

Firrhill High School

Travel Plan



September 2018



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Introduction

This School Travel Plan documents the measures and initiatives that will be implemented by Firrhill High School to:

- reduce unnecessary car use
- encourage healthy and sustainable travel options
- increase safety for students and staff getting to and from school

This is fully in accordance with the school aims, which are:

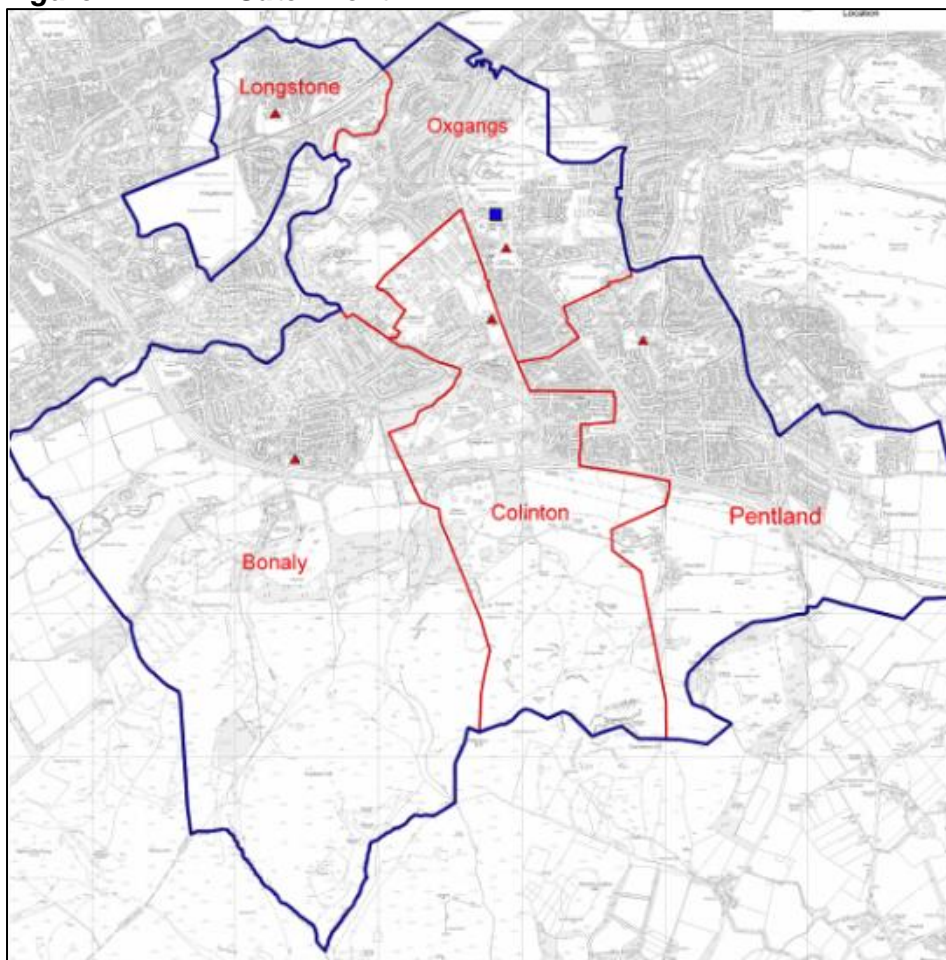
- To offer high quality educational experiences accessible to all
- To educate each student to his/her full potential within a secure, welcoming environment where staff, students and parents work together in partnership

The measures will include walking, cycling and public transport initiatives as well as engineering and educational programmes.

The School and Catchment Area

Firrhill High School is a six-year comprehensive school situated in south west Edinburgh. The school occupies an attractive site overlooking the Pentland Hills and has a roll of 1186 pupils and over 120 staff. It welcomes pupils from Oxgangs, Bonaly, Colinton, Longstone and Pentland Primaries as well as St. Mark's RC Primary and others outwith the catchment area. The location of the school and its catchment is shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Firrhill Catchment



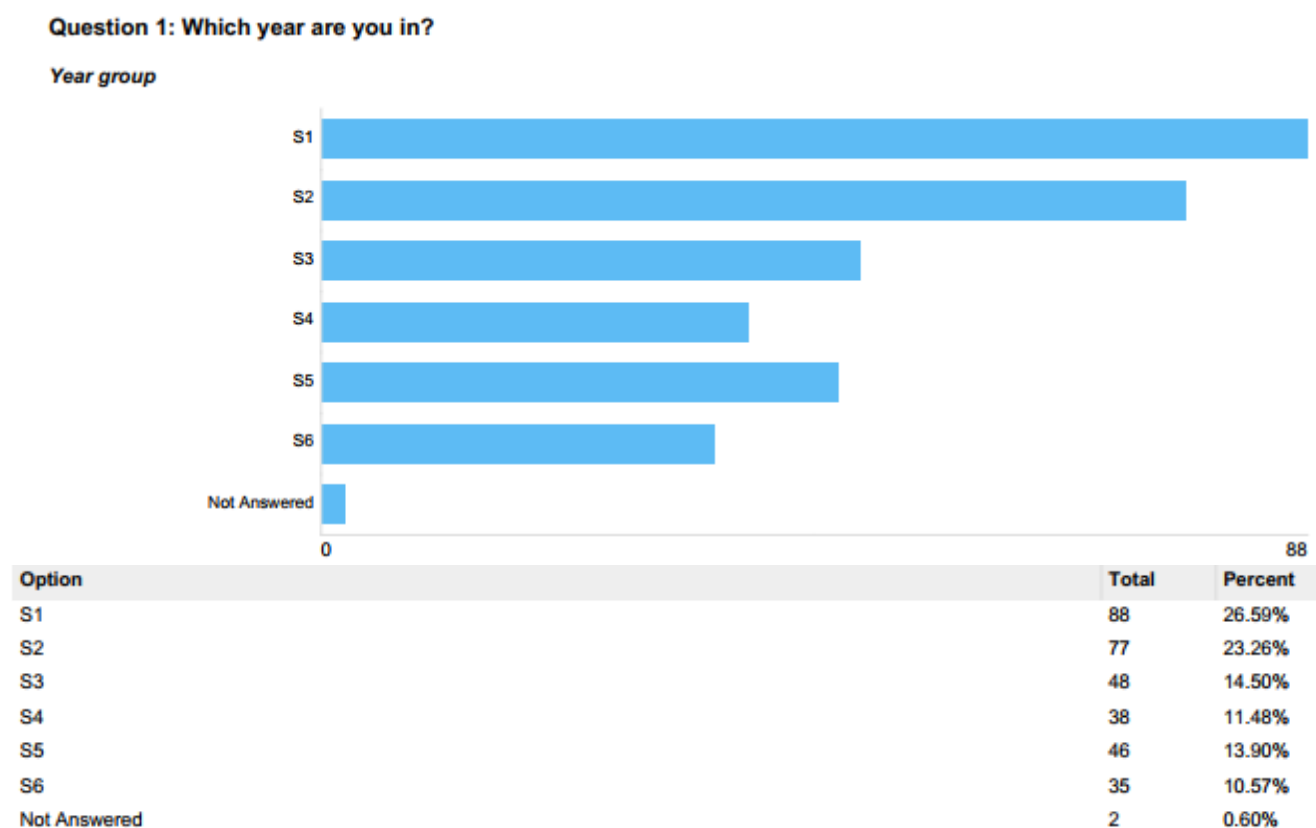


School Travel Questionnaire

The online pupil questionnaire was designed by pupils in collaboration with the City of Edinburgh Council's Road Safety Section.

The questionnaire was launched in December 2017 and elicited 331 responses. This represents a 28% sample of the total student population. The representation across year groups is shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Questionnaire Responses



School Travel Breakdown

The survey asked a range of questions about method of travel to/from school (travel mode), length of journey time, and the distance travelled between home and school.

Travel Mode

Q3 asked about travel mode to school. The table and graph overleaf show that walking is the most popular means of transport to school at 57% and the second most important is travel by bus (30%). Travel by car, including dropped off by parents, park and stride and pupil-drivers accounts for approximately 12% of trips.

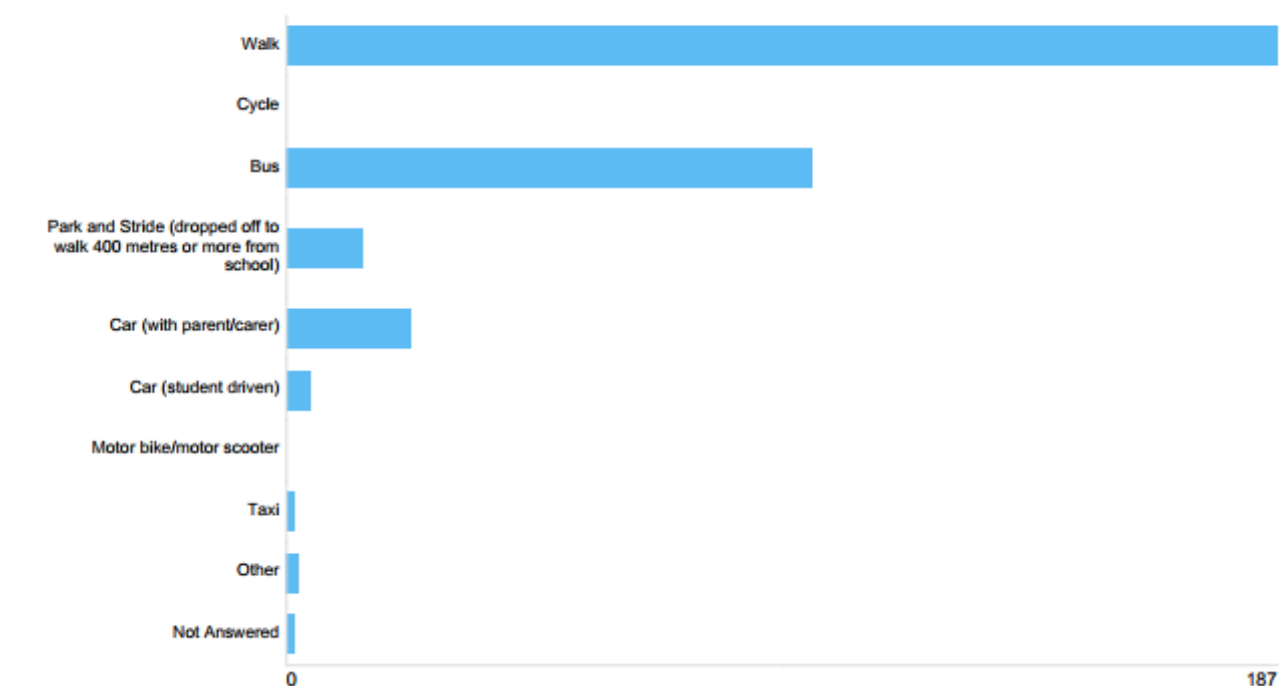
Q4 asked the same question for the trips *from* school. This generally has similar responses as shown for travel to school except that the proportion walking and travelling by bus is higher (at 61% and 33% respectively) and only 5% travelling by car. Figures 3 and 4 show the responses about travel mode to and from school.



