South Gloucestershire Council

Frenchay School Street Trial

Consultation Output Report

January 2026

Insight & Engagement Team

Executive Summary

Among survey respondents, the scheme has more support than opposition.

The majority of consultees felt they understood the scheme well enough; there just are a few requests for more information on permits, enforcement and adaptations to the roads.

Congestion and safety are currently strong concerns for almost half of survey respondents. While the School Street theoretically proposes to help aleviate these issues, the **main worry for consultatees is that it will make one or both of these factors worse.**

A frequent prediction was that the School Street would displace traffic and parking issues onto streets that are further away and less safe due to greater traffic or lack of pavements.

There were concerns not enough provision or preparation would be put in place to make the trial run smoothly, e.g. that the museum parking would not be sufficient, and there would not be enough parking for disabled parents/carers who wouldn't be able to use the park and stride.

There were a number of requests to re-open the side gate to help disperse the flow of pedestrians and traffic and to have a solution designed to minimise drop-off and pick up times such as a walking bus

There is a worry for residents or parents using cars that these measures will make life a lot more difficult, especially getting to school or work on time.

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Methodology and Sample

The purpose of this public consultation was to understand the views and experiences of residents regarding the potential trial of a School Street outside Frenchay Primary School. In particular do local and residents feel the need to improve the health, wellbeing and safety of pupils and the issue of traffic congestion, and if so could a School Street help with these issues. We then sought to understand how best to implement the scheme to meet the particular concerns and needs of the local community.

The public consultation was open from 17 November 2025 to 28 December 2025.

A dedicated consultation webpage has been set up to collect feedback and provide updates on the School Street project: https://frenchay-schoolstreet.commonplace.is

732 individuals visited the consultation website.

143 individuals submitted responses to the online survey. Of these, 52 were parents or carers of pupils who attend Frenchay Primary School, and 100 said they lived nearby to the school.

An engagement event was held at Frenchay Primary School on Wednesday 10 December from 15.15 to 19:00, so that parents could voice their views and concerns to council staff and get answers to their questions.

Due to the small volume of responses, the results of this consultation may not accurately represent of the views of the wider South Gloucestershire or Frenchay population. Accepting the limitations related to the level of response we received, the views obtained provide a useful indicator of wider opinion and any important issues that need to be considered. Due to the software used and the different response options open to respondents, it was possible for people to submit more than one response, however each response is looked at individually by a consultation officer and there is no evidence of individuals submitting multiple responses or any obvious duplicate comments. Personal information and comments that can identify individuals, have been removed from the comments analysis. Percentages used in this report have been rounded and may not add up to exactly 100%.

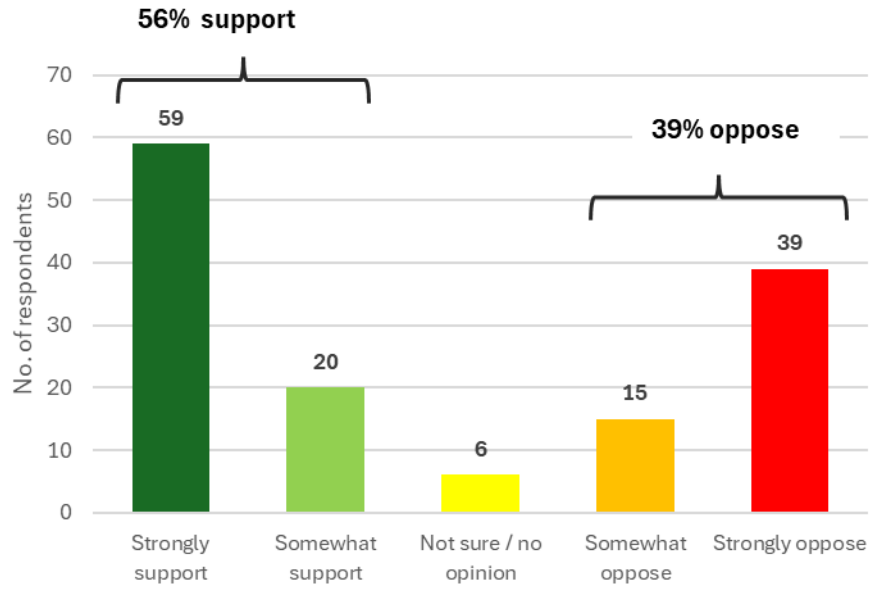
Due to the small volume of responses, the results are often provided in counts rather than percentages. Percentages are used when comparing groups of different sizes (e.g. participants who live nearby vs. those who don’t).

Survey Results

More support for a School Street than opposition

Of the 139 individuals who answered the question**, just over half (79 or 56%) were in favour of the School Street**, while **just over a third (54) were against it.**

Chart 1 Q6 "Do you like the idea of a school street here?"



Base size: 139 (all respondents)

