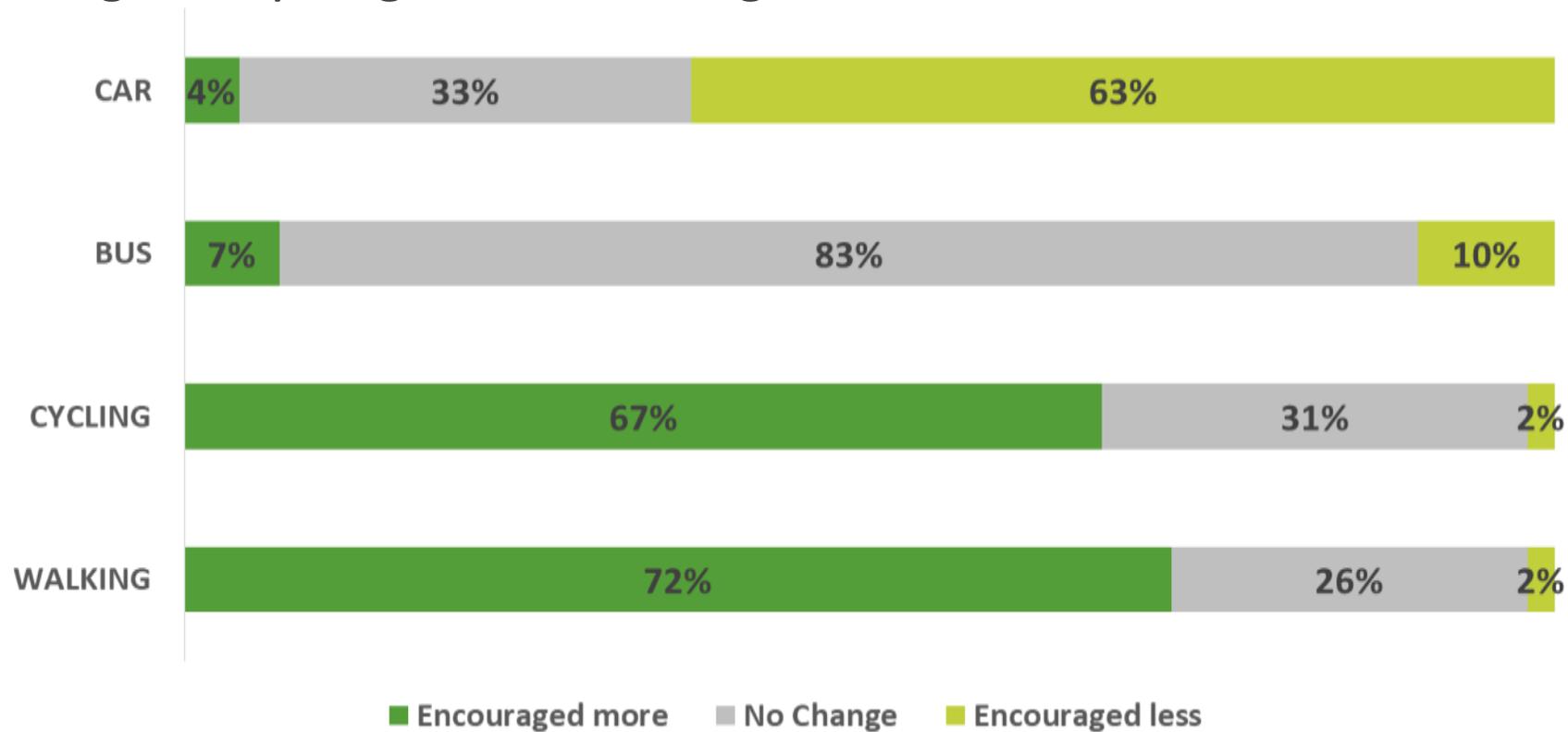
19 parents in other schools.

70 wider community - 8 of these from businesses

Slides to follow to parents/ guardians' responses only, except for where indicated.

Impact on Modal Choice

Strong endorsement across the board that the School Streets initiative encouraged both walking and cycling, and discouraged car use.



