

Shelford School Travel Survey Results

Background

Launched in March 2023, the school community was invited to take part in this anonymous survey (run by Great Shelford Playscape) to help the Great Shelford Parish Council understand how families make their way to school and pre-school (and how they would prefer to, given the right circumstances).

A separate survey was circulated amongst the staff.

Overview of Responses

49 responses were recorded to the general survey, which, given that the school has c.210 pupils and many are siblings, it's likely that a good proportion of families were represented.

Headlines

- All respondents live within 2 miles of the school
- Over 80% already walk or cycle to school, with ¾ of those who drive, distance parking (not parking closer than the telephone box or the white bridges)
- Nearly 90% would prefer their children to get to school via active travel means, with just over half saying they would let their children cycle to school.
- The main barriers to cycling with children were to do with safety: too many cars, the state of the roads, no separated cycle paths, illegal parking, cars mounting pavements etc. Age and cycle training were also a factor, but do not seem to be deal breakers.
- Those who did drive cited time poverty and distance from school as the main barrier to walking or cycling. For one family, a round trip to school and back by foot would take an hour.
- Suggestions for how to encourage more active travel included proper enforcement of yellow lines, traffic calming measures, a one-way system around Woollards lane combined with wider pavements, walking bus initiatives combined with a designated "kiss & drop" zone somewhere, and discouraging through traffic.
- Nearly half of respondents would be willing to help with active travel initiatives.

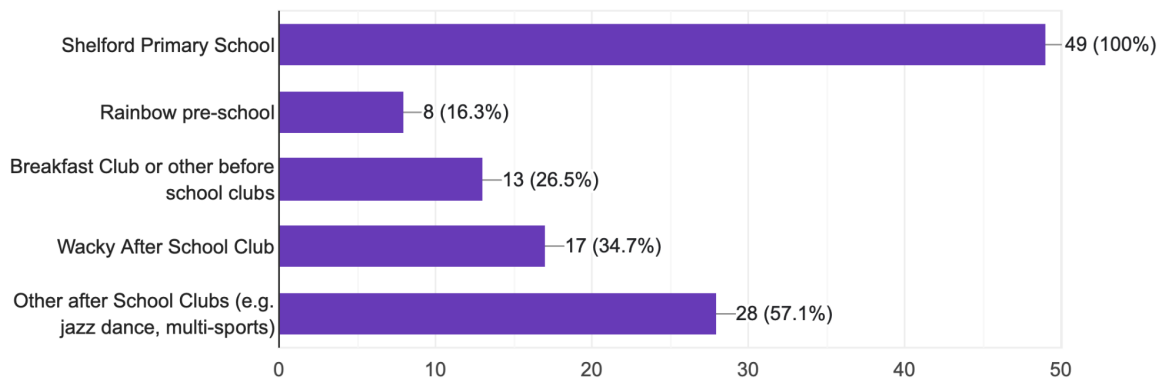
In summary, there is wide support to make significant changes to the village environment that will make walking and cycling more pleasant and safer around the village.

Results to the questions are below, with any written comments grouped into themes.

The Playscape team, April 2023

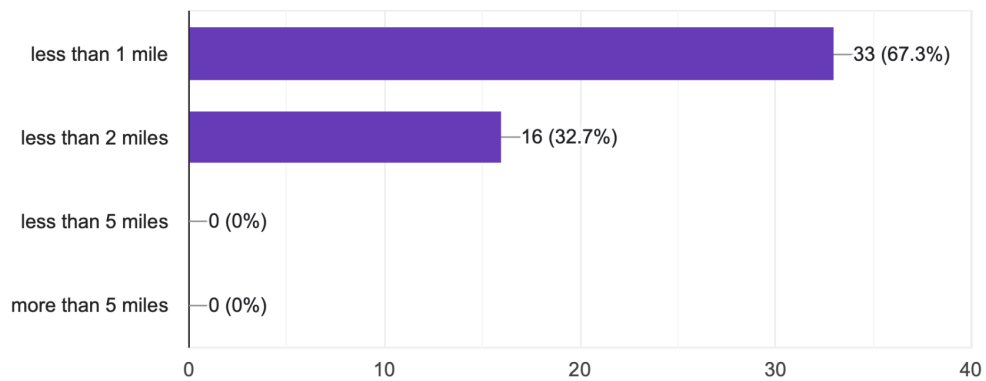
Please tell us if your child/ren attend the following (tick all that apply)