Figure 3: Travel Mode to School

Question 3: How do you usually travel to school?

Travel Mode to school



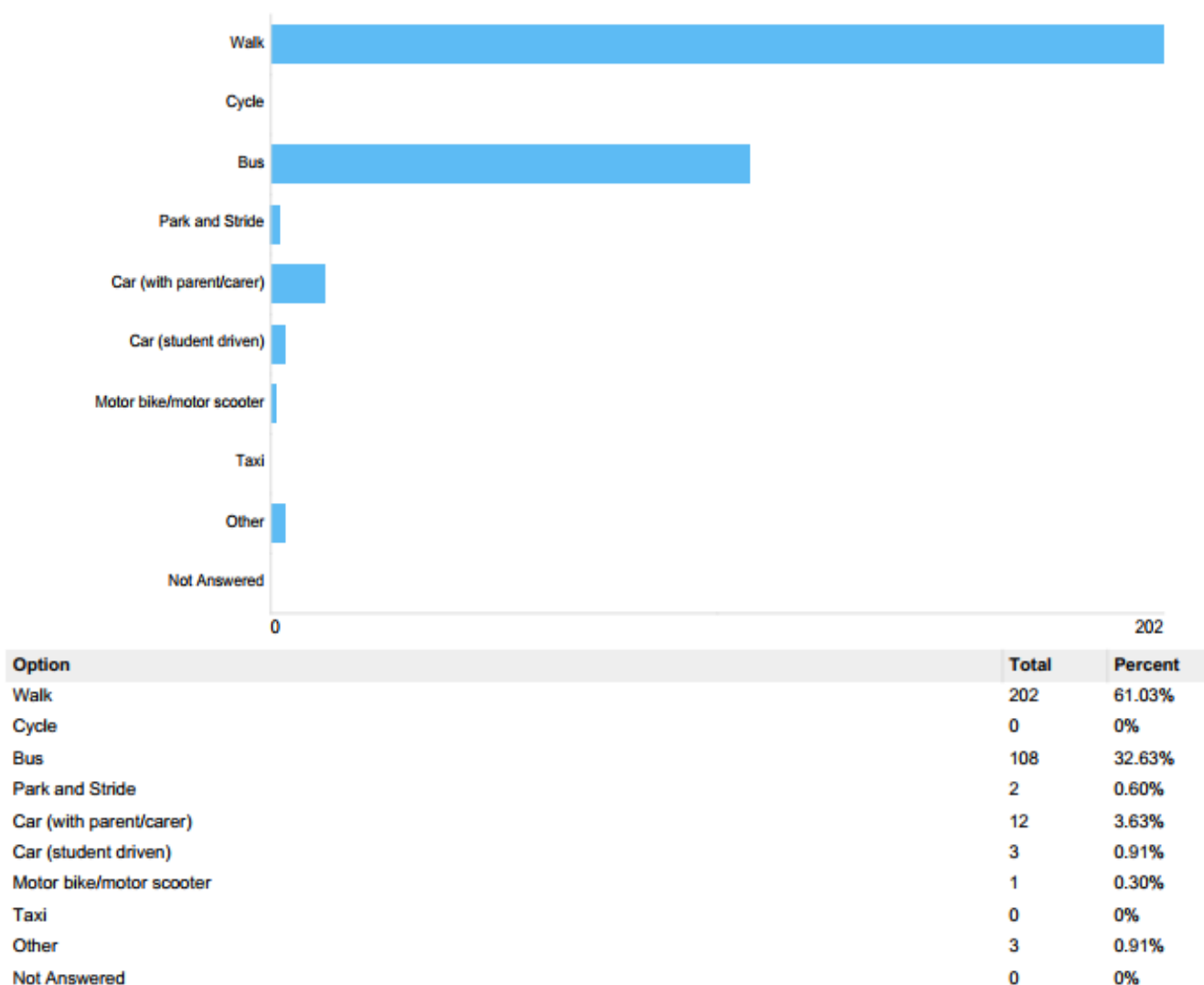
Option	Total	Percent
Walk	187	56.50%
Cycle	0	0%
Bus	99	29.91%
Park and Stride (dropped off to walk 400 metres or more from school)	14	4.23%
Car (with parent/carer)	23	6.95%
Car (student driven)	4	1.21%
Motor bike/motor scooter	0	0%
Taxi	1	0.30%
Other	2	0.60%
Not Answered	1	0.30%



Figure 4: Travel Mode from School

Question 4: How do you travel back from school?

Travel back from school



Travel Time and Distance

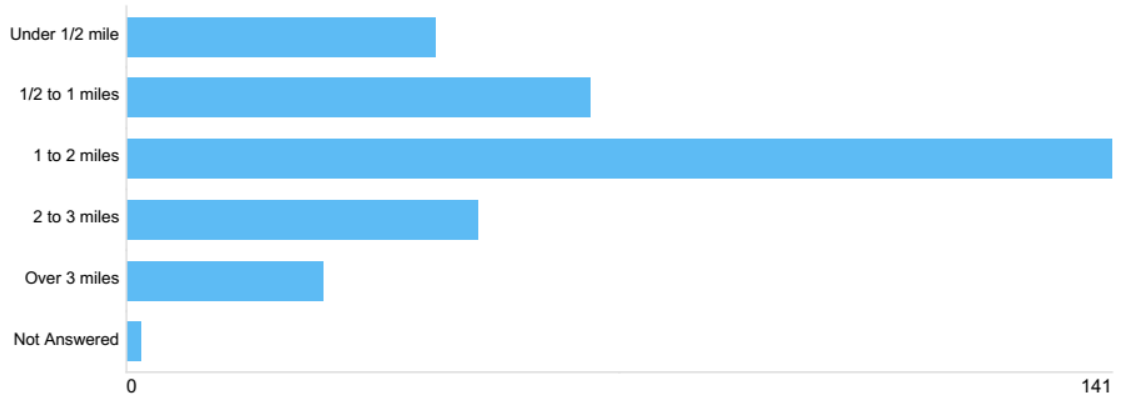
Questions 5 and 6 asked pupils how far they travelled (as measured by distance between school and home) and how long the journey usually takes. This is shown in Figures 5 and 6.

In terms of distance travelled, less than one third travel under one mile between home and school (33%), 42% travel between one and two miles, 15% travel 2-3 miles and 8% over 3 miles. The length of journey by time reflects this pattern with only 2% taking less than 5 minutes but over one third (37%) taking between 10 and 20 minutes and nearly half (47%) taking over 20 minutes. A significant proportion of pupils (nearly 15%) travel over half an hour travelling between home and school.



Figure 5: Distance between Home and school

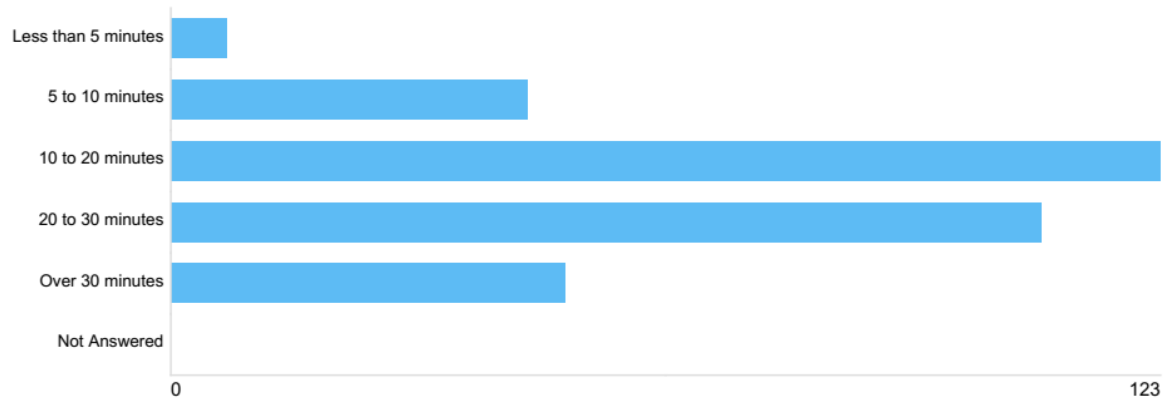
Home to School Distance



Option	Total	Percent
Under 1/2 mile	44	13.29%
1/2 to 1 miles	66	19.94%
1 to 2 miles	141	42.60%
2 to 3 miles	50	15.11%
Over 3 miles	28	8.46%
Not Answered	2	0.60%

