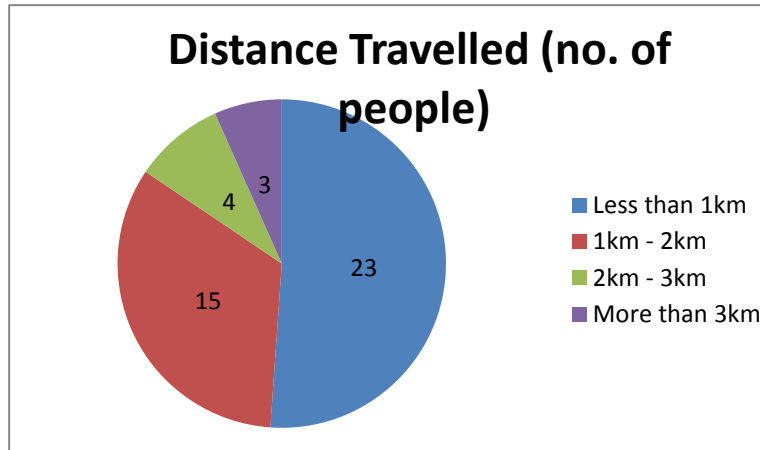


Gorsey Bank Safer Routes To School Family Survey

45 parents completed an online survey during May and June 2013. The survey was publicised in two Friday Issues and every family was encouraged to respond.

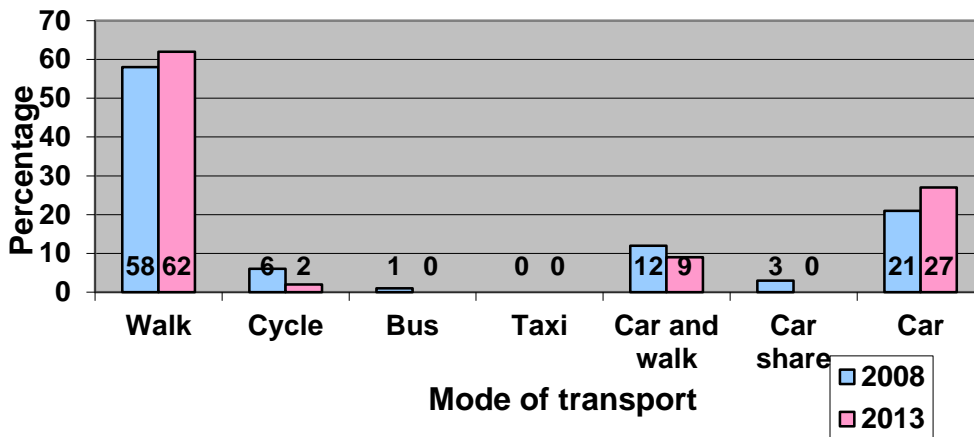
The results are as follows:

- 51% of children live less than 1km from school
- 33% of children live between 1km and 2km from school
- 9% of children live between 2km and 3km from school
- 7% of children live more than 3km from school



The above chart shows that, understandably, the distance people live from school has an effect on the number of pupils who walk. However, 84% of pupils live less than 2km from school. This suggests that it would be possible for a majority of parents and pupils to walk all (or at least part) of the way to school.

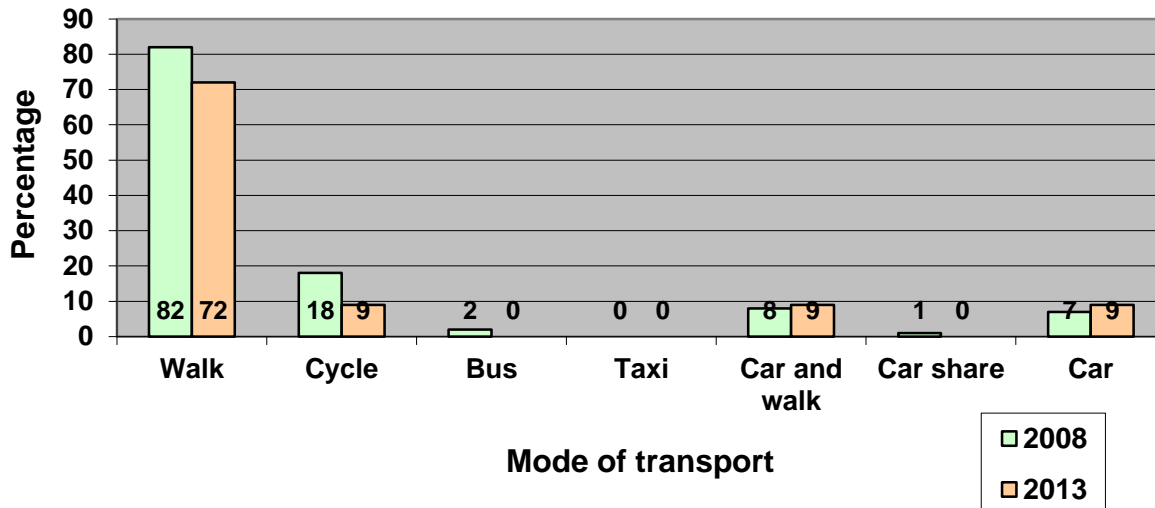
How pupils travel to school



The percentage of pupils walking to school has increased since the last survey in 2008, as has the percentage travelling by car. Parents made the following comments with this question, showing that they travel to school in different ways according to their circumstances or the weather:

