

Encouraging Active Transport use at Hillmorton High School

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GEOG309 – S2-23



Hillmorton High School

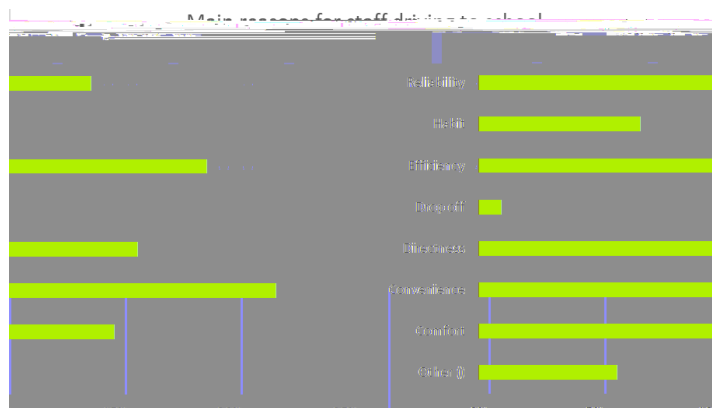
Parents have a substantial influence on their children's choice of AT due to their perceived safety and convenience

Walking, family car, and taking the bus are the main modes of transportation for students travelling to and from school, however the distribution of them changes before and after school.

How does your child usually travel to school?

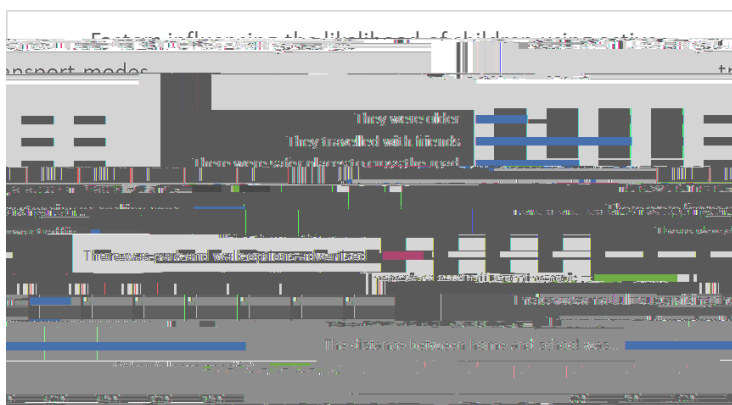
The most common reason for driving as a preferred method of travel is due to dropping off a child on the way to work. This is followed by concerns about the personal safety of my child/children and the distance between home and school being too far.

What are the main reasons you have for driving currently? (Select all that apply)



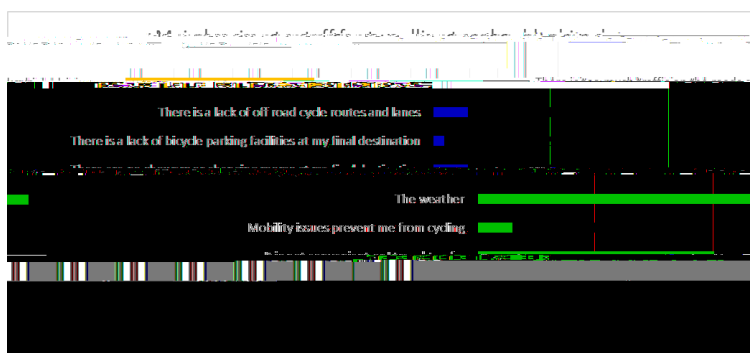
Convenience, efficiency and directness are the 3 most common reasons for staff driving to school, with reliability and comfort also being key factors. Dropping kids off on the way to work is the least common reason.