49 responses



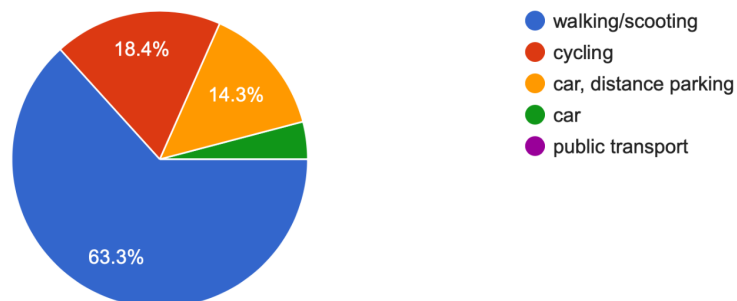
How far from the school do you live?

49 responses



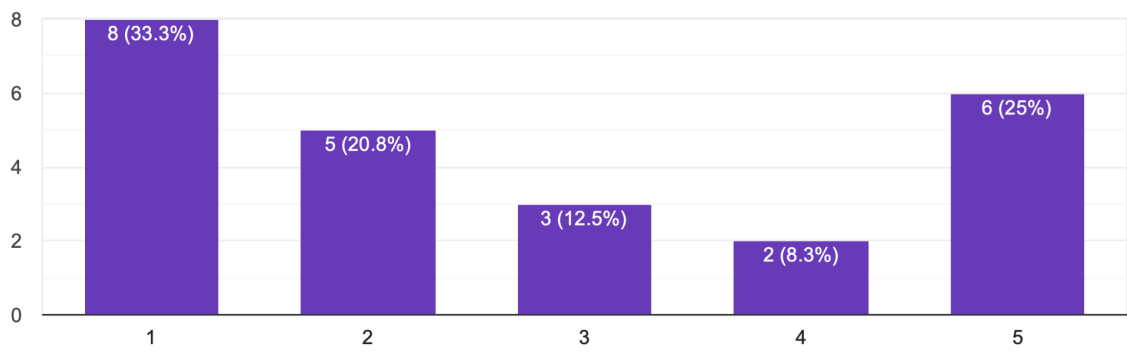
Please tell us which mode you use most to get your children to the school site. "distance parking" = you park more than a 5 minute walk away from the school (e.g. Little Shelford) that counts as travelling by car.

