

Walkability Audit

23rd November 2018



**St. Peter and Paul's N.S.,
Drunconrath, Navan, Co.
Meath**

Roll Number: 16143L

St Peter and Paul's NS is at the northeast end of Drumconrath village on the R165 Kingscourt to Ardee road. It is a mixed Catholic school with a population of 140 pupils.

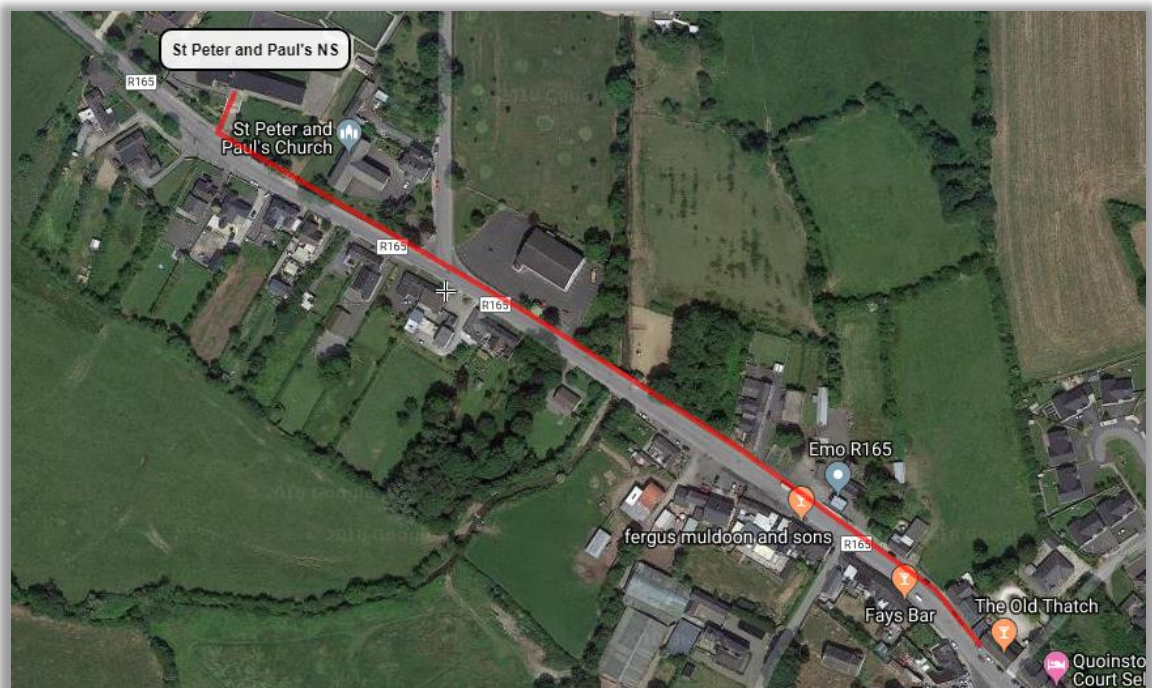
The school started work on their Travel flag in September 2018. For this flag they hope to promote sustainable travel at the school. Currently, 13% of pupils walk and cycle to school, 9% come by bus, 15% carpool and 63% travel to school by car.



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.
3. To identify possible Park 'n' Stride* locations.

*Park 'n' Stride = driving some of the way to school but parking a reasonable distance away and walking the last bit, thus removing congestion from the school gate and getting the benefits of a walk on the way.

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

- Maps of the routes
- Recording sheets
- Recording devices (timer, measuring tape)
- Hi-visibility vests
- Camera
- Pencils/Clipboards



Walkability Audit	
School: <u>Drumconagh N.S.</u> Date: <u>23/11/18</u>	
Location on map	Good or bad things we've seen on our route
1	Path outside school 2m to cm
2	Small part of footpath 45 inch
3	Worn road marking
4	Footpath outside parish centre 2m to cm
5	faded parking lines in parish centre
6	Lights on school sign broke
7	no road markings in village
8	lots of potholes on the side of road
9	dangers at shop.
10	dangerous crossing at church
11	
12	



Description of the route audited:

Once we exited the school gate we turned left towards the church on the R165. We continued down the hill and crossed the road at the Y junction between the R165 and the local road to Carrickmacross. We continued walking past the Community Centre towards the centre of the village. Once passed the petrol station, across from Fays Bar we turned around and walked the same route back to the school. This route was just over 500 meters and took under 7 mins to walk.