It is likely that my child would walk, cycle or scoot to school more often if... (Select all the apply)



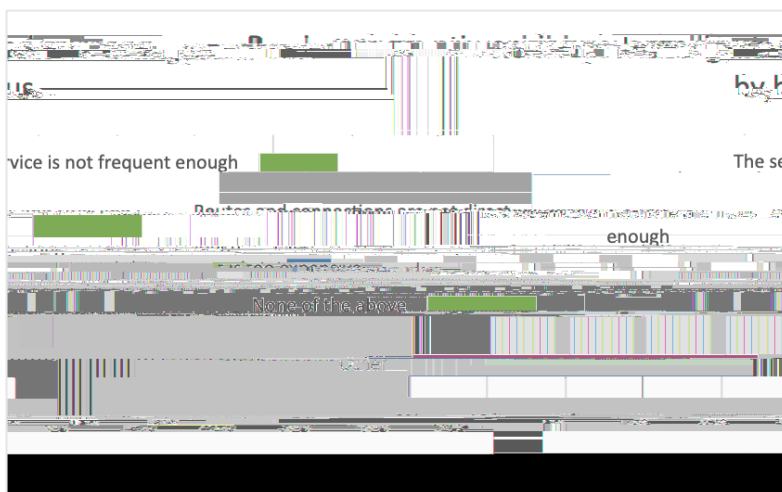
Distance is the main factor determining the likelihood of children using active modes. This is followed by travelling with friends, safer crossing points and less traffic.

What are the main deterrents to you travelling to work by bicycle?



Weather, inconvenience and traffic are the main reasons for staff not using a bicycle. This is reinforced by personal hygiene and geographical limitations.

What are the main barriers that prevent your child/ren travelling to school by bus?



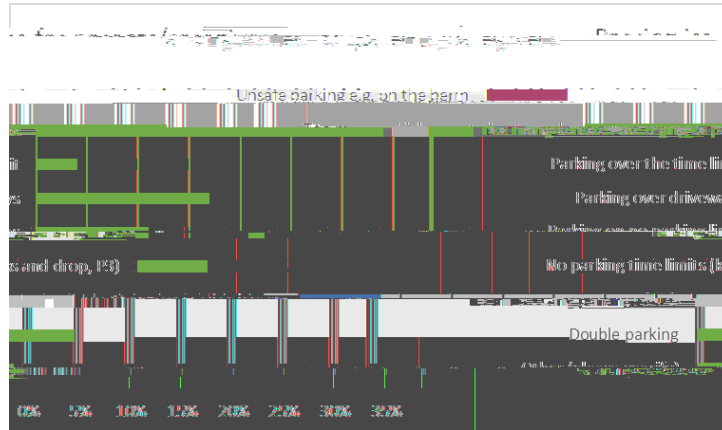
Other barriers to children travelling to school by bus were more prevalent than the suggested barriers presented in the survey. These other barriers consisted of the buses being too over crowded, too much of a hassle and timing of the buses.

What would motivate you or make you feel safe to use active modes to get to school?



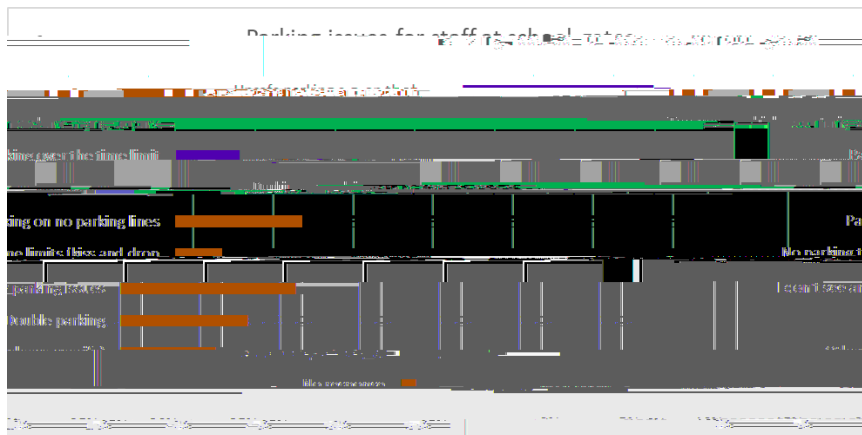
Most students stated they didn't know what active travel means/ didn't know what would motivate them or had nothing that would motivate them.