49 responses

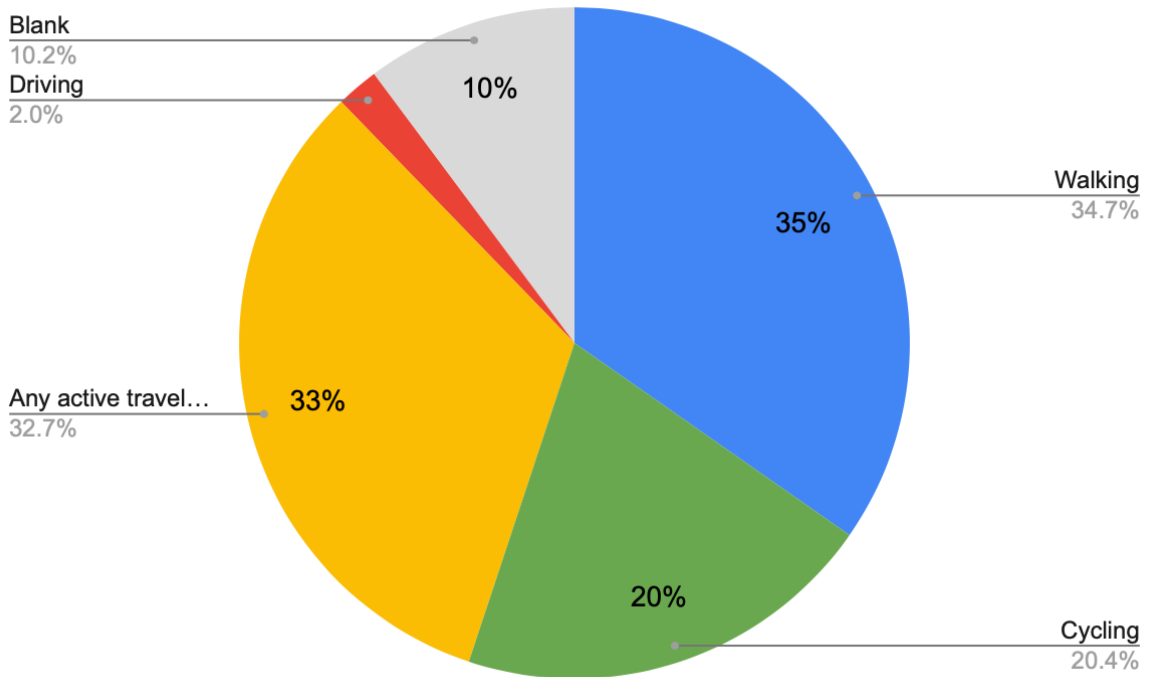


If you drive or distance park, how often do you do that each week?

24 responses

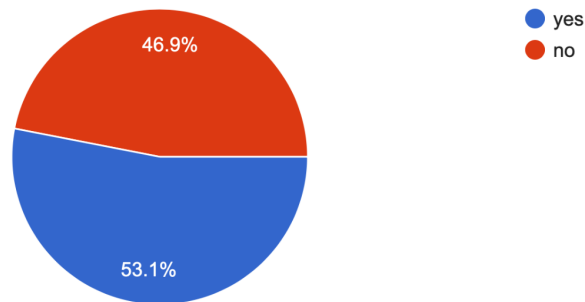


How would you prefer your child/ren get to the school site?



Would you allow your child to cycle to school?

49 responses



If not, what would encourage you to let your child cycle to school? (e.g. cycle training, a group ride?)

[answers have been grouped into themes]

Road safety is an issue

- Cambridge road and especially the bridge by NY wines is not safe enough. The cycle paths are not protected enough and the traffic is too fast.
- The roads are too dangerous around the school with parked cars meaning cycles are not given the space they need to be safe. Also the potholes make cycling very dangerous.
- A considerable reduction in traffic volume, less road rage.
- The roads are too busy and the drivers are crazy! My children aren't old enough to go on such busy roads safely yet. Cars frequently mount the pavement to try and get past each other - no awareness of pedestrians.
- Safer roads (ie potholes, less parked cars)
- I cycle with my 8 year old sometimes but it feels very dangerous and I am reluctant to do it. I certainly wouldn't allow him to cycle alone. I tend to prefer him to cycle on the pavement (which he seems too big to do now) or he still uses our bike/trailer set up (which he is also growing out of!). The options for older children are very limited. Even with cycle training at school and home I still wouldn't feel safe letting him cycle because of the road set up and the way many drivers drive too fast and too close to cyclists. There is very little adherence to the 20mph speed limit from Little Shelford into Great Shelford. There needs to be much greater prioritisation of cyclist and pedestrian safety. If there were dedicated cycle lanes or one way traffic with a cycle lane I would feel much more comfortable allowing the children to cycle.
- Some car drivers that access the village are too dangerous, so no support you can offer to change that.

Safer routes

Less cars/traffic on the road/more controlled traffic

- Less cars on the road
- An off road route
- Safer driving around the village
- Less roadside parking.
- A safer route. Especially the bridge over the railway as well as approaching the school are quite challenging for a child on a bike.
- Safer roads, i.e. less aggressive traffic, less overtaking vehicles, fewer/no trucks
- Less busy traffic on church street
- Safer pathway. It's crazy dangerous on church street as it stands
- Just less traffic. It's very congested at that time of the morning and drivers can get frustrated/ aggressive.
- Ban cars
- No traffic
- One-way system on Woollards Lane, strictly enforced no parking in front of school or church with cctv - idling cars here also causing huge air pollution issues at school gates which should be tested for air quality, extension of 20mph school zone further around corner towards Little Cycle training/practice is welcome, but the priorities are traffic issues.