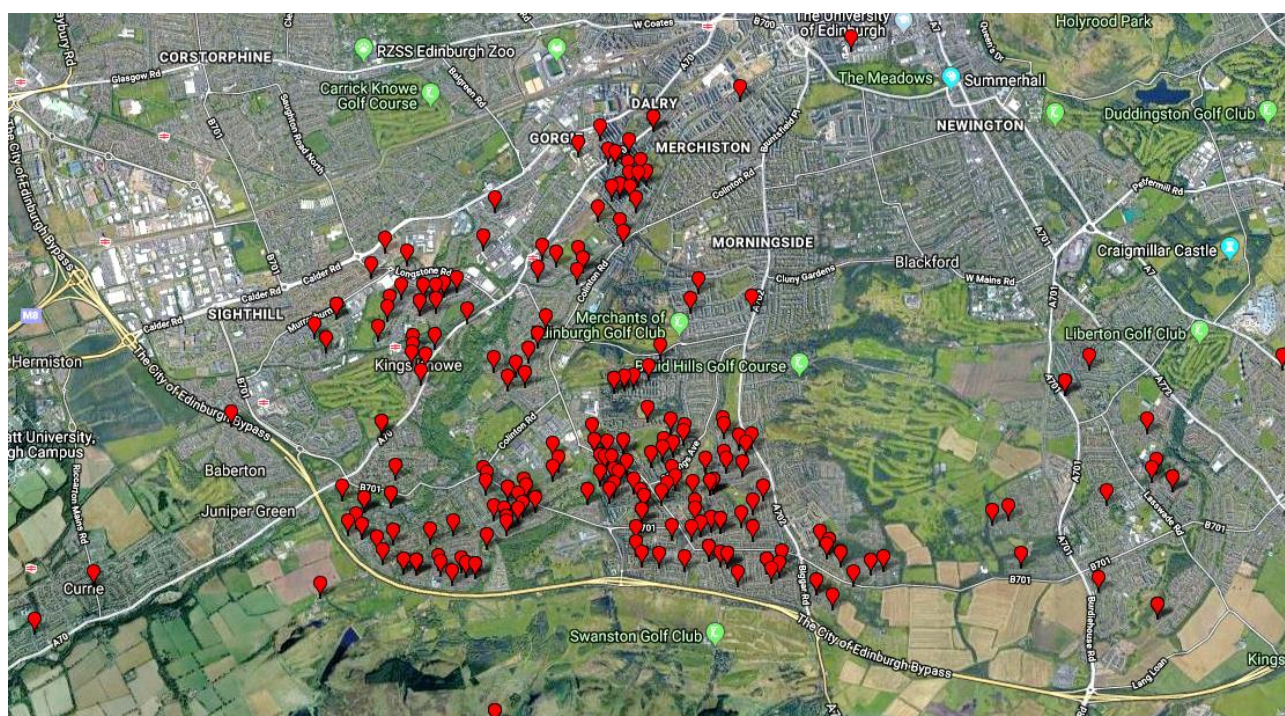
Figure 6: Journey Time between Home and School

Travel time



Option	Total	Percent
Less than 5 minutes	7	2.11%
5 to 10 minutes	44	13.29%
10 to 20 minutes	123	37.16%
20 to 30 minutes	108	32.63%
Over 30 minutes	49	14.80%
Not Answered	0	0%

Figure 7: Location of Respondents' Homes



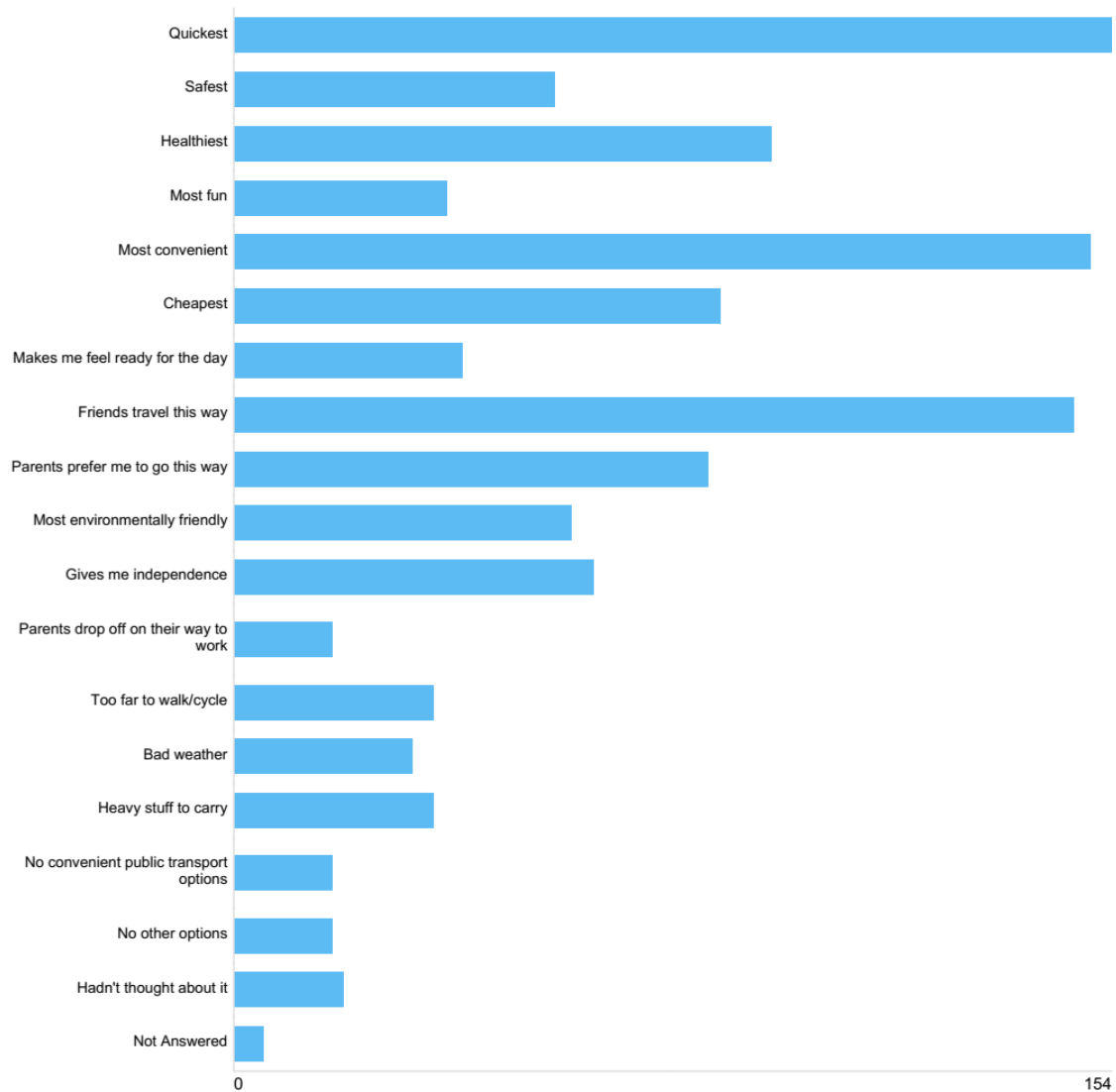
Reasons for Travel Choices

It is clear from the responses to the above questions that many pupils are spending a significant period of time travelling to school and, in many cases, choosing to walk or catch the bus rather than travelling by quicker modes (including travelling by bicycle or car). It is therefore important to understand why pupils travel as they do and whether or not they would prefer to travel using alternative means. These issues were explored in questions 7 and 8 of the survey and the results are set out in Figures 8 and 9.



Figure 8: Reasons for Travel Choice

Reason for travel choice



Option	Total	Percent
Quickest	154	46.53%
Safest	56	16.92%
Healthiest	94	28.40%
Most fun	37	11.18%
Most convenient	150	45.32%
Cheapest	85	25.68%
Makes me feel ready for the day	40	12.08%
Friends travel this way	147	44.41%
Parents prefer me to go this way	83	25.08%
Most environmentally friendly	59	17.82%
Gives me independence	63	19.03%
Parents drop off on their way to work	17	5.14%
Too far to walk/cycle	35	10.57%
Bad weather	31	9.37%
Heavy stuff to carry	35	10.57%
No convenient public transport options	17	5.14%
No other options	17	5.14%
Hadn't thought about it	19	5.74%
Not Answered	5	1.51%

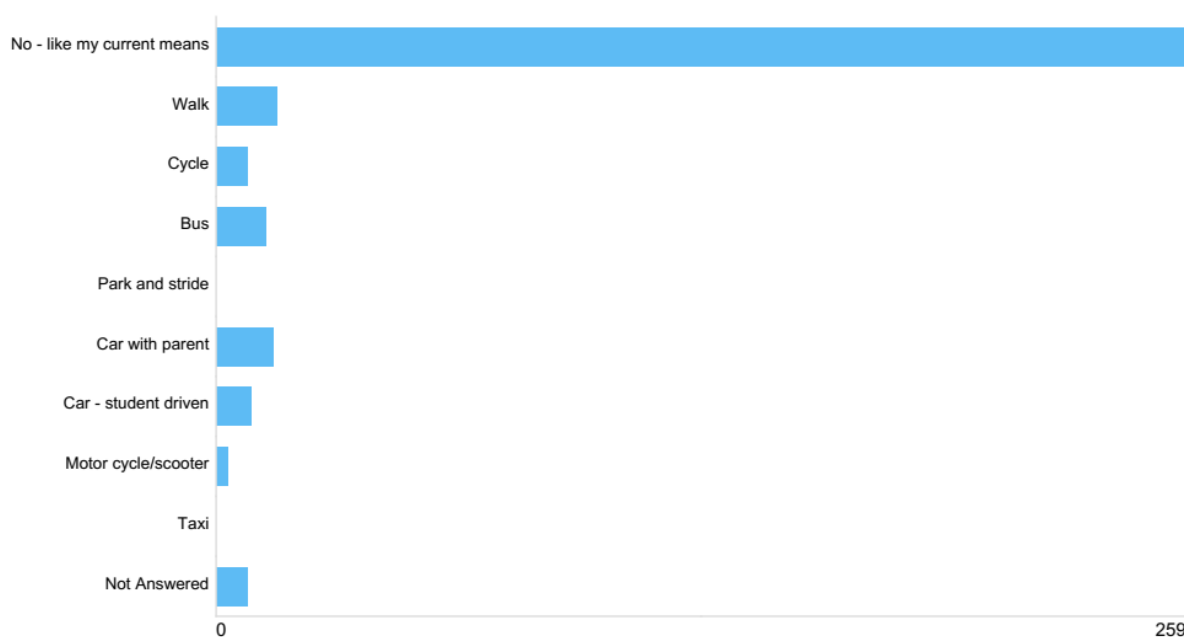


For Q7 respondents were able to provide more than one reason. It can be seen that the responses indicated that pupils made a positive choice for the transport selected – the most common responses that travelling this way was the quickest or most convenient and that, for the majority of pupils there were additional positive benefits in terms of being: “fun”, travelling with friends, it was healthy and so on. In comparison negative reasons for choosing the mode (such as: too far; no choice; parental preference; heavy stuff to carry etc.) were more limited. Four times as many responses identified positive reasons for travel choice than negative reasons.