What parking issues if any do you see at your school gate? (Select all that apply)



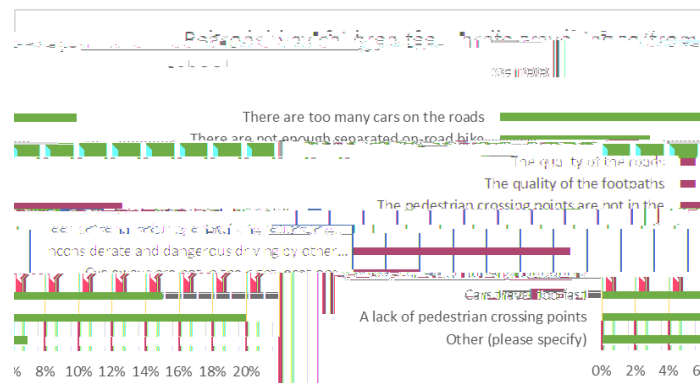
Congestion around the school gates and drop off points are the main issues for parents/caregivers parking. This is reinforced by people parking over driveways, on no parking lines and parking on the berm.

What parking issues if any do you see at your school gate?



Too many vehicles and unsafe parking are the most reported issues for staff parking.

Thinking about children's safety when travelling to school... What are the reasons why children feel unsafe?



Crossing points and car congestion were the main reported reasons for children feeling unsafe, followed by speed of traffic and dangerous driving.

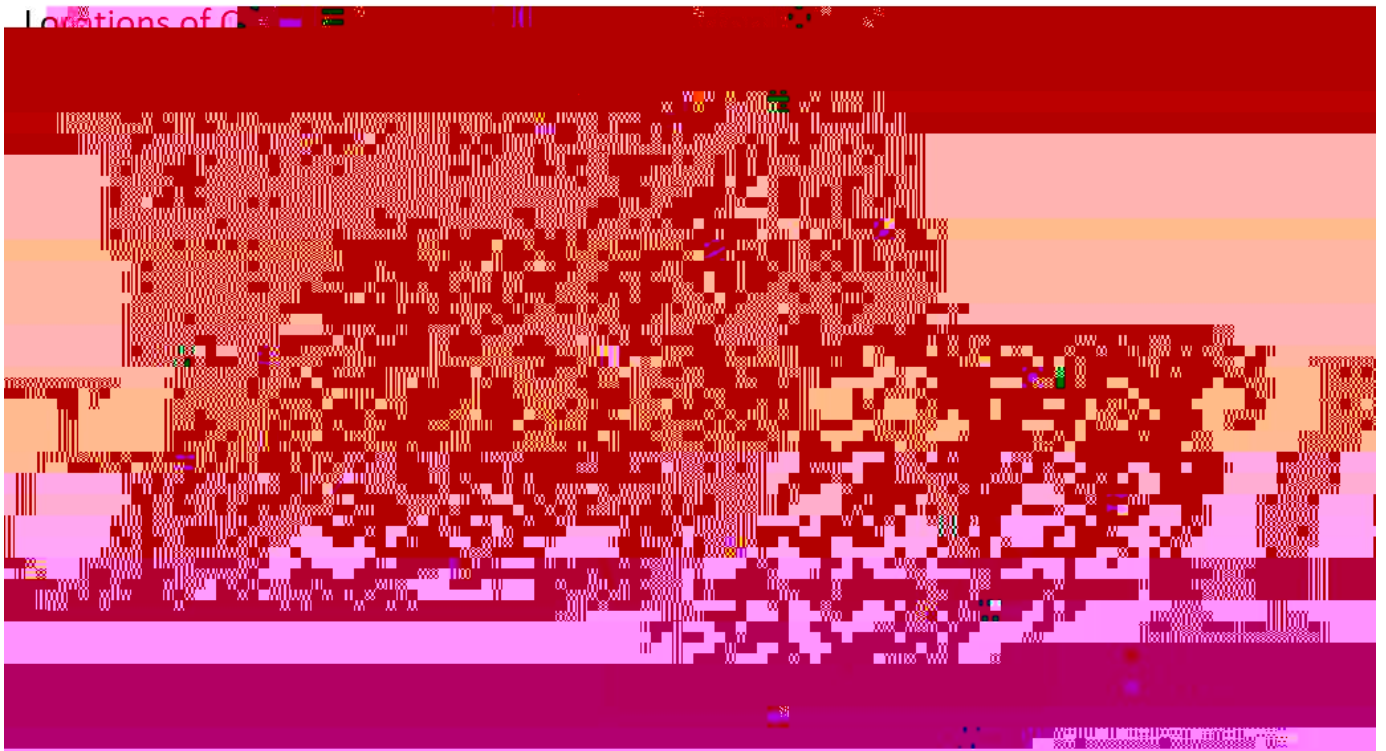
Why do you feel that children are not safe in these locations while travelling to or from school?
(Select all that apply)