Cycle paths

- Cycle paths/calmer traffic
- We cycle occasionally outside of peak times. We would cycle more if there were designated cycle paths, less parking outside the Shelford shops which obscures the view and forces cars to divert onto the wrong side of the road, and less potholes which make cycling close to the kerb tricky at the moment.
- Safe cycling path
- Cycle paths. Safer junction turning right back into Little Shelford near the church.
- My child cycles, but roads too busy for her to cycle alone. A cycle path to school would be amazing!

Age/experience/training required

- Currently too young
- They're too young at the moment in my opinion
- Needs to cycle with an adult
- Children currently too little
- I have tended to let my older children cycle after the Cycle training in year 5/6 and using my own judgement of their competency. I still worry about the complexity of cycling woollards lane and church street though.

- Cycle training required, however even when our child is competent to cycle on the road, we would not want them to cycle to school due to the busyness of the road immediately outside school and the unpredictable drivers on that stretch. Currently use a cargo bike and walk the last stretch from the Zebra crossing.
- Cycle training
- Cycle training

Other

- I cycle with mine but would not allow them to cycle alone
- Yes [I would allow my child to cycle to school]

If you currently drive your children to school what would encourage you to walk or cycle with your children instead?

More time/less scheduling constraints

- shorter working hours! Twice a week, I drive to pick up kids on certain days when coming directly from work and picking up kids at school after school club at 6pm!
- Work commitments mean we have to travel by car so there is no alternative for us.
- Having more time in my day! Work commitments mean I sometimes need to get there and back quickly.
- Limited by having to drive to work from drop off
- Sometimes people have to work or have an appointment and need the car, it is impossible to walk 100% of the time. We walk 80%.
- I collect children by car when we are heading to extramurals straight after school
- I wouldn't mind walking or cycling but in the past this has been complex to achieve- having 3 children all on bikes is stressful!! And walking from Macaulay takes a fair amount of time. Very often time is the limiting factor - as parents we need to get to work and don't have a spare hour to do the round trip on foot.

Distance from school

- Living closer, currently too far away to walk (another village)

Greater road safety, better traffic controls

- Less busy traffic
- Safer roads, less traffic past school, better traffic controls around school

- Nothing regarding cycling, I am too concerned about them being on the main road with cars.
- Better safety. I am close enough to walk to school sometimes and we also use a bike/trailer set up but it would be better if it was safe enough for the children to cycle on the road. If there were dedicated cycle lanes or one way traffic with a cycle lane I would feel much more comfortable allowing the children to cycle. Even with a bike/trailer set up it still feels dangerous as it is so congested around school and many drivers pass cyclists too fast and too close. I have also experienced near misses on the zebra crossing near school and the narrow pavements near the bridge on the border of Little and Great Shelford mean walking doesn't feel terribly safe either.
- This is hard to answer, as I indicated, driving is faster and as working parents, it is often about the time pressure. Distance parking has always worked well for us - I feel like it's important to respect the parking restrictions but it also allows us to get to work on time. The roads do seem risky for young cyclists too - so many parked cars, vehicles pulling out to overtake, and angry drivers who don't look or care. Even if I cycle with them, I find it extremely stressful and often I can't handle the anxiety.
- Ban cars
- Safe cycling path on the approach to school, that is currently busy with chaotic traffic in the mornings

Medical reasons

- I have had medical reasons for distance parking and driving for a number of years and at the moment. I would like to be able to walk or cycle in the future.

Other

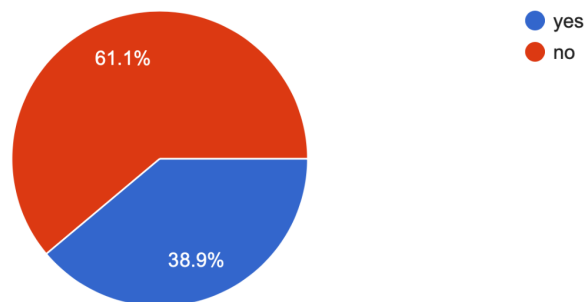
N/A

N/A

Not applicable-we walk to school and drive home when they are more tired and I need to get back to make the tea!

If you live too far away to walk to school would you consider car sharing with other parents?

18 responses



Do you have any ideas for improving the journey to school?