It is not surprising therefore that, in answering Q8, that a large majority of responses (78%) did not express any desire to travel by alternative means. For the 22% who did indicate preferred alternative modes the responses were evenly split between all different modes.

Figure 9: Preference for Travelling Arrangements – Would you like to travel in a Different Way?

Travel mode preference



Option	Total	Percent
No - like my current means	259	78.25%
Walk	16	4.83%
Cycle	8	2.42%
Bus	13	3.93%
Park and stride	0	0%
Car with parent	15	4.53%
Car - student driven	9	2.72%
Motor cycle/scooter	3	0.91%
Taxi	0	0%
Not Answered	8	2.42%



Improving Travel to School

Pupils were asked a range of questions about measures that could improve journeys to school by walking, cycling or public transport.

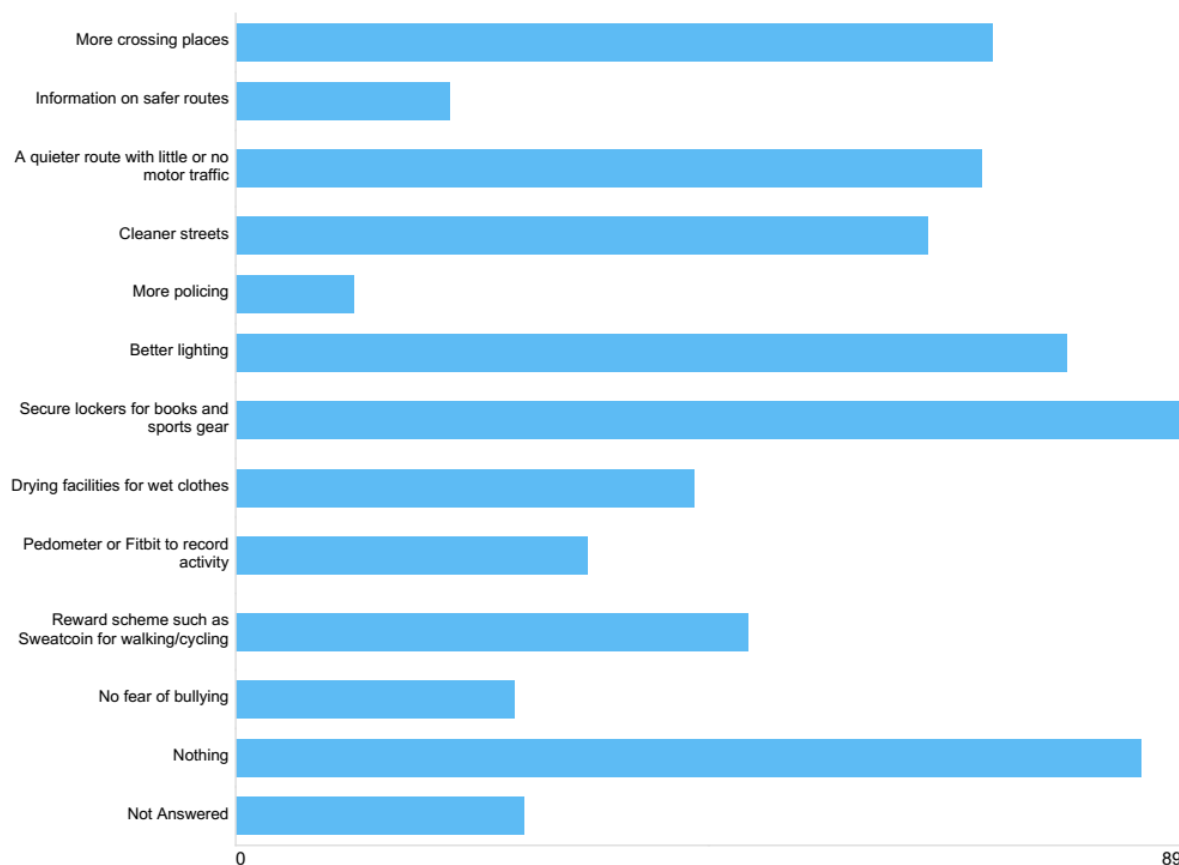
1. Improving Walking to School

The results of this are shown in Figure 10. This shows that there was no clear preference in terms of improvements. The largest responses were for lockers for books and sports gear (presumably to reduce the amount carried when travelling) (27%), “nothing” (26%), better lighting (23%) and identifying routes which had less traffic (21%).

Figure 10: Measures to Encourage Walking

Question 10: Please tick any of these which would encourage you to walk to school or improve your journey if you already do:

Other - please specify



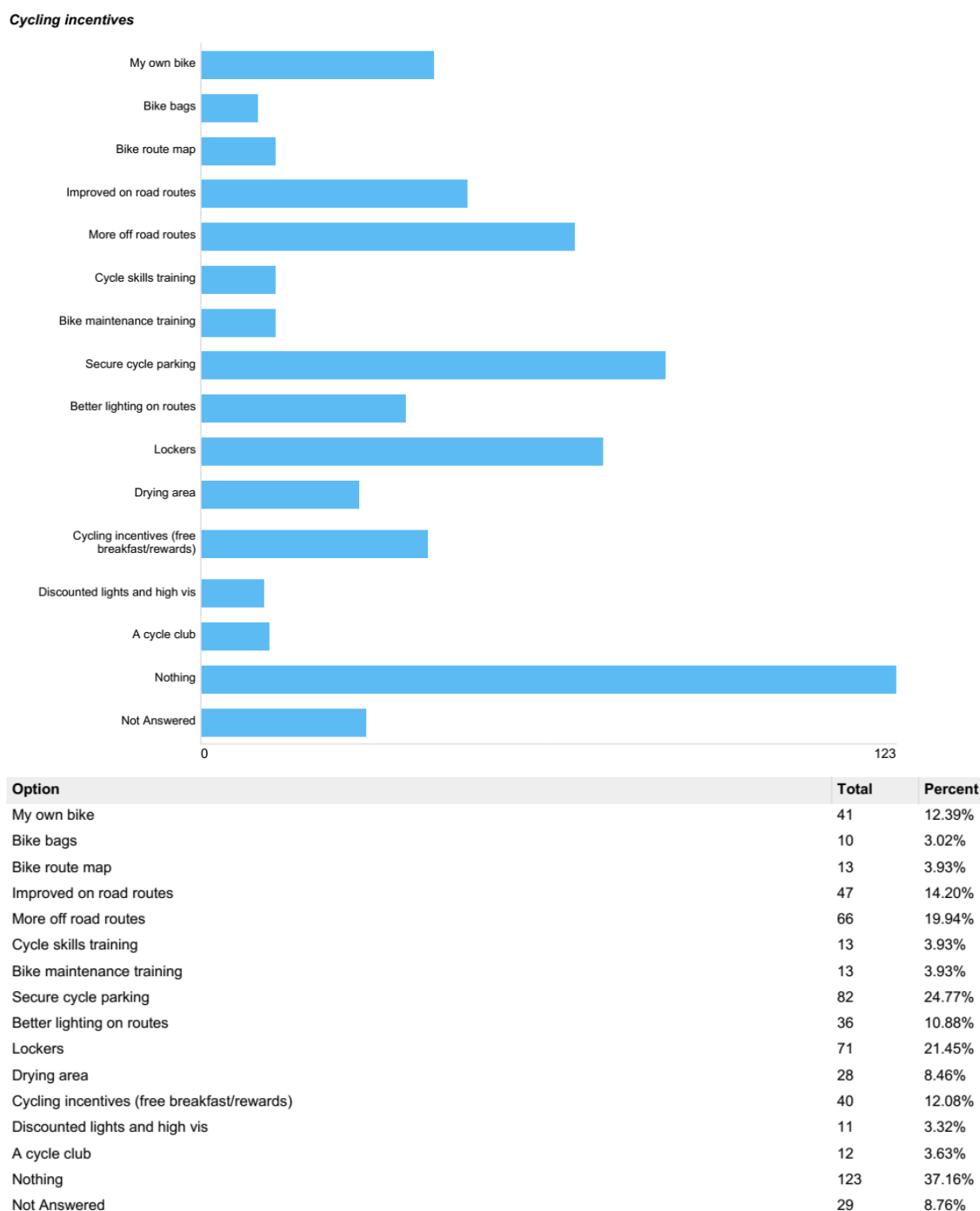
Option	Total	Percent
More crossing places	71	21.45%
Information on safer routes	20	6.04%
A quieter route with little or no motor traffic	70	21.15%
Cleaner streets	65	19.64%
More policing	11	3.32%
Better lighting	78	23.56%
Secure lockers for books and sports gear	89	26.89%
Drying facilities for wet clothes	43	12.99%
Pedometer or Fitbit to record activity	33	9.97%
Reward scheme such as Sweatcoin for walking/cycling	48	14.50%
No fear of bullying	26	7.85%
Nothing	85	25.68%
Not Answered	27	8.16%



2. Encouraging Cycling to School

The survey asked pupils what measures would either encourage pupils to cycle to school or, if they cycle already, improve their journey. Figure 11 provides the results of this. Linked to this question the survey also asked whether or not pupils had regular access to a road-worthy bicycle – the results of which are shown in Figure 12.

