



# **Pelletstown Educate Together National School**

## **Safe Travel Policy and Traffic Management Plan**

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on: 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2024

Review due: Term 1 2026

# Pelletstown Educate Together National School

## Safe Travel and Traffic Management Plan

### Introduction

This Traffic Management Plan has been drawn up by Pelletstown Educate Together National School Board of Management (B.O.M.), B.O.M. in association with the Pelletstown Educate Together National School Road Safety Committee, following consultation with the wider parent body. It was felt necessary to draw up this plan to ensure that all risks are identified and agreed solutions sought, to ensure best practice for the safe passage of persons travelling to and from our school. The school has consulted RSA, Dublin City Council and Green Schools Transport documents when devising this policy.

### Rationale

Pelletstown Educate Together National School is committed to promoting a safe environment in the surrounds of the school. This plan has been drawn up, in relation to the safe travel of persons to and from our school, in order to:

- Review current practice
- Conduct a valid risk assessment to identify hazards
- Consider a traffic management issues that are unique to our school
- Devise a traffic management plan that will help to ensure the safety of all users.

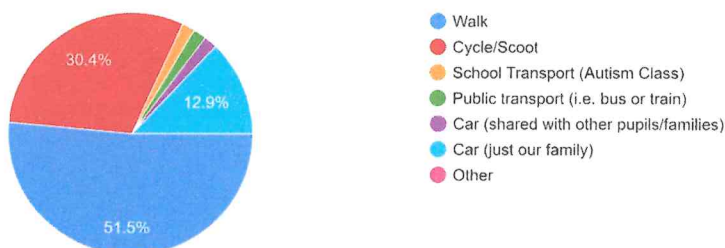
The core of the policy is that there is clarity and understanding as to how the safe movement of pedestrians, cyclists and motorists can be managed.

### Current Practice:

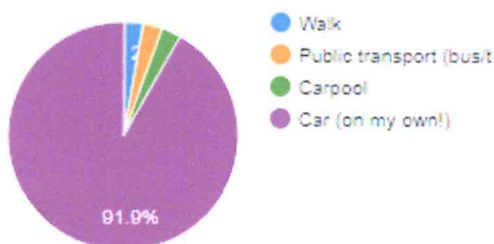
The following graphs outline how pupils currently (Term 1, 2024-2025) travel to school:

1. How does your child usually travel to school?

171 responses



The following graphs outline how staff currently (Term 1, 2024-2025) travel to school:



## Risks:

Following a survey of parents/carers, and observations at drop-off and collection times, the following risks have been identified in relation to the safe travel of persons to and from the school.

- 64.3% of respondents to the survey said they have witnessed dangerous driving or parking at the school. 81 respondents listed the types of dangerous activity they have witnessed by road users.
- Rathborne Vale is a very busy road with several by-roads also accessing it
- The design of the footpaths on Rathborne Square is such that they are level with the road, and often confused as part of the road by road-users, rather than a space to be used by pedestrians/cyclists/those on scooters.
- Cars parking on the corner of Rathborne Vale and Rathborne Square causes an obstruction to other vehicles, and blocks the view of road users and pedestrians posing a serious safety risk
- Cars stop (in the middle of the road on Rathborne Vale) at the top of the access road to the school to allow children alight from the cars
- Cars park on double yellow lines and footpaths
- Cars parking on the pedestrian crossing (sloped footpaths) at Pelletstown Avenue and Rathborne Square, meaning that there is no safe crossing available.
- Speed limits are not being adhered to on Rathborne Vale, and it's by-roads, despite speed ramps and traffic signage.
- There is no set-down area at the school due to the lack of available space and design of the school
- The school cannot avail of a School Traffic Warden because the roads haven't been taken in charge by the local authority (i.e. Dublin City Council).
- Visibility of cars by pedestrians (and vice versa) when crossing from Crescent Park and the Royal Canal path to the school (at the multiple and busy junctions of Royal Canal Crescent, Rathborne Ave and Rathborne Vale is restricted which leads to heightened risk of an accident. This risk is compounded by many cars travelling at high speeds.
- There is a lack of adequate, safe pedestrian crossings because the roads haven't been taken in charge by the local authority (i.e. Dublin City Council). The developers have erected traffic calming signage around Crescent Park and down Rathborne Vale to alert road users to the school ahead, and the appropriate speed limit. This has had limited impact with many cars still travelling too fast to enable safe crossing of roads, particularly at the junction near Crescent park.
- The design of the school is such that there are no railings at entry/exit points and these open up straight onto the footpath very close to Rathborne Vale.
- From 8:30am, approximately 420 people have to gain entry to the school, with 100 children (and their parents) leaving at 1:10pm and 300 children (and their parents) leaving at 2:10pm.
- Pupils being dropped off in undesignated areas.
- Cars parked outside residents' entrances causing frustrations with the local community.
- Cars double parked on the road.
- Cars driving down the access road to the school and parking/turning, including school transport vehicles for children in the Autism classes.
- Children, especially young children, have the potential to dash out on the road at any time without warning.
- Children on bikes and scooters not wearing helmets, or have helmets hanging on handlebars of bikes/scooters
- Children cycling their bikes to school whilst also using a mobile phone or hand-held music device.
- The use of E-scooters
- In line with DCC planning zones, there are 9 available car-parking spaces for staff.