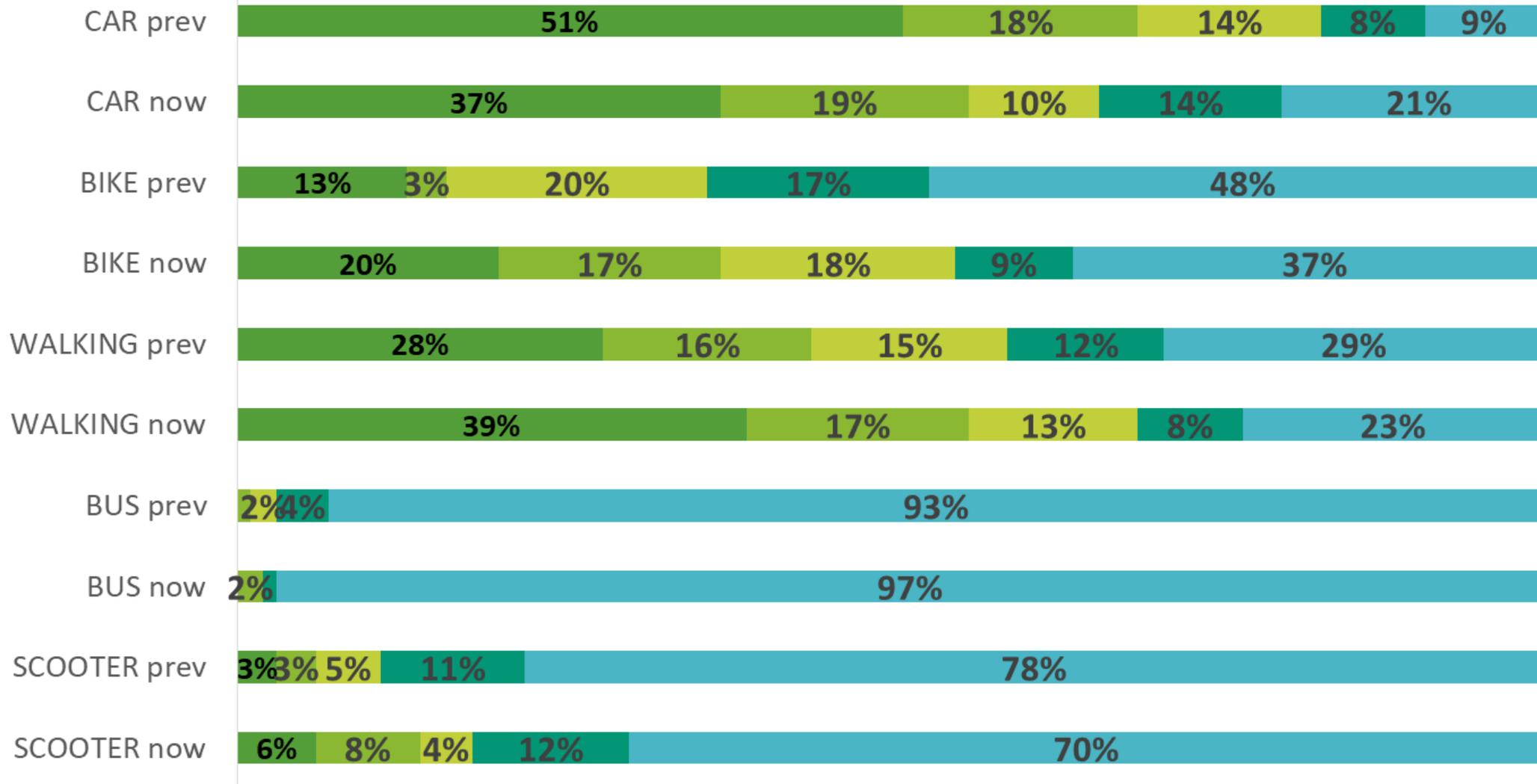
Do you feel your attitude to travel has been affected by the School Streets Pilot in the following ways? Encouraged more? No Change? Encouraged less?

Impact on Modal Choice

Scoil Iognáid parents reported (*percentage points*):

- 14% fall in daily car use to school
- 7% increase in daily cycling
- 11% increase in daily walking
- 3% increase in daily scooting

There was an increase in bike use in all classes and a consistent drop in car use across the classes