Findings

We noted the following findings from our Walkability Audit:

1. The school is located on a hill with a slight bend in the road.
2. There is a footpath running from the school up to the other end of the village. Some of this footpath was renovated recently.
3. The footpath ranges in size from 82inches at its widest to 45inches at its narrowest.
4. We noted flashing school ahead signs on both approaches to the school that are dirty.
5. There are road markings on both approaches to the school warning of a school ahead. The road markings on the southwest approach are becoming difficult to see.
6. There is ample parking at the Community Centre but you would need to cross the road at the church entrance to get to the school.
7. We saw no road markings in the village centre.
8. The speed limit outside the school is 50km/h.
9. We counted eight HGVs and eighty-three cars and vans in the space of 30mins.

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

Recommendations

A summary of our recommendations is below:

Infrastructural

- With the high volume of traffic, especially HGVs, and the sloping road outside the school, the committee would like to see more traffic calming measures on the approach to the school. Raised speed ramps on the hill would help to slow traffic before it reached the school and would aid pedestrians crossing the road in front of the school safely.
- Pupils have raised concerns over the Y junction between the R165 and the local road to Carrickmacross. Pedestrians crossing from the Community Centre to the church are unable to see traffic approaching and turning the corner from the Kingscourt direction. The committee would like the county council to re-examine this junction with a view to making it safer for pedestrians.
- Raised speed ramps when approaching the village from the local Carrickmacross road would make it safer for pedestrians crossing the road, as the approach to the Y junction is sloped downwards.
- The road markings on the southeast approach to the school are starting to fade and will need to be maintained in the coming months.
- The flashing signs warning of a school ahead have become dirty and need to be cleaned.

Recommendations

A summary of our recommendations is below:

Behavioural

- Encourage adults to park at the Community Centre and walk with children to school. This behaviour would encourage more sustainable habits and allow adults to teach children about how to use roads safely.
- Ensure pupils, parent and teachers are aware of the rules of the road when walking e.g. use caution when crossing vehicle entrances on the footpath, only walk in pairs if there is adequate space to do so.
- Inform everyone about the benefits of wearing hi-visibility clothing at all times of the day and night when walking on the road.

By-Laws

- Green-Schools wishes to see **30km/h** zones outside all schools nationwide. The speed limit outside St Peter and Paul's NS is 50km/h and research has shown that speed limits above 40km/h lead to more fatalities especially for children. By having lower speed limits outside schools we are also supporting a safer environment for walking, cycling and scooting to school.

Findings



The speed limit in front of the school is 50km/h. We would like to see this dropped to 30km/h.



The flashing lights warning of a school ahead are dirty and we would recommend that they be cleaned in order to make them more visible to motorists.



There are high volumes of HGVs travelling through Drumconrath each day posing significant risks to pedestrians.

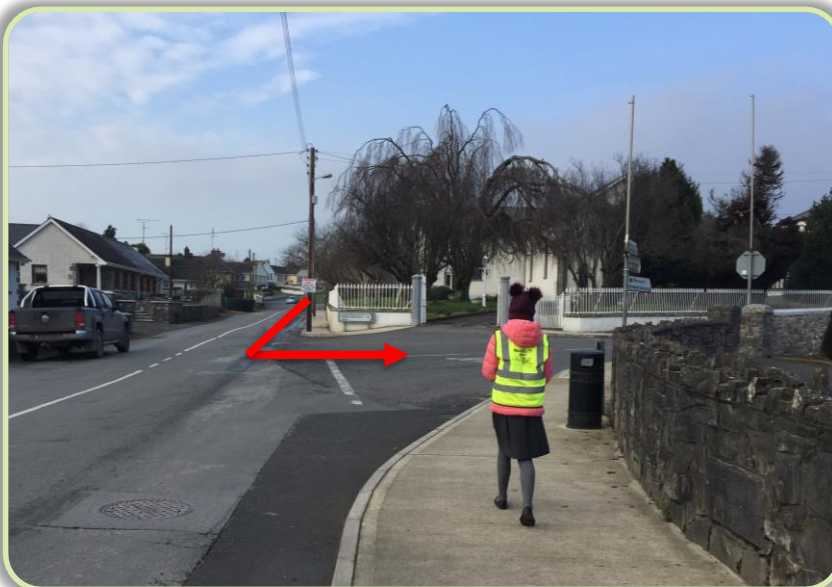


Some of the road markings warning of a school ahead have become worn, we would recommend that they be repainted in the coming months.

Findings



We would recommend raised speed ramps on the road approaching the village from Kingscourt and also from Carrickmacross. Both of these roads slope down into the village and have high volumes of traffic especially HGVs.



There is a blind corner when travelling from the Kingscourt direction onto the local Carrickmacross road. It is very difficult for pedestrians to see approaching traffic when crossing from the Community Centre to the church.



Thank you for reading our report.

Please contact us with your feedback using the details below.

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