

Walkability Audit

22/1/2020



Holy Family Junior N.S

River Valley, Swords, Co. Dublin

Roll Number: 19721R

Holy Family Junior National School is located just outside Swords town in River Valley. They are a very large school split into a junior and senior national school section on the same campus. In the junior school they have approximately 650 students with the senior having approximately 700 . There is a large volume of students coming to school in the morning with a large Loreto Secondary School also nearby. The school has been very pro-active in promoting sustainable travel.

They find they have problems with congestion at the school entrance in the morning, with parents setting-down on double –yellow lines. They are keen to encourage walking in the school.



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

The word **Walkability** means the “**ability to walk**”.

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



Objectives:

1. To evaluate the safety of pedestrian routes to the school.
2. To identify issues and propose possible solutions.

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

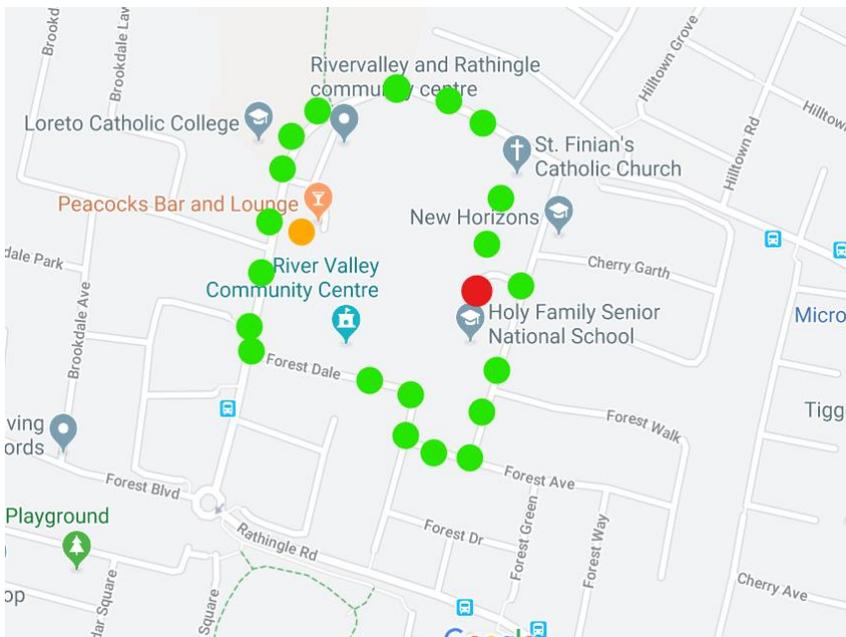
- Maps of the routes
- Recording sheets
- Hi-visibility vests
- Camera
- Pencils/Clipboards



Description of the route audited:

We audited the block around the school . This encompassed St.Finians Church car park , where many parents park to pick up their children .It also included the different approaches students may take walking to school . It passed the carpark at the shopping area (the orange dot), where pupils are picked up from sometimes too.

The distance of the audit was 750 metres.



We noted the following findings from our Walkability Audit:

Positives

1. Pedestrian only entrances to school.
2. Good signage informing drivers that school is ahead.
3. Extensive paths and multiple pedestrian crossings where one is likely to want to cross the road.
4. "Keep-Clear" markings and ramps in front of school make entrance safer.
5. Railings help make sure pupils cross at the safest point.

Negatives

1. "Keep-Clear" and double- yellow lines often ignored as parents set-down in morning/afternoon to drop off.
2. Bad entrance across the shopping area carpark (at the orange dot) that students must cross to reach pedestrian lights.
3. Though there is cycle lanes in the area the roads around are very busy and so are not used.

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

Positives:



Multiple pedestrian only access entrances to school, including one to next door pickup point of church carpark.



Very good signage in all directions around school .



Extensive paths around school with dropped kerbs make them accessible to all.



Multiple pedestrian crossings at busy points where one is likely to want to cross the road.

Positives:



"Keep-Clear" markings and double yellow lines painted on zone outside school to prevent cars from setting down.



Crossing in front of school with railings to funnel everyone to cross at same point to make it safer.



Ramps outside school entrance to make traffic slower and safer.



There are four traffic wardens in different areas at school start/end times which help pupils cross busy roads safely.

Negatives:



At drop-off/pick-up times the double yellow lines and "Keep-Clear" are ignored as cars park up the whole street.



Pupils have to cross a busy entrance of a car park to reach pedestrian lights.



Though there is a cycle lane the River Valley Road is very busy as it connects lots of areas for commuters.

Requests For Infrastructure:

A summary of our recommendations is below:

Issue

Pupils have to cross a busy entrance to a carpark to get to the pedestrian lights. The carpark will only get busier as a new Aldi is being constructed there currently.

Recommendation

Please review the crossing at this carpark. Building a path that crosses the green (yellow arrow) to connect St. Finian's Church to the carpark might be beneficial as students would pass in front of the shops and a safer crossing area could be created here at front of the shopping area.



Thank you for reading our report.

Please contact us with your feedback using the details below.

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