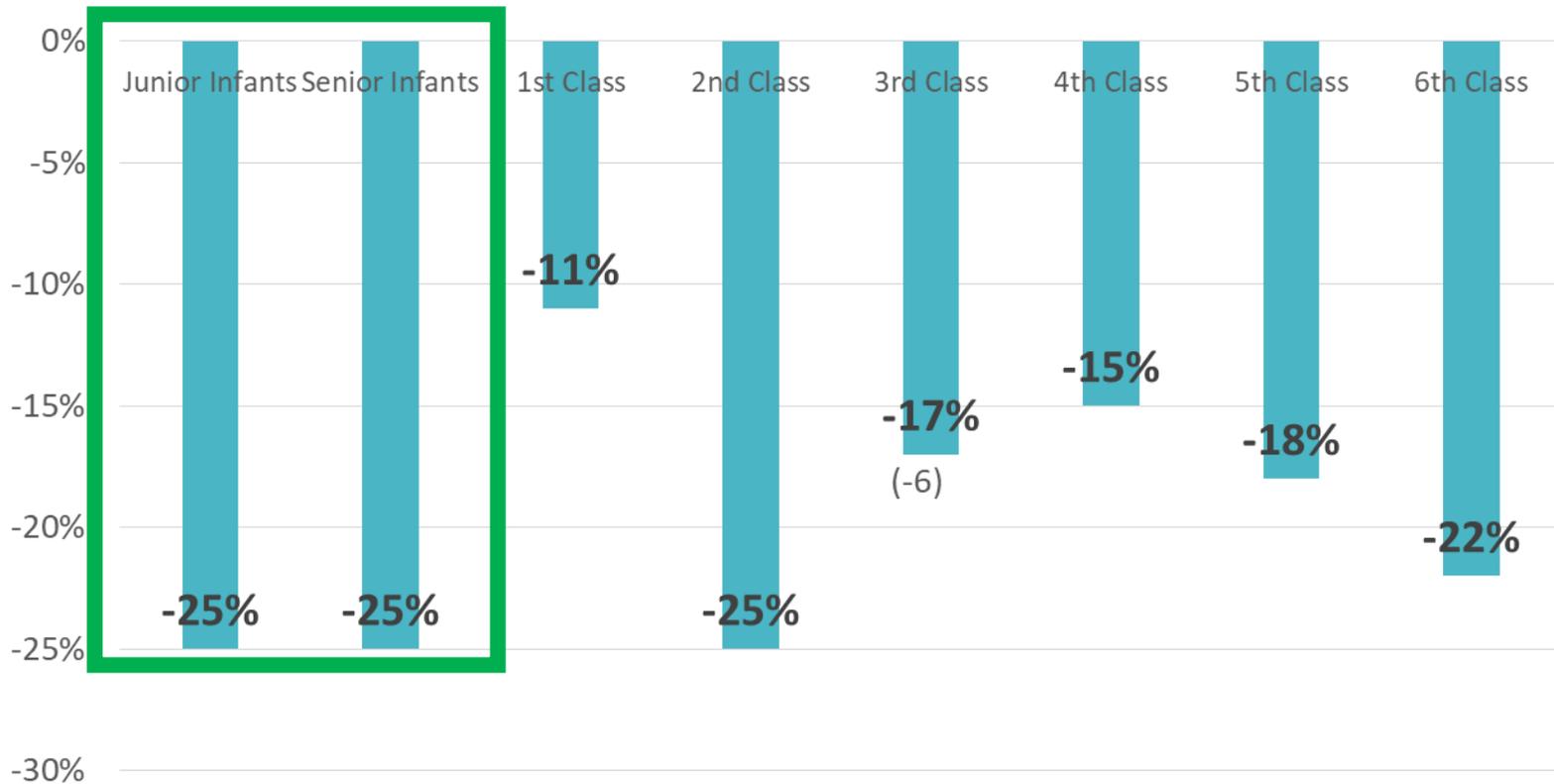


■ Every day
 ■ 3 or more days/week
 ■ Once or twice/week
 ■ Less often
 ■ Never

Q1. Before the School Streets Pilot, how often DID your child/children use each of these types of transport going to and from Scoil Iognáid (at about this time of year)?

Q2. Since the School Streets Pilot, how often DO your children use each of these types of transport going to and from Scoil Iognáid now?

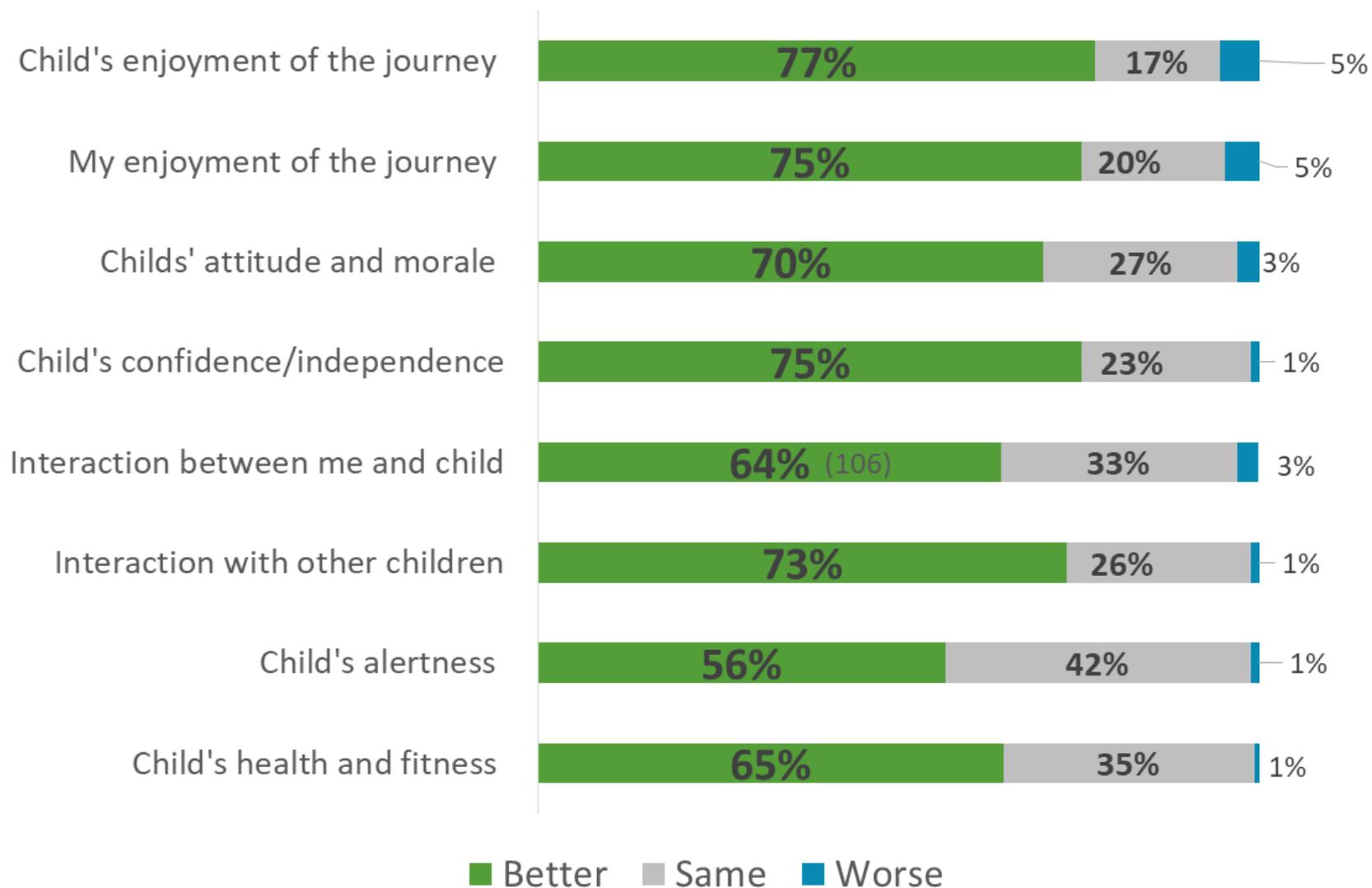
% Change in car use at least once a week