Figure 11: Measures to Encourage Cycling

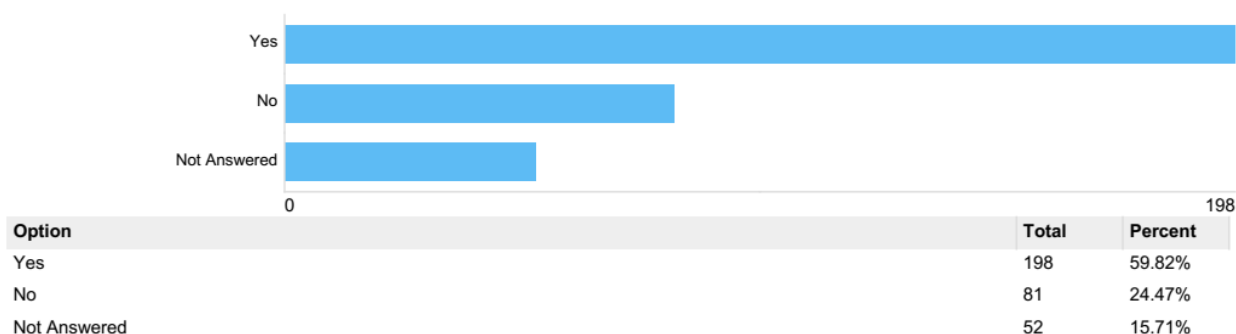


As with encouraging walking there was no clear consensus as to incentives that would further encourage/improve cycling. The largest response was “nothing” (37%) followed by secure cycle parking (24%) and lockers (21%). Figure 13 shows that the majority of respondents do have access to a road worthy bike and so lack of access to a bike does not appear to be a factor in the low level of cycle use in travelling to/from Firrhill HS.



Figure 12: Access to Bicycles

Bike access?

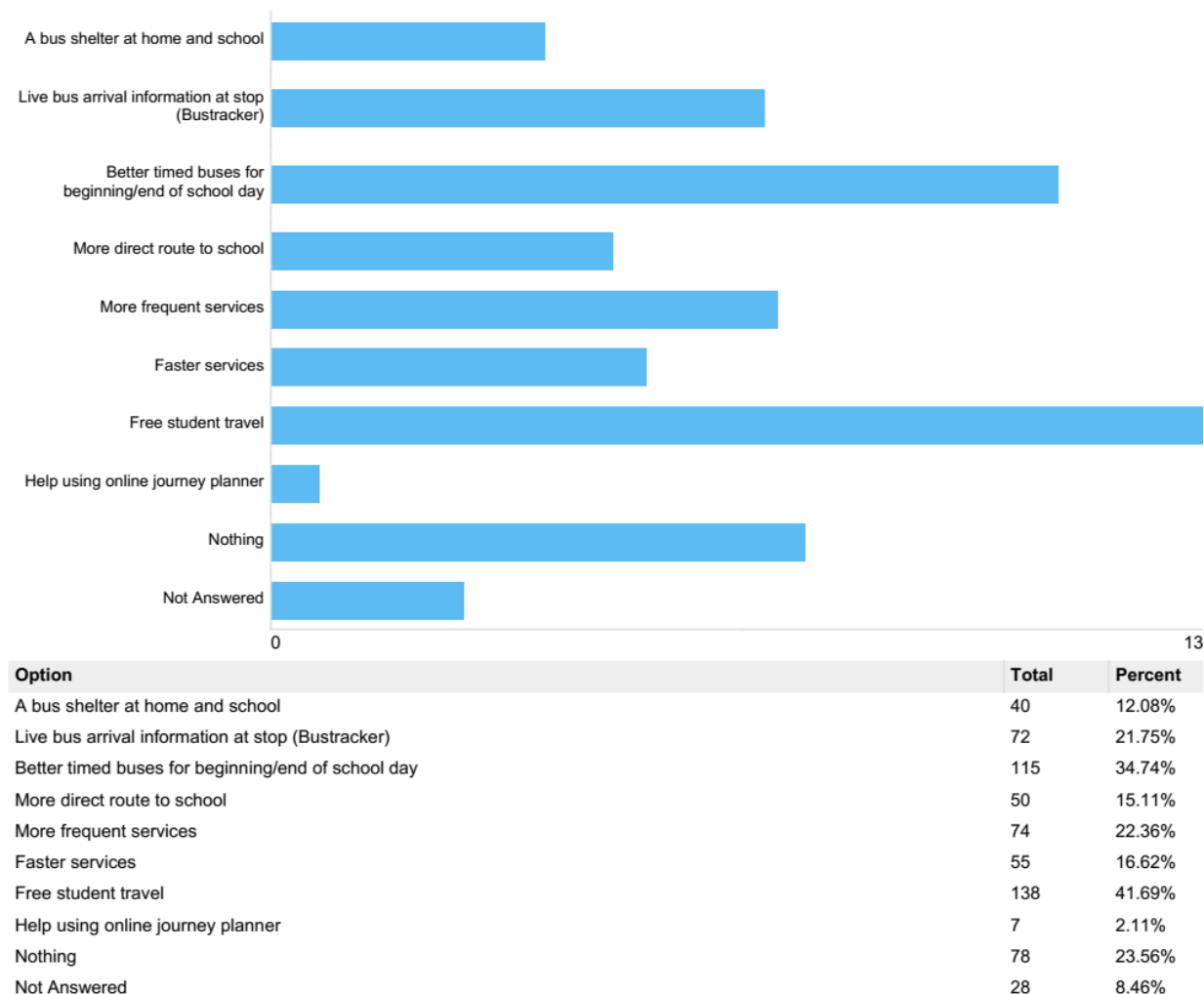


3. Encouraging Travelling by Public Transport to School

The survey asked pupils what measures would either encourage pupils to use public transport to travel to school or, if they do so already, improve their journey. Figure 13 provides the results of this. Perhaps not surprisingly the most common response was a request for free student travel (42%) although nearly as important was the request for better times for buses used by pupils (34%). Given that over one third of responses identified this it is evident that this is a significant issue adversely affecting pupils' willingness to use buses and/or the quality/journey time involved in travelling to the school.

Figure 13: Measures to Encourage Public Transport Use

Public transport incentive

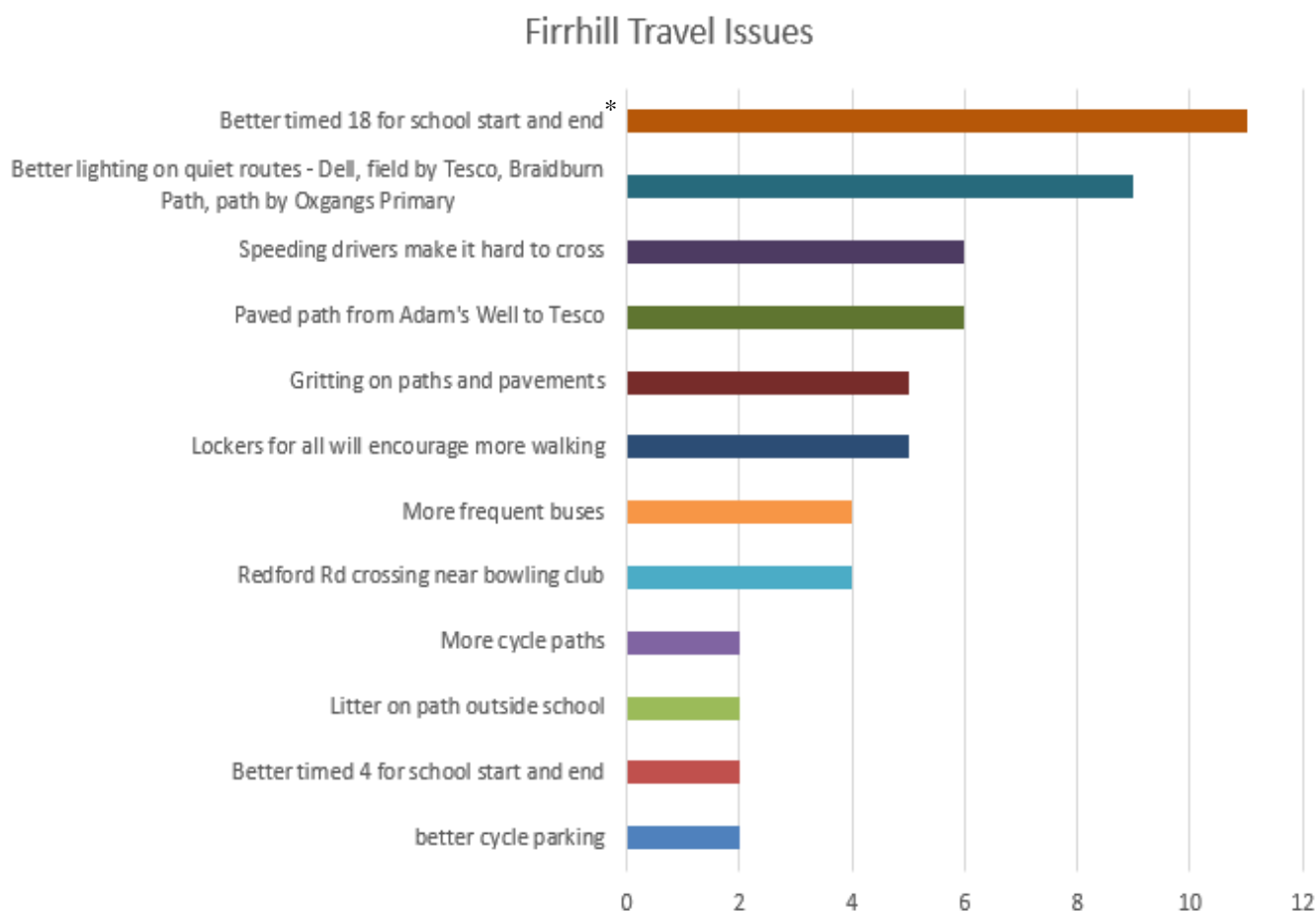




Additional Issues

The survey also asked pupils if there are other issues relevant to travelling to/from school that they wanted to raise. Responses were quite diverse including requests for alterations to school timetable to fit with travel (11 responses), better lighting and so on. Figure 14 shows these responses.