Traffic enforcement/parking restrictions/traffic management

- Police the parking outside school. It's the same parents each day that park illegally. (Not just school parents, but rainbow as well). It was so much calmer and easier to get past school when the cones were out a few months ago.
- Bring back the traffic cones on the double yellow lines outside the school.
- Have someone outside the school stopping parents parking where there are cones. And perhaps traffic lights to allow flow of traffic each direction rather than the current chaos.
- Prevent and penalise parking at school gates
- Repaint double yellow lines as appropriate near church so it is clear where cars can and cannot park.
- Sort out the parking situation. Too many parents park on double yellow lines on the bend and outside school making it dangerous for children and adults.
- Traffic warden / police officer could pay a one off visit and issue some tickets! Might discourage the illegal parking?
- Ban on people parking on double yellows as it causes backlogs as you can't see round the bend and then have nowhere to pull aside when traffic meets you coming the other way
- Tighter restrictions on shop deliveries during school run hours to free up road space for cars and cyclists. Tighter restrictions on parking so cars didn't have to mount the pavement to get by around the school. Can also be tricky to cross the road outside school when cars are on double yellows.
- I think there should be some way of making the road outside school safer. Parking enforcement on double yellows?

- The traffic around the school is often very bad, particularly in the morning. Moving the cars parked along the road outside the school would be very helpful, as would a one way traffic system and traffic calming measures to generally rebalance the road outside the school away from motorised traffic and back towards pedestrians and cyclists.
- Some traffic management system outside school.
- School traffic guard at drop-off/leaving school at gates to help children on bikes safely make the turn from either direction onto school drive if entering that way.

Cleaner streets / wider sidewalks/ barriers

- The amount of dog poo on the pavements is ridiculous! It wouldn't change how I get to school, but if I didn't have to clean faeces off the pushchair and the kids shoes, my life would be a lot easier!
- Would be helpful to have wider pavement/safe cycle lane on bends over the bridges from little shelford as is quite narrow when cars come round fast.
- make pavements safer for children (barriers between road & pavement) in areas known that cars go onto pavements when there is traffic

Traffic calming/reduction measures

- Close church street to motorised vehicles for 15 minutes in the morning during term. Physically prevent dangerous parking near the school with redesign of the space/street furniture.
- make church st, Woollards lane and high street one way.
- Traffic calming/reduction measures around the school, parking restrictions in place to limit the number of cars that are parked on double yellow lines.
- The traffic around the school is horrendous. Frustrated drivers speeding along at rush hour is a disaster waiting to happen. A lollipop person would be great. Or extra measures to reduce traffic through church street at peak school times are desperately needed!
- Safer roads, less traffic past school, better traffic controls around school ie filter/traffic lights/ better parking allocations.
- No cars allowed to park on the road outside school. It creates a bottleneck at peak times and encourages erratic driving behaviour.
- Stop the train barrier from going down!! On a more serious note, increase in train traffic and cars driving from the proposed Mingle Lane/Hinton Way housing development site will greatly increase our journey to school length and make it more difficult/less pleasant
- Closing the road around school to motorists, installing cycle lanes, widening the pavement, making some roads one way, etc. Whatever steps are taken they should be to prioritise the safety of cyclists and pedestrians accessing the school, from both Little Shelford and Great Shelford. This would encourage children to take the active travel

option. Currently it is a vicious circle - it doesn't feel safe to cycle (or at times even walk) to school so more parents drive which causes congestion and makes it even less safe.