Consistent drop in car use across the classes – including the youngest children in the school

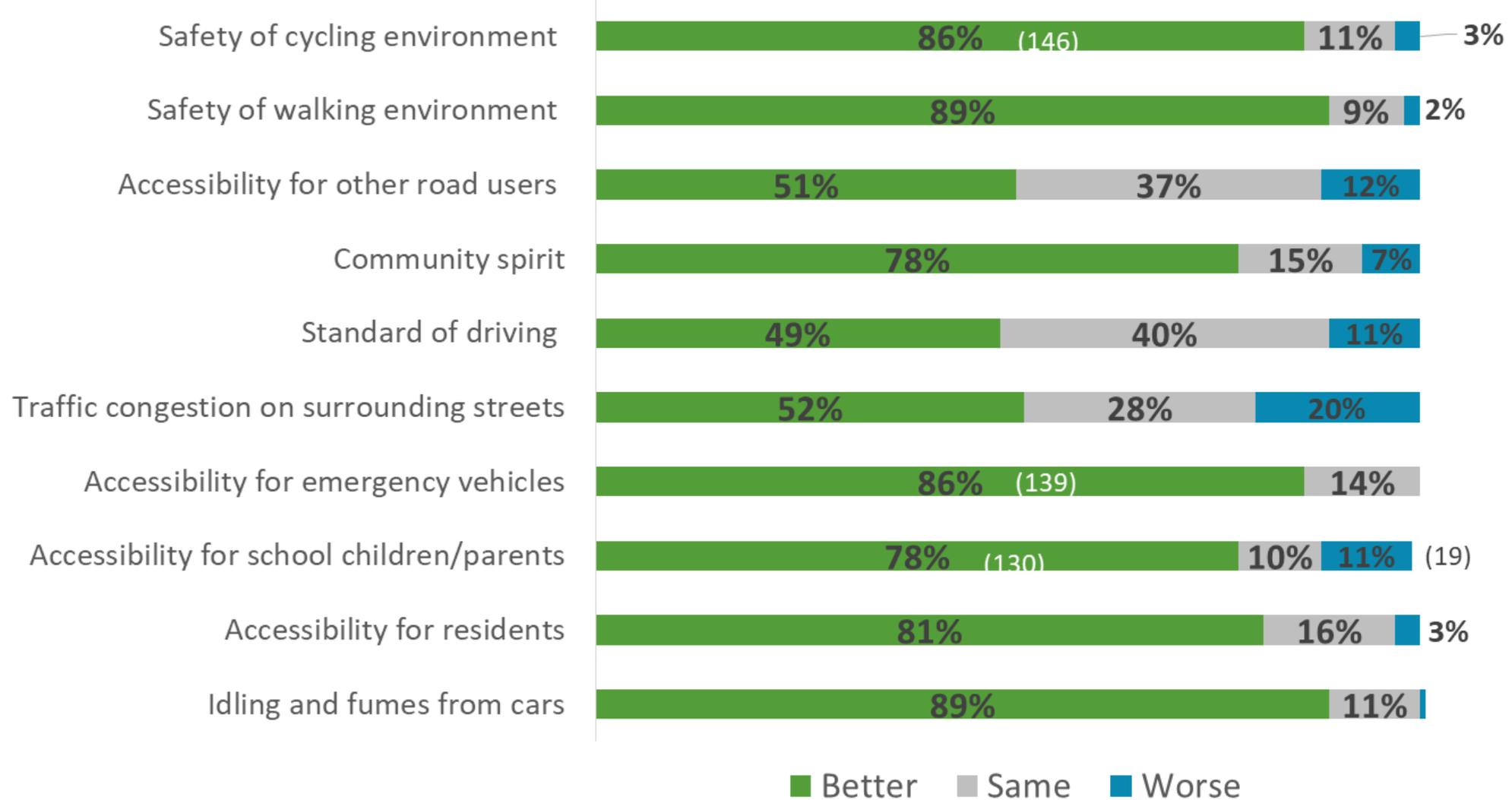
Rating of journey/ child's experience

Parents reported improvements in a number of areas, as a result of the School Streets project, including the child's personal effectiveness and enjoyment of the journey to school.