*Pelletstown ETNS acknowledges that some risk factors are outside the control of the school due to the not taking-in-charge of the roads at present. The school will continue to engage with Dublin City Council, An Garda Síochána and Castlethorn on this matter.*

## Traffic Management Guidelines:

The following guidelines apply at all times of the day.

Drop-off times also refers to children being dropped late to school, or being dropped early to Breakfast Club

Pick-Up times also refers to children being picked up at alternative times, i.e. earlier in the school day or later in the school day due to after-school care or extra-curricular activities.

Following the above identified risks, these guidelines have been drawn up:

### Drop-off (8:30am):

- Any persons coming to school by car, must park in designated, legal parking spaces. There are ample spaces available on Rathborne Vale doing towards River Drive, as well as in designated visitor spaces on Rathborne Vale and Rathborne Square, as indicated by the 'V' sign in the spaces,
- All pedestrians must cross the roads at the areas where there is a sloped pathway, indicating a crossing (e.g. at Rathborne Vale and Pelletstown Avenue, and Rathborne Square and Rathborne Vale).
- Cabra Gardaí will be monitoring the situation
- The access road down to the school is only available for school transport vehicles and emergency vehicles.
- The set down area at the front of the school is for designated disabled parking only.
- Vehicles are requested to only travel one way along Rathborne Vale – i.e. coming from Crescent Park, down Rathborne Vale towards River Drive, in order to ensure smooth movement of traffic and increased visibility for pedestrians (see Appendix 1).
- School transport vehicles for children in the Autism classes must drive down the access road, turn at the bottom of the road and drive back up – i.e. these vehicles must not reverse on the access road to the school.

### Pick-Up (1:10pm and 2:10pm)

- All infant children will be collected from the designated door of the school.
- Parents must park in safe, designated spaces as outlined above.
- Vehicles are requested to only travel one way along Rathborne Vale – i.e. coming from Crescent Park, down Rathborne Vale towards River Drive, in order to ensure smooth movement of traffic and increased visibility for pedestrians (see Appendix 1).
- School transport vehicles for children in the Autism classes must drive down the access road, turn at the bottom of the road and drive back up – i.e. these vehicles must not reverse on the access road to the school.

### Driver Guidelines:

The B.O.M. of Pelletstown Educate Together National School request that all drivers abide by the following rules:

- Adhere to the National Rules of the Road – available on the RSA website and at this link: <https://www.rsa.ie/services/learner-drivers/resources/rules-of-the-road>
- Be mindful of adhering to speed limits, and speed ramps.
- Follow the requested one-way system (Appendix 1)
- Do not park on the corner of Rathborne Vale and Rathborne Square.
- Do not park on or block pedestrian crossings at any time – This applies even where pedestrian lights are not in situ, but a pedestrian crossing is indicated by sloped pathways.
- Pedestrians must be given right of way at the aforementioned pedestrian crossings.
- Park cars in safe, legal parking spaces on Rathborne Vale and Rathborne Square.
- Do not stop at the top of the access road down to the school.
- Do not stop at the P.E. hall entrance to the school.
- Do not stop to drop children off on the access road to the school. The only exception to this is school transport vehicles and disability space users.
- Do not block the entrance /exits of local residents' houses.
- Take care when reversing out of car parking spaces.
- The car-park at the rear of the school is for staff parking only (as advised by Allianz Insurance and The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017).
- Authorised drivers using the set-down area/disability spaces at the front of the school must be mindful of persons on the roadway

### Other road-users Guidelines:

- All pedestrians must cross the roads at the areas where there is a sloped pathway, indicating a crossing (e.g. at Rathborne Vale and Pelletstown Avenue, and Rathborne Square and Rathborne Vale).
- All pupils using bikes/scooters should wear helmets
- All pupils using bikes/scooters should not use smart devices (i.e. mobile phones, smart watches, or music devices)
- Pupils are not permitted to travel to school on an E-scooter or to park it at the school

### Review and Ratification

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management on October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2024. It will be made available to school personnel, published on the school website and provided to the Parent-Teacher Association. A copy of this policy will be made available to the Department of Education and Skills and the Patron, if requested. Hard copies of this, and all school policies, are available at the school on requests.

This policy, and its implementation, will be reviewed by the Board of Management in 3 years, or earlier if there are any relevant design changes to the school and its surrounding roadways, or if there are any further developments in the roads taking in charge process

Signed:



Ray Renaghan (Chairperson, BOM)

Signed:



Caitríona Ní Cheallaigh (School Principal)

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2024

Date of next review: Term 1, 2027



**One-way system for drop-off and collection times at Pelletstown Educate Together National School**