Figure 14: Additional issues



* On 29 July 2018 the No 18 bus service was renamed Service 400, connecting Edinburgh Airport with Fort Kinnaird via Oxfangs, Colinton and the Gyle.



Aim

- To encourage and support healthy and sustainable travel to Firrhill High School.

Objectives

- To maintain the current low number of cars in the environment surrounding the school
- To maintain and increase the proportion of students and staff travelling to school by active means
- To improve the safety of all students and staff travelling to and from school

Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Timescale	Resources
Ask Services for Communities Local Network Neighbourhood Manager for pavement gritting as a higher priority	Road Safety Interventions Officer	On-going	Use Report it on council website http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/report
Increase and maintain anti-bullying and personal safety campaigns	School staff/students	On-going	Student, staff and parent time
Ask Council to improve lighting and surface of path through Colinton Dell to Longstone	Road Safety Interventions Officer	On-going	
Ask Council to improve lighting and surface of path from Adams Well to Tesco	Road Safety Interventions Officer	On-going	
Bike shed repairs and improved door locks	Road Safety Interventions Officer	October 2018	Sustrans CEC
Widening of footpath from FHS to Oxbgangs Road North (near Caiystane Court)	CEC		
Improved cycle signage in local area	Road Safety Interventions Officer	October 2018	CEC
Cycle path from FHS to Colinton Village	Road Safety Interventions Officer		
Maintenance and control of cycle lanes along Colinton Mains drive: gritting; removal of litter and leaves; prevention of parking	Reporting of issues: parents and PC Maintenance etc: CEC	On-going	Use Report it on council website http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/report
Participate in the National "Hands Up" survey	School	Every September	Student and staff time
Respond to requests for improvements identified through the Travel Survey	City of Edinburgh Council	2018	Staff and parent time



Action	Responsibility	Timescale	Resources
Dropped kerb is needed to access road to old City Hospital grounds.	Road Safety Interventions Officer	On-going	
Larger litter bins required in the vicinity of the school to reduce litter	City of Edinburgh Council Eco Committee Pupil Council School	On-going	Use Report it on council website http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/report
Seek funding for extra school lockers for cyclists	Pupil Council School	On-going	Student, staff and parent time
Investigate provision of cloakroom space for drying wet clothes and footwear	Pupil Council School		Student and staff time
Ask Lothian Buses if they can retime Service 400* journeys to better match school times (*this was formerly Service 18)	Pupil Council School		Student and staff time
Encourage students and staff to sign up to www.tripshareedinburgh.com to arrange journey sharing for any travel mode	Eco Committee Pupil Council School		Student and staff time
Continue working towards becoming a Cycle Friendly Secondary School and register as a Bicycle User Group on www.scotbug.com	Eco Committee Pupil Council School Environment Group		Student, staff and parent time
Provide Dr Bike sessions and promote them especially to those whose bikes are not road worthy. Also highlight sources of secondhand bikes	Eco Committee Pupil Council School Environment Group		Student and staff time, funding if external Dr.Bike sessions required
Another pedestrian refuge for Redford Road	Road Safety Interventions Officer		
Live travel information at local bus stops for pupils or on the school plasma TV screen	City of Edinburgh Council Lothian Buses School		Student, staff and parent time
Lockable motorbike parking to be located close to FHS.	Road Safety Interventions Officer		

I Bike

Firrhill High School was a founding I Bike school and received full engagement from Lynn Stocks, Sustrans from 2009 - 2011 who set up a Bike Crew and ran lots of cycle related activities including pump track sessions, Dr.Bike sessions, rides from the cluster primary schools to Firrhill for P7s and also supported the provision of the bike sheds. Additionally, infrastructure to benefit cycling and walking was installed including a mixed-use pavement, by Oxbgangs Road North, a Toucan crossing and pedestrian refuges on Craiglockhart Avenue, Colinton Road and Redford Road.

Firrhill has started to work towards becoming a Cycle Friendly Secondary School. The initial assessment for the award took place in December 2017. To benefit cycling and walking some repairs to roads and pavements have already been made. Some pupils and parents enjoyed a trip to see the cycling adventure film *Divided* as part of the Edinburgh Cycling



Festival. Pupils and staff participated in the Adventure Syndicate's "Match the Miles" Challenge coming 5th and gaining a free showing of the film *Divided* to take place in the school, and a Learner Driver Bike Aware course delivered by Andrew Abbess is scheduled to run in October 2018.

Suggested quiet routes to Firrhill High School may be found in Appendix 1.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- We will have an informal review six months after the travel plan is signed with further reviews to monitor progress of each action point
- We will re-survey students and staff in 4 years to reassess the situation
- Each September we will participate in the national "Hands Up Scotland" school travel survey

Signatories

Carolyn Hargest – Environment Group Leader

Lorna Norman – Active Schools Co-ordinator

Paul Denvir – Teacher

Mark Symonds – Road Safety Interventions Officer

Rory McCord – Lead Eco Teacher

Student Representatives



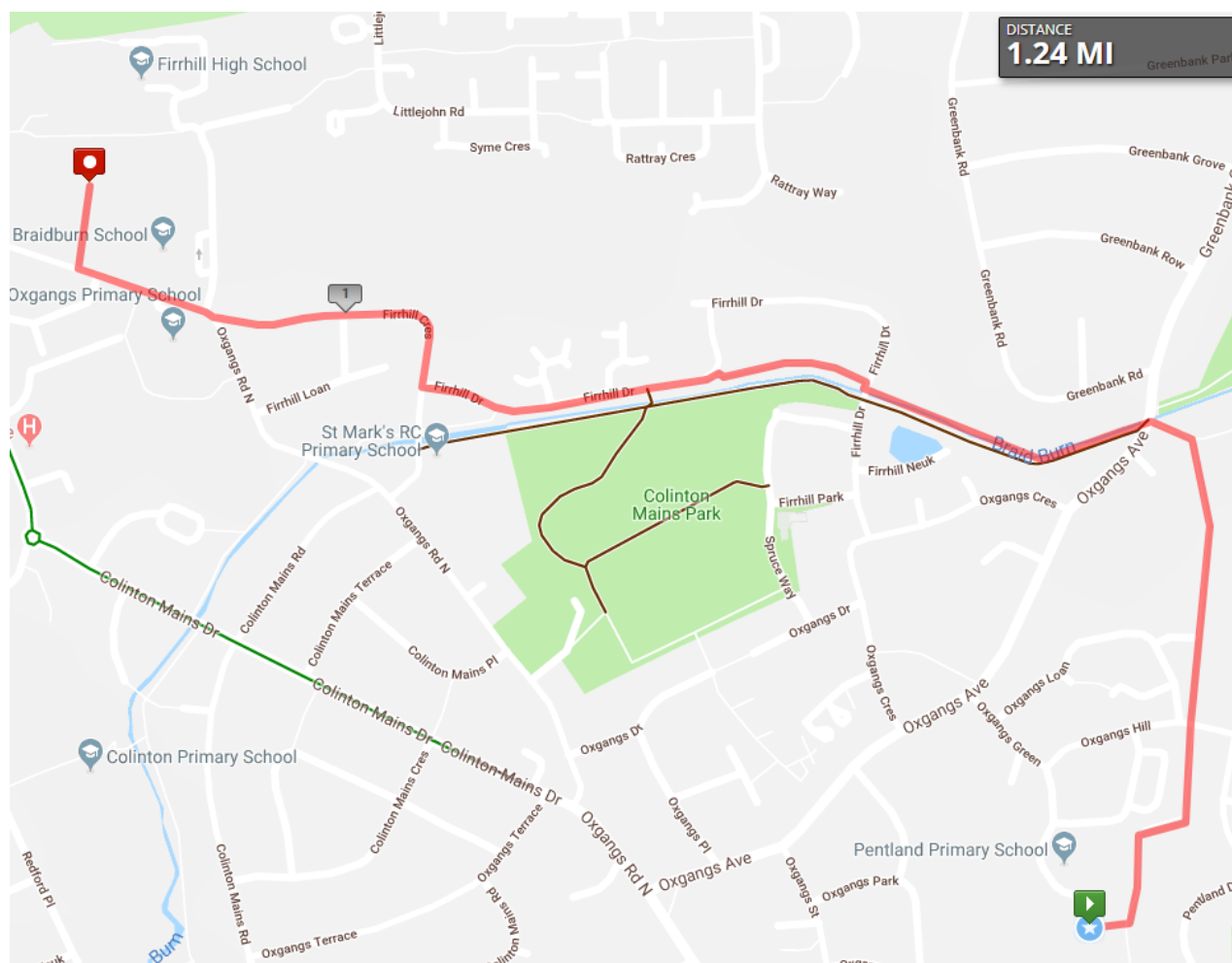
Appendices

Appendix 1 – Information on Paths and Bike Routes

The following suggested routes from Firrhill's cluster primary schools have been drawn up and may be used for P7 rides to Firrhill:

Pentland Primary to Firrhill High via Cockmylane and Braidburn Path

<https://www.mapmyrun.com/routes/fullscreen/213735701/>





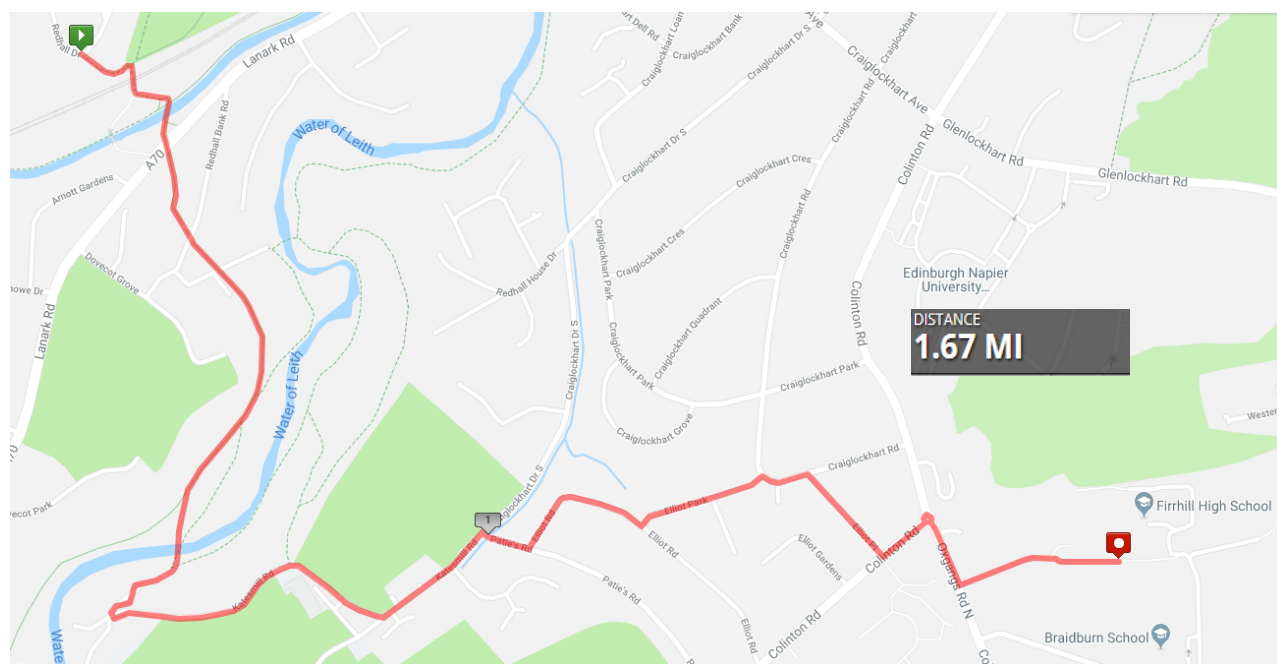
Longstone to Firrhill via Union Canal

<https://www.mapmyrun.com/routes/fullscreen/139922547/>



Longstone to Firrhill via Colinton Dell (Dell is unlit and path is unsurfaced)

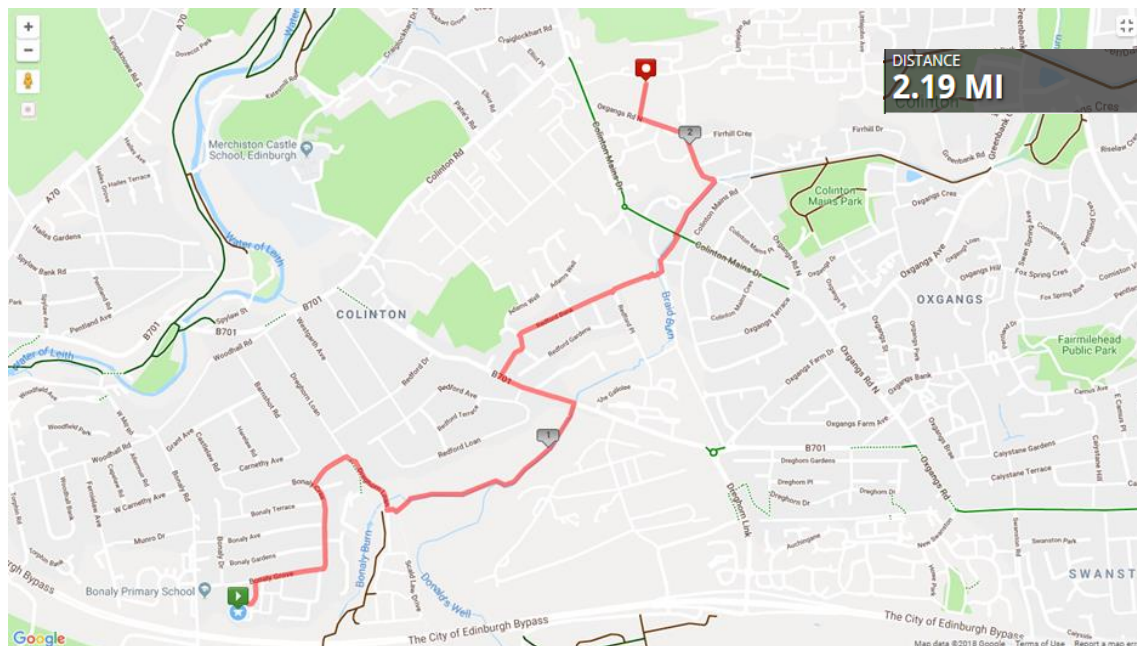
<http://www.mapmyrun.com/routes/fullscreen/213724489/>





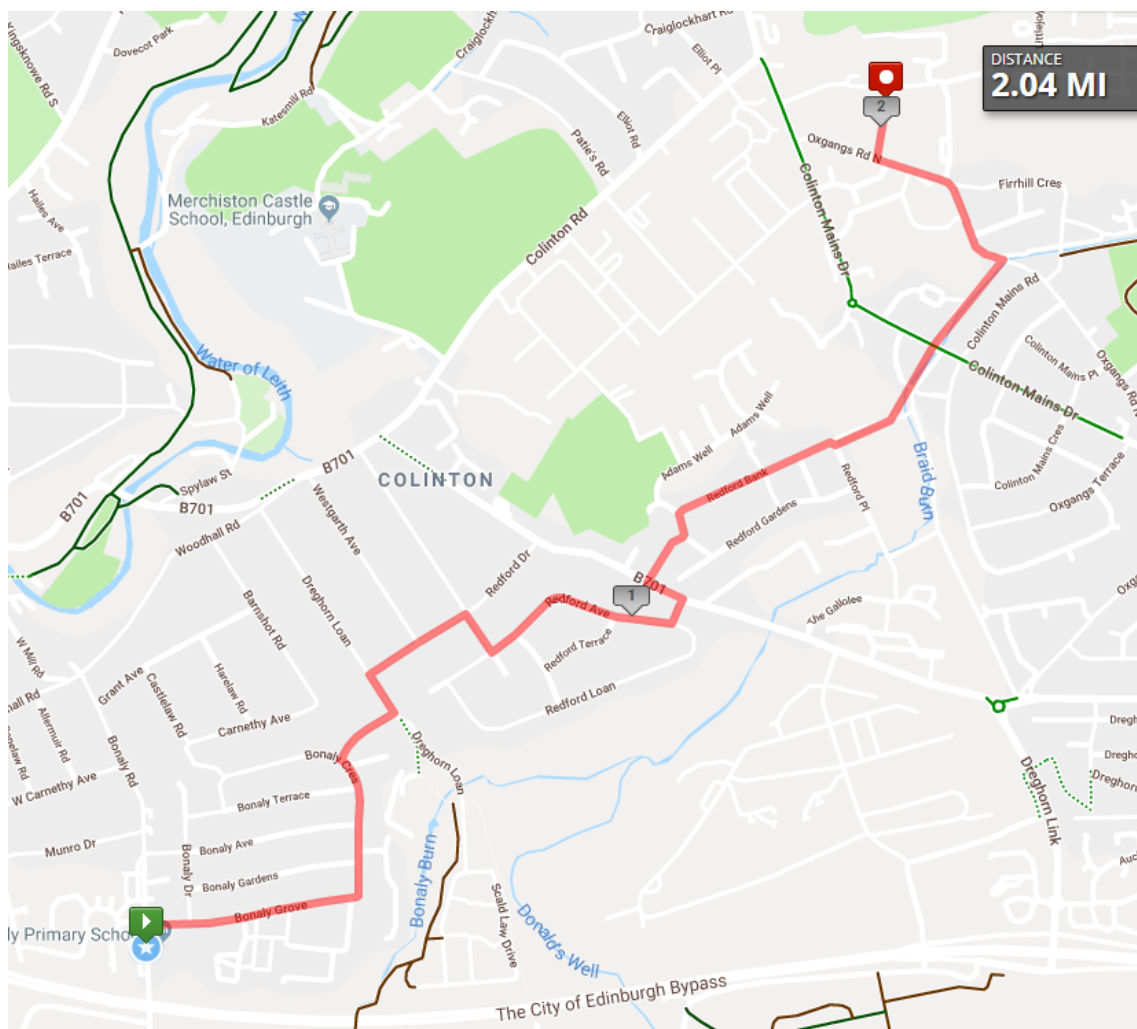
Bonaly to Firrhill by quiet route via Dreghorn Woods, Redford Road and Colinton Primary Path (Summer route only as it is unlit and path is unsurfaced)