Impact on Local Area

Better cycling (86%) & walking (89%) environments



Other

Parents/ Guardians availed of **free on-street parking**, as part of Park and Stride every day (24%), three or more days a week (16%) and once or twice a week (9%).

Parents/ Guardians used local shops on the school run every day (11%), three or more days a week (18%), or once or twice a week (31%).

Undetermined if a connection can be made between Park and Stride and accessing local services, as a 'pre' study figure or comparison with another school is not available.

Overall Satisfaction

Overall, parents/ guardians expressed satisfaction with the School Streets pilot.

- 82% were very satisfied/ satisfied with **compliance** with the pedestrianised streets.
- 82% were very satisfied/ satisfied with the **journey to school**.
- 59% were very satisfied/ satisfied with **enforcement** of the pedestrianised streets.
- There were a number of comments in relation to enforcement, and drivers not complying with the statutory signage - This is one of the limitations of this scheme, with enforcement of the Rules of the Road outside the control of Galway City Council.

Community Survey

89 surveys were completed by the local community, including businesses.

Comparing the community surveys to the parents'/ guardians' surveys, there was **strong endorsement** across the board that the School Streets initiative encouraged both walking and cycling, and discouraged car use.

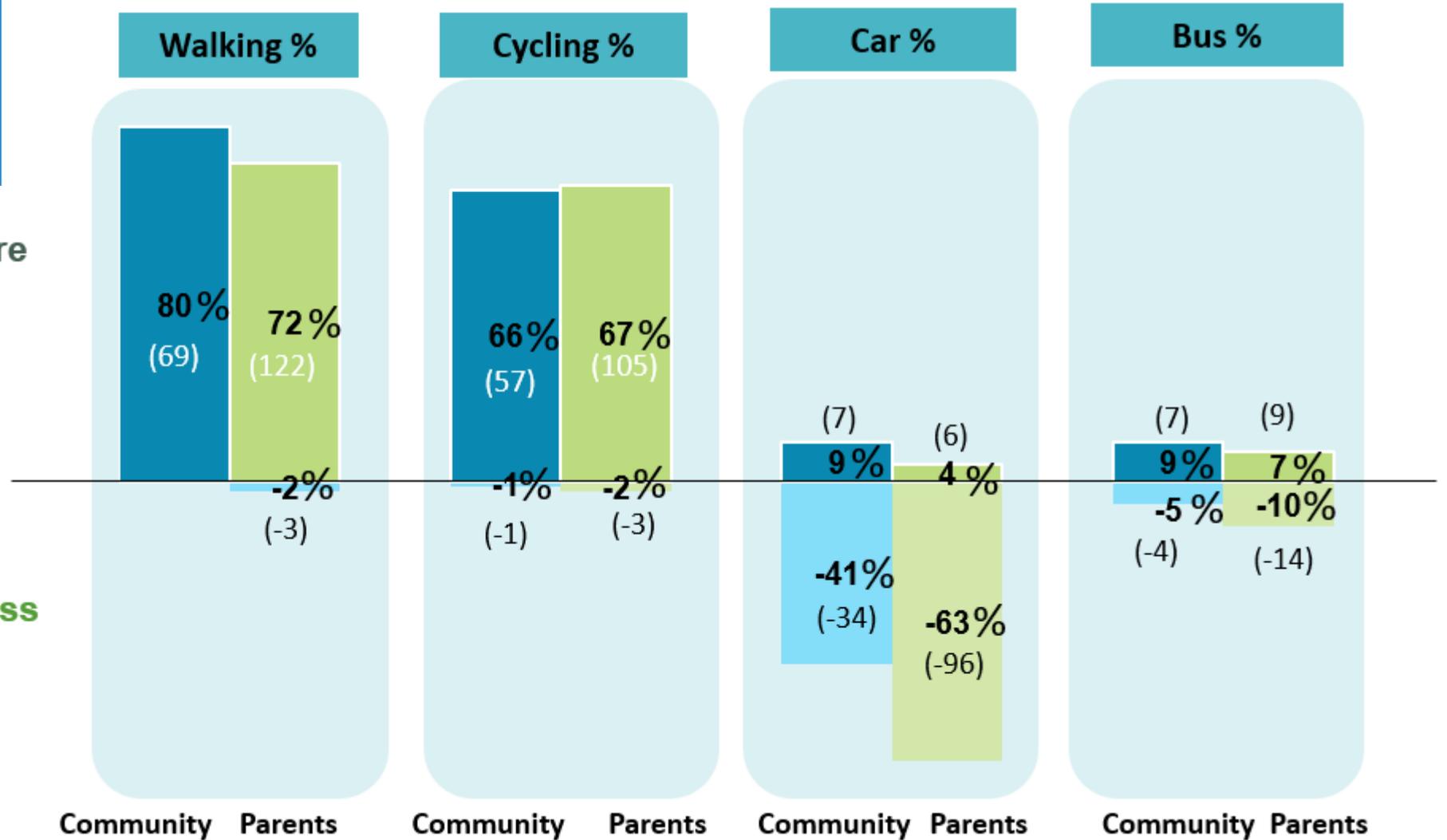
Strong endorsement

that School Streets encouraged walking and cycling, and discouraged car use.