Too many cars were the main reasons for concerns in terms of children's safety, followed by lack of pedestrian crossing.

Thinking about children's safety when travelling to school... Are there any locations where you feel that children could be safer when travelling to or from school?

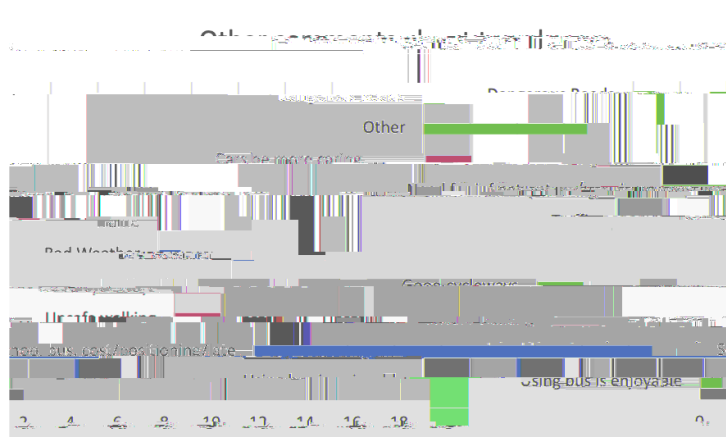
Traffic/driver danger was the most common response, followed by cars speeding, cars not stopping, crossing danger and stranger danger.

Please tell us more about the location of most concern (street names, intersections, etc)



The main areas of concern expressed directly surround the school grounds, with all the points being within the school zone. Tankerville Road (where the school's main entrance is) is the road with the largest amount of concern, but Halswell has the most identifiable locations of concern.

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your travel to/from school?



Further comments from students involved issues with school busses in terms of costs/ bus stop positioning/ arrival time and lateness.

When looking at the distribution of mode use at HHS, there are several key points to be considered.

- HHS already has a higher amount of AT use compared to what has been reported within literature, however the prominence of cars and their associated danger is still a major issue.
- The students' year level showed differences between the different modes of transport chosen due to potential social shifts in group dynamics. As year 9 and 10 students still participate in driving from school this is contrasted with older cohorts where walking is prominent (Figures 5). Older students tend to enjoy social interactions with friends and therefore are found walking in groups from school, that comes with less social embarrassment, which was anticipated from the literature. Younger cohorts (years 7-8) also participated in walking to and from school, but the use of scooters was also seen unlike the older cohorts. Between the different cohorts it is clear that their different social behaviours influence their mode use.
- There are differences between staff and student modal use, with staff being less likely to use active modes overall. The perspectives from these two groups have shown differences in terms of what issues are important (Figure 9), with issues such as convenience and personal hygiene appearing within the staff data, and distance and safety being the prominent issues for students (Figure 10).
- There are significant shifts in modes depending on whether students are coming to or leaving school. The survey data indicates that more students travel actively after school (Figure 5). But this occurs due to not being dropped off to school on the way to the parent or caregivers work, as reinforced within previous literature.
- Distance was shown as a major issue. Students overall tend to be in a closer radius of the school (Figure 8), and are thus more likely to use active modes, but the distribution between AT uses versus the distance lived away did not align with literature. The younger cohorts (year 7-9) live closer due to the school zoning but drive to and from school

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