<https://www.mapmyride.com/routes/fullscreen/2233713547/>



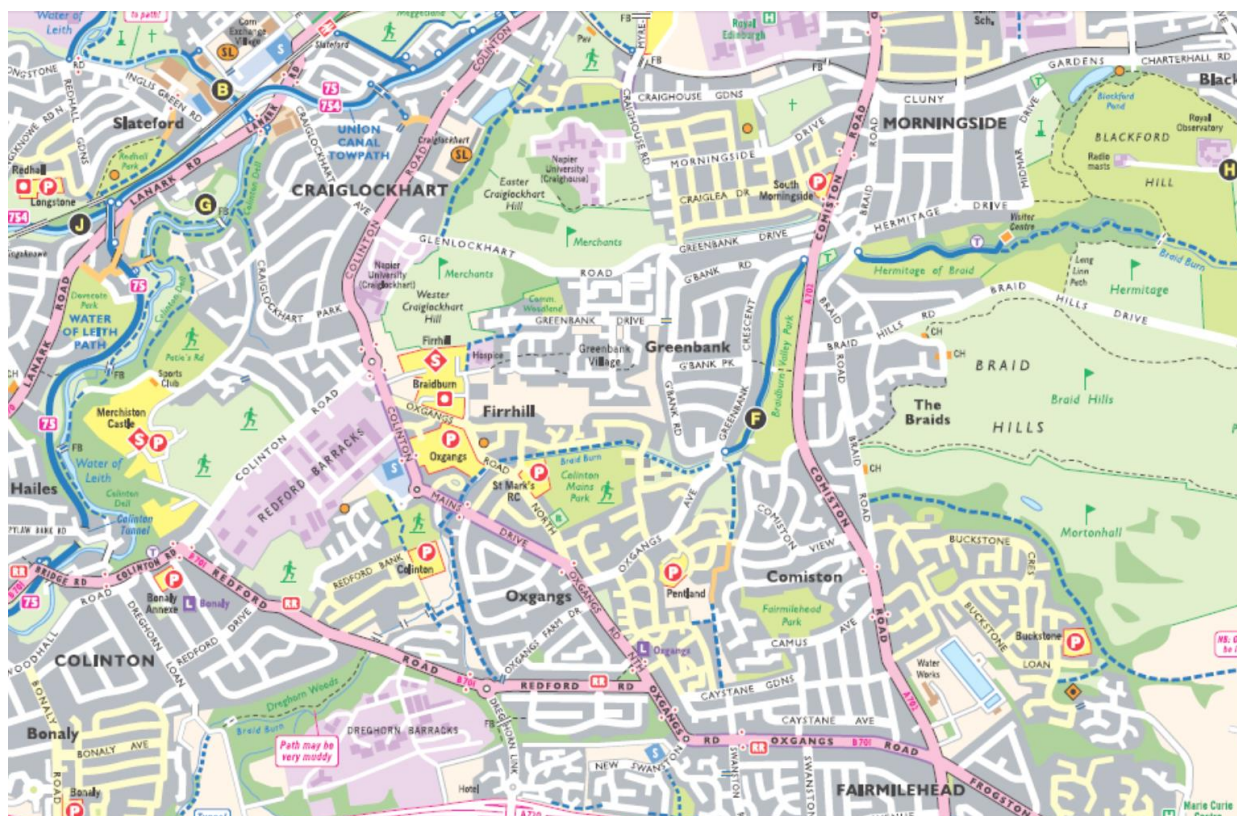
Bonaly to Firrhill by quiet route via Redford Road Crossing and Colinton Primary Path

<https://www.mapmyrun.com/routes/fullscreen/213729167/>





There are a wide variety of free maps available detailing off-road and quiet routes to the school and around the area http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20087/cycling_and_walking has links to the online cycle journey planner <http://edinburgh.cyclestreets.net/> as well as seven maps covering North, North West, North East, South, South West, South East and West Edinburgh, the site also contains suggestions of interesting places to go, guidance on road safety, cycle training and choosing a bicycle. Firrhill High is on the South sheet from which the extract below is taken.



All of the above leaflets may be ordered from Clarence on 0800 23 23 23 between 8 am and 8 pm Monday to Friday or by emailing Clarence@edinburgh.gov.uk with your name, address and maps you require.

Spokes, the Lothian Cycle Campaign produce excellent cycle maps of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian, West Lothian and Glasgow at £5.95. They are available from bookshops, cycle shops and tourist information centres, online from www.spokes.org.uk or by post from:

Spokes, St. Martin's Church, 232 Dalry Road, Edinburgh EH11 2JG.

Discounts are offered for bulk orders.

To get an idea of where you can go entirely off-road on Edinburgh's cycle paths see <http://www.innertubemap.com/> for a simple, London Underground style diagrammatic plan.

To report any problems with roads, pavements, litter or street lighting, please contact the City of Edinburgh Council online reports may be submitted using the website <http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/report>



Appendix 2 – Sources of Affordable Bikes and Learning Repair Skills

The Bike Station, 250 Causewayside, Edinburgh EH9 1UU, Tel 0131 668 1996 <https://thebikestation.org.uk/> sells refurbished bikes and parts and has bike maintenance classes and supervised fix your own bike sessions (with use of tools at £6 per hour, last entry 1 hour before closing).

Opening hours:

Tuesday to Friday 8 am – 7 pm, Saturdays 10 am – 5 pm and Wednesdays 8 am – 8 pm
(Closed Sunday and Monday).



Appendix 3 – Public Transport Links



This map shows the location of bus stops with bus routes in **maroon**, the main routes are **Lothian Buses**:

- 4** Hillend to The Jewel via Hunter's Tryst, Slateford Road, Haymarket, Princes St, London Road, Northfield and Bingham every 15 mins
- 10** Torphin/Bonaly to Western Harbour via Tollcross, Princes Street, Leith Walk and Great Junction Street every 10 mins
- 27** Hunter's Tryst to Silverknowes via Tollcross, The Mound, Goldenacre, Crewe Toll and Muirhouse every 10 mins
- 45** Heriot Watt to Queen Margaret University via Currie, Colinton, Tollcross, Chambers Street, London Road and Portobello every 30 mins
- 400** Airport to Fort Kinnaird via Gogarburn, Gyle Centre, Redheughs Avenue, Forrester High School, Bankhead Avenue, Westside Plaza, Clovenstone Road, Colinton Village, Colinton Mains Drive, Oxfangs Road, Fairmilehead, Mortonhall, Gracemount Leisure Centre, Gilmerton Crossroads, Moredun Park Road, Royal Infirmary, Greendykes Road and Jack Kane Centre every 30 minutes



From Greenbank Drive Bus Terminus (8 minute walk):

23 Greenbank to Trinity via Morningside, Tollcross, The Mound and Goldenacre every 10 minutes

From Glenlockhart Road (10 minute walk):

36 Gyle Centre to Ocean Terminal via Hermiston Gait, Edinburgh College (Sighthill), Inglis Green Road, Morningside Grove, Tollcross, Queensferry Street, Stockbridge, Bonnington, Great Junction Street and The Shore every 20 minutes.

Full timetables are on www.lothianbuses.com or ring 0131 555 6363.

To plan a point to point journey, click on www.travelinescotland.com, download the app or ring 0871 200 2233 (calls charged at 12p per minute)

To get real time information on when your bus is due see www.mybustracker.co.uk or download the app.



Appendix 4 – The Wheel deal Cycle Leaflet

This leaflet was designed by pupils to fold into a credit card sized cover.

The Wheel Deal

Cycling is fun

Get started sort your bike, clothes, routes and skills

Don't just sit there!

Get the right size bike
A bike that's too big or too small is hard to control and puts you at risk.

A low cost and practical way to get around!

A good bike doesn't have to be expensive. A more lightweight bike can help though!

Clothing and Carrying Things

You don't need special clothing to cycle. Make sure that nothing can catch in your wheels or chain.

A ruck sack can be fine but use panniers or a front basket to carry heavy stuff.

Stay cool - don't rush and you won't get hot and sweaty!

Have a water-proof jacket (and trousers) for wet days and gloves for cold ones

Develop Your Skills

Bikeability Scotland covers:

- bike control skills
- on-road skills
- developing independent cycling skills and safety in traffic

Ask your school for training

Helmets must be worn correctly: squarely on the head, covering the forehead, with straps securely fastened.



Get More People Cycling!

Cycle Friendly Schools www.cyclingscotland.org

Bike Week www.bikeweek.org.uk

Bike to School Week www.sustrans.org.uk has ideas of what you and your school could organise

How about having bike breakfasts, second hand bike sales or you could have a "bike to school" week?

Get ideas from these web sites!

Stay Safe

Be Alert: avoid distractions such as earphones while cycling.

Be Responsible

Always stop at red lights
Remember it is illegal to cycle without front and back lights in the dark.

Be Considerate

to other road users and to pedestrians, especially on shared paths.

Never cycle down the sides of large vehicles especially at junctions

Be Seen: Bright coloured clothing makes you more visible. Reflective strips are good at night.

Planning Your Routes

Choose your route carefully to avoid busy main roads, steep hills and big junctions

www.cyclestreets.net

is good for suggesting cycle routes app also available

Keep it flexible – a routine can work well but you don't have to cycle every day

Use Spokes or the City of Edinburgh Council bike maps



Special Events, Commuting and Holidays



Remember it's the Wheel Deal
Cycling is fun, stay safe and enjoy!

Further information

www.spokes.org.uk – Spokes campaigns for better conditions for using a bike for everyday, work and leisure journeys
www.sustrans.org.uk
www.edinburgh.gov.uk/cycling
www.cyclestreets.net
www.cyclingscotland.org/get-cycling everything you need to know about cycling in Scotland

Cycling also saves you money, with no petrol, parking costs or bus fares to pay for!

Looking After Your Bike

Use a bike lock (or two) that a thief can't cut, put it through the wheels and frame. Take removable things such as lights and panniers with you.

Can you mend a puncture?
Look online for maintenance tutorials: Weldtite, Park Tools and YouTube or go on a short course!

A faulty bike can be dangerous: regularly check brakes, chain, lights and tyres

Oil your chain and pump your tyres until firm



The Wheel Deal

By pupils for pupils



Be inspired to cycle

Thanks to the high school pupils who shared their views and ideas, special thanks to the pupils, staff and parents of Firrhill High School, Spokes, Sustrans and the City of Edinburgh Council