Encouraged More



Encouraged Less



Do you feel your attitude to travel has been affected by the School Streets Pilot in the following ways?
Encouraged more? No Change? Encouraged less?

Overall Satisfaction – Parents/ Guardians

Parents and the Community both noted the improved walking and cycling environment, improved access (for school & emergency vehicles), and community spirit, with 76% to 90% saying these are better.

In contrast, only ~50% have noted improved driving standards and reduced congestion.

Over 80% expressed positive satisfaction with Compliance with the pedestrianised streets.

Satisfaction with Enforcement is lower for both parents and the community.



Maith sibh, is tionscnamh iontach é. Bíonn mo páiste ag rothaíocht níos mó. Tá atmaisféar níos sábháilte thart an scoil freisin.

Fails to accommodate families living outside walking distance from school. We are 15km away. Parking stress is unfair. Introducing this additional stress during level 5 Covid pandemic is unnecessary stress on parents.

There is a massive reduction in traffic noise. I did not realise how noisy they were until the cars were gone.

As child is in 6th class he has full independence now getting to school. He seems happy. I feel he is safe.

There are still vehicles coming down at speed and cyclists nearly running down pedestrians. I have witnessed several road rage incidents particularly at collection time.

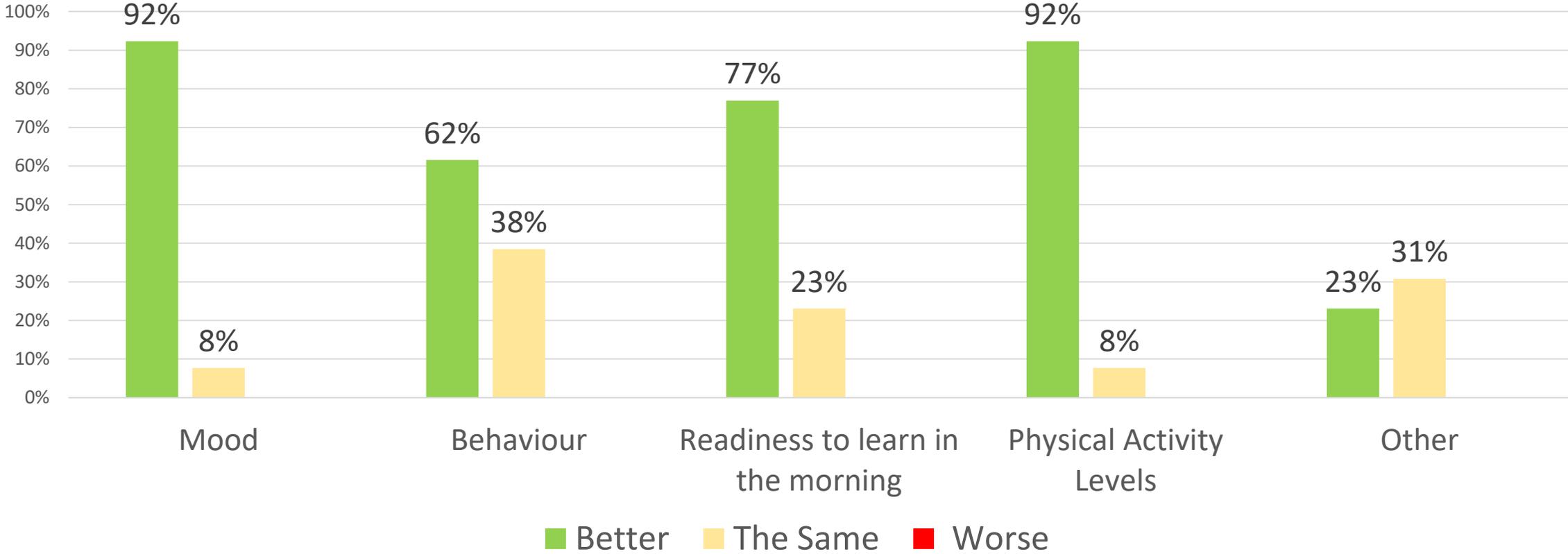
There is room to actually walk next to your child - a simple pleasure that was not possible before due to the traffic and narrow footpaths.

Staff Survey

- Conducted in May 2021
- 13 responses received
- Very positive impacts reported on children's mood, behaviour, readiness to learn and physical activity levels
- Staff commented on children's increased independence, readiness to learn, improved atmosphere and reduced stress at the school gate
- Staff observed improvements in community spirit; idling and fumes from cars during pedestrianised hours; and safety of the walking/ cycling environment during pedestrianised hours

Staff Survey – Impact on Children

Since Palmyra Park, Palmyra Avenue and Raleigh Row were pedestrianised as part of the pilot School Streets project in Scoil Iognáid, have you noticed any changes in children's... (N=13)



Staff comments

The children have gained much more independence, they are able to come down Raleigh Row on their own, they are coming into the yard and the classroom on their own also. The children are much more awake when they arrive into my classroom because they have walked a longer distance than from the gate of the school. They are fresher and full of energy.