- Walk sometimes when weather ok
- I drop-off/collect on my way to/from work in Manchester
- Hawthorn Street is not very safe for pedestrians i.e. difficult to cross and pavement is very narrow so vehicles pass very close to pedestrians (some times vehicles mount the pavement)
- My daughter scooters! We travel about a quarter mile or third of a mile.
- Combination of walk, cycle and scooter depending on preference
- Unless weather very inclement - downpour or storm

How families would like to travel to school



The results here show that the majority of families still prefer to walk to school, with 31/43 respondents choosing this option. The low number of families preferring to cycle can be explained by some of the comments regarding safety on the busy roads around school, and we plan to address some of these issues over the next year. Comments included:

- It's really the only option right now
- We live across town & it's too busy , but she will be able to at high school.
- a 20 mph speed limit
- No illegal parking on Gorsey Road
- I think Gorsey Road and surrounding roads are currently too dangerous at school start / end times for safe cycling- mainly because of inconsiderate parents who park on corners/pull out suddenly etc
- Badly parked cars make it difficult to see oncoming vehicles properly, especially around the junction of Priory Road/Gorsey road and Altrincham Rd/Gorsey Road.
- I would let my child cycle to school in the next 2yrs if there was a huge improvement in traffic calming measures particularly on Oak Lane and Altrincham Road. The speed of vehicles is my biggest concern.
- Altrincham road is too busy and has no cycle lane
- Better speed control on Altrincham Road. Prosecution for driving too fast and parking badly

The responses of those who drive imply that some of those who use a car do so for understandable reasons; such as living too far away to walk, dropping children off on the way to work, or needing to take siblings to other locations. 40% of respondents park on Gorsey Road, a very congested area before and after school. If these people could park away from school and walk, the area around school would be much safer with less traffic during these times.

Comments:

- I never drive
- I drive to our walking bus and the children then walk the rest of the way to school
- Rarely, but if it is raining hard or if I have to get to work immediately after dropoff

78% of respondents would like to see cycle lanes around school to make cycling safer for their children.

The comments raise some excellent suggestions which we can follow up:

- *Invite PCSO/ traffic warden to ticket illegal parking*
- *Request cycle lanes/ traffic calming measures from the council and possibly a pedestrian crossing at the Boddington Arms*
- *Support the Wilmslow '20s plenty' group*

In response to the other suggestions raised we will:

- *Promote the existing Strawberry Lane walking bus route and invite other families to walk together, possibly forming new walking buses where requested. Sam, a pupil who walks with the walking bus, calculated that his family had saved £700 over their time at Gorsey bank by walking instead of driving!*
- *Speedwatch or similar project where KS2 children raise awareness of the speed limit to drivers*
- *Consider better lighting at the front of school Continue to promote walking as a healthy way to come to school, through Funky Feet, Walk to School weeks and the 'Let's Walk' scheme in Y3*

Comments about the Walking bus:

- Already have an informal walking bus with neighbours
- Children too young
- Possibly I would need to know more....levels of accompaniment etc
- I like to drop off my children at school
- I only take the children to school myself once a week and enjoy walking with them myself
- The walking bus system used to allow children to walk home together with one adult. Some parents I have spoken to did not like the intrusion of the CRB check so did not join official walking buses.
- I am happy to walk my child to school irrespective of incentives. It gives us an opportunity to talk daily outside of a busy household.
- Idea: an early walking bus that brings group to kids club, say 7.30 meet, for working parents
- Many parents in our area don't yet I see them driving their children to school each day. Don't know why they don't use the bus! Would be good to understand why not- having to make a commitment to walk other people's children no matter what the weather?
- The time we leave varies so we wouldn't be reliable
- not enough children in my road
- Having run a Walking Bus for 4 years I know that it doesn't suit all families. It is very much the case that it has to provide a benefit to the parent or fit well with the family needs in order to make it work on an ongoing basis.
- Live too close/ too far away
- I drive to our walking bus and the children then walk the rest of the way to school
- I am happy to walk my child to school irrespective of incentives. It gives us an opportunity to talk daily outside of a busy household.
- Some people drive to the meeting point of the walking bus, or even walk away from school to meet the bus.

Why not try the walking bus? They meet at Strawberry Lane at 8.30 every day. Just turn up, they will be thrilled to see you. We will be encouraging new families to join in and try out the walking bus during Walk to School week in October.

388 pupils of Gorse Bank were consulted on how they travel to school, and how they would prefer to travel to school. Compared with the same results from 2006, there is a clear increase in the number of children who say they cycle to school (+3%) and a decrease in those who come by car (-6%). Another interesting difference is in those who park and walk, an increase of 4%, and this is to be encouraged, perhaps by driving to join the walking bus, and will help to ease traffic congestion around school.

Pupil hands-up survey 2006:

Mode of transport	To School		From School	
	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
Walking	178	44%	212	53%
Cycling	14	3%	15	4%
Car	139	34%	153	38%
Walking bus	24	6%	0	0%
Park and walk	48	12%	19	5%
Car share	3	1%	1	0%
School bus	0	0%	0	0%
Public bus	0	0%	0	0%
Train	0	0%	0	0%

Pupil hands-up survey 2013:

Mode of transport	To School		From School		Prefer
	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	Percent
Walking	178	46%	156	40%	26%
Cycling	23	6%	23	6%	37%
Car	110	28%	142	36%	13%
Walking bus	8	2%	5	1%	8%
Park and walk	63	16%	60	15%	7%
Car share	1	0.2%	2	0.4%	2%
School bus	0	0%	0	0%	8%
Public bus	0	0%	0	0%	0%
Train	0	0%	0	0%	0%