- Narrow pavements, speeding cars, passing so close to the kids on the pavements, sometimes mounting the pavement to squeeze through, road rage on church street all mostly caused by excess traffic passing through the village. We have the right to use our village, walk and drive our children to school a couple times out of 10 per week.
- Discourage through traffic, close church street during school drop off /pick up times- and make it safer for children to walk or cycle. A zebra crossing outside coop or the square and compasses-somewhere on high street would help. Parked cars near school keep the children protected from speeding traffic too close to them. Please do not lay all the blame on parents driving, it is also a problem off too much through traffic.
- Safe cycling path on the way to school, Cambridge road feels quite unsafe for children to cycle, especially the bridge. Cars are quite often speeding and there no speed limit signs anywhere on that stretch of the road.
- Ban cars
- Introduce methods to make church street safer, traffic light system to control flow of traffic. Limit parking, limit heavy good vehicle through traffic at key times of day, add a cycle path or widen pavement, consider kiss and drop system [designated drop off where volunteers or staff direct the children] either by school or area where group walking could occur.
- Cars often speed up once past parked cars and don't slow/seem to expect zebra crossing - might help if repainted crossing so lines on road more visible in low light?
- We travel from little Shelford. The main hurdle for us as the kids grow is the fastness of the traffic on Bridge Street. Traffic calming here would make a huge difference. The narrowness of the pavement is also a real problem. You cannot safely look after kids on scooters or bikes (never mind pushing a double buggy). We've had a couple of near misses falling into the road and speeding traffic.
- I'm not sure much can be done until the roads are safer. Perhaps if woollards lane was one way, there would be space for a cycle way? Are there other ways we could make roads safer for cyclists?
- One way in Great Shelford would reduce the number of cars racing against oncoming cars to get through gaps to get right of way. It would also reduce the number of cars riding up on pavements (it's more than a weekly occurrence that we, as pedestrians, have to stop or backtrack to avoid cars bumping up on pavements to get out of gridlock). Wider pavements in some locations and safer cycling provision. Better visibility where car parking crosses pavements, Boots/Tucker Gardner car park and cars coming out next to Haart/CBS are particularly bad at busy times.
- See above - the issues are traffic, road quality and car-related not the children's ability to cycle (though additional courses/cycle practice are welcome).

- We usually cycle or walk/scoot to school. I constantly feel that the safety of children is under threat on our journey. Pavements can be very narrow in places, some motorists drive too fast for the conditions. The road quality is very poor making cycling on the road more hazardous. There is also a large volume of traffic at school time. This is made problematic by the narrowing of the road due to parked cars outside school. This becomes a bottleneck and the road is often clogged with cars. I feel that safety is not currently being prioritised rather the needs of a few motorists is instead. I feel strongly that closing church street to cars at school time would be the best way to avoid a road traffic accident and would make the journey much more peaceful. This would encourage more children and families to pursue active transport options.
- Reducing the flow of car traffic through the Shelfords should be a major priority - it blights both villages. Better bus service esp. from Little Shelford to Shelford train station, and a regular bus service that travelled from Shelfords up Trumpington Rd (rather than Addenbokes) to serve independent schools would significantly reduce school car traffic in the local area.
- One way system

Better parking/parking alternatives

- Allocated school parking at memorial hall car park during relevant times
- Better parking for staff so they are off the roads- leaving space for working parents/ visitors
- Stop all parking on the road near the school - drop offs only. But would be good to find more land available for distance parking.
- Providing more parking at a safe distance from school and clearer guidance that this is the compulsory option for drivers could make a huge difference.

Walk to school initiatives

- Walking chains where year 5 and 6 can walk to school together, or sign up for walking buddies.
- Years ago there used to be a walking bus - it was only on Wednesdays and there was one from the station and one from little shelford. I guess it stopped as it is a lot of responsibility for volunteers to take on, and everyone is trying to get to work so few have time to offer.
- A designated Walk/Ride to school day.
- We only tend to drive for school pick ups on days where my children attend other clubs that we can't access on foot (eg getting to swimming in Sawston for 4pm on a Thursday). I think facilities to allow children to walk together would be great. With 3 children, I

sometimes have multiple drop offs or pick ups and at times, this means driving. It'd be good to have a walking train to join.

- Walking buses from easy drop off points in Gt & Lt Shelford could help reduce number of cars coming along/parking in Church St.
- Walk but would be helpful to be able to drop off children more easily in car on way to work etc. (is this like, kiss and ride like private schools with an in & out driveway, or drop off at memorial hall car park and do walking bus?).

Other campaign

- An anti-pollution campaign led by school/children with help of church with temporary banners along church wall showing direct effects of air pollution on school and what parking there causes.

Other

- Cycle path!
- No need to improve

Would you be interested in volunteering to help bring about some initiatives to increase the take up of active travel to school? The school will follow up once level of interest is gauged.

44 responses