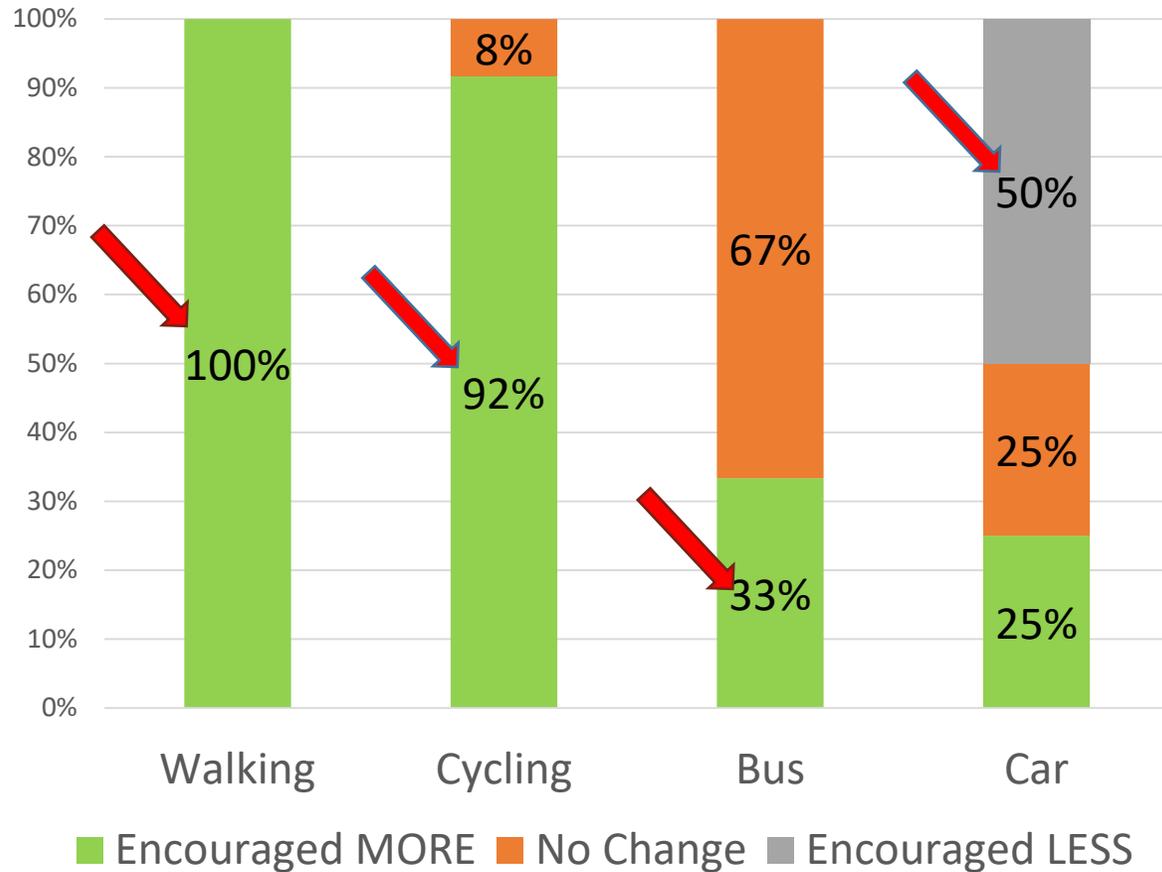
I have noticed a huge improvement when the children arrive to school. They are much more awake and a lot less sluggish. They have rosy cheeks, bright eyes and are fresh and ready to start.

“Tá an atmaisféar taobh amuigh do gheataí na scoile i bhfad níos ciúine gan carranna. Tá an torann agus an stress laghdaithe go mór.”

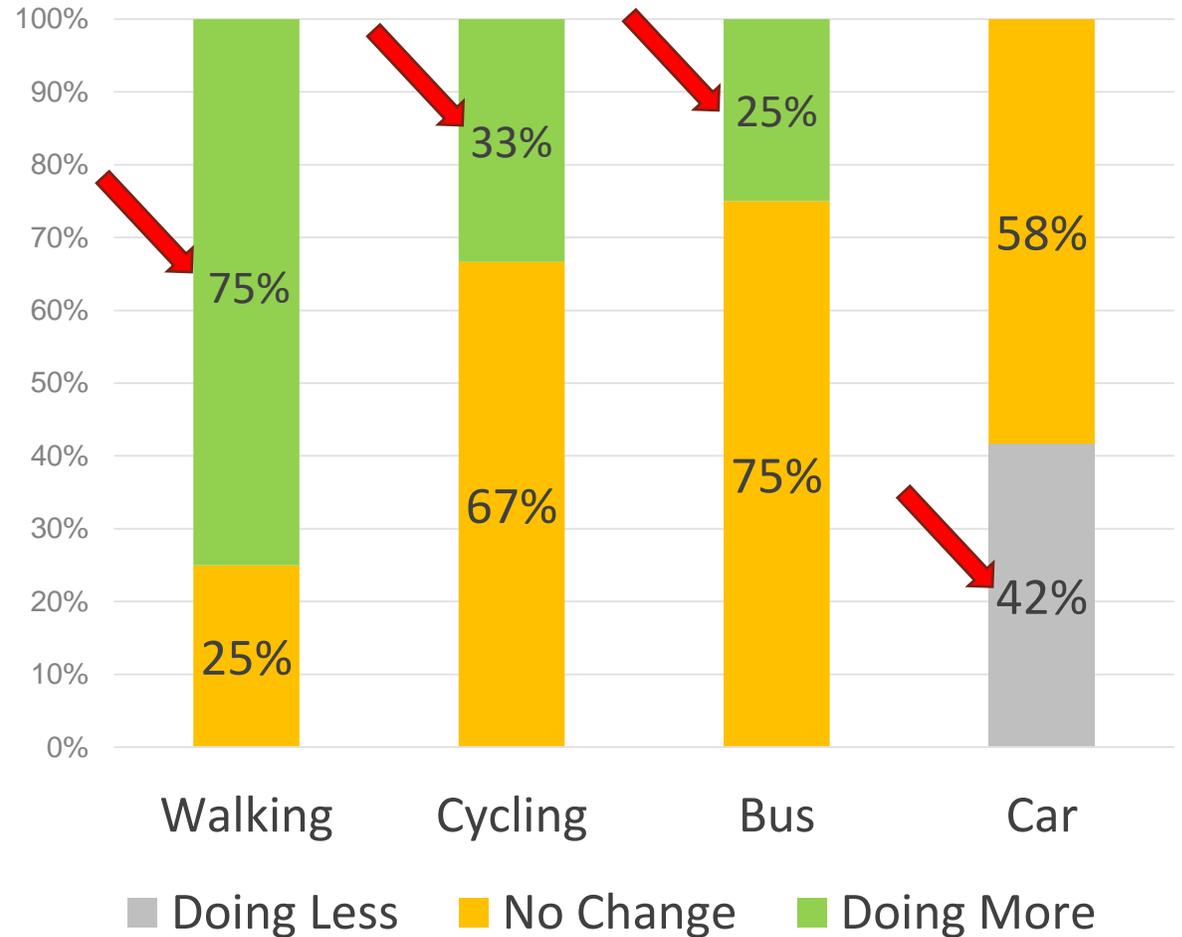
Is maith le na páistí a bheith ag rothaíocht ar scoil ar maidin le chéile mar ghrúpa.

Staff Travel Attitude & Behaviour

Do you feel your **attitude to travel** has been affected by the School Streets Pilot in the following ways? N=12



Have you changed your **Travel behaviour** as a result of the pilot? N=12



Outcomes/ Recommendations



Scoil Iognáid



Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe
Galway City Council



School Street & School Zone created



Cycle parking increased to 52 spaces
24 Scooter Parking spaces provided

Parents report

- 14% drop in daily car use to school
- 7% increase in daily cycling
- 11% increase in daily walking
- 3% increase in daily scooting

85 Children cycling!
(June 2021)

Staff report children's better mood, behaviour, readiness to learn, and physical activity levels

75% of staff walking more

"Better Walking Environment"
89% parents/teachers

Successful application to Safe Routes to School programme

"Better Cycling Environment"
86% parents/teachers

Before/ After



Before/ After



Before/ After



Outcomes – Commentary

- Wealth of positive outcomes – not without flaws
- Communications need to be on-going
- Permanent infrastructure to follow
- Additional enforcement would be beneficial, noting Community Wardens and Community Gardaí have limited resources

Is the School Streets pilot, with its flaws, better than the situation that preceded it, where the majority of children accessing the school arrived by car, and mixed with vulnerable road users arriving by buggy, scooter, on foot and by bike?

Having observed both situations on site visits throughout 2019, 2020 and 2021, reviewing feedback/ surveys, and comparing:

- the interactions between road users;
- mode split;
- access for mobility impaired children;
- driver behaviour;
- access to homes;
- noise; and
- the general environment and atmosphere on the School Street,

it is the recommendation of Galway City Council that the School Street be retained.

Outcomes – Commentary

- Supported by feedback of the school, the school community and residents.
- At a national level, may require allocation of resources to Local Authorities/ An Garda Síochána for enforcement, to facilitate similar projects
- This highlights the fact that the pedestrian hours are subject to the good-will and buy in of those using the street, and dependent on drivers to understand and observe statutory signage.

Outcomes – Commentary

- Pilot explored inclusion of on-street Pay and Display parking in Park and Stride
- A number of GCC Pay and Display car parks are included in Park and Stride.
- It is recommended that the inclusion of all on-street Pay and Display parking in Park and Stride be explored, as part of any review of the Parking Bye-Laws.
- In the interim, it is recommended that Pay and Display on-street parking continue to be made available to parents and guardians of Scoil Iognáid

Next Steps



Scoil Iognáid



Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe
Galway City Council



Next Steps

- Presentation to Council
- Draft report under review by project partners - National Transport Authority, Scoil Iognáid, Green-Schools
- Subject to agreement of stakeholders to issue report – GCC to inform An Garda Síochána that pedestrian street is being retained
- Publication of report on GCC website
- Communications to residents/ advertising in local press

Next Steps

- Scoil Iognáid participation in Safe Routes to School programme – permanent infrastructure
- Supporting infrastructure progressing - Henry Street Pedestrian Crossing; Sea Road/ Crescent project
- Other locations for School Streets projects may be identified as part of Safe Routes to School Programme. This can be explored based on the learnings of the pilot.

Thank you Questions?



Scoil Iognáid



Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe
Galway City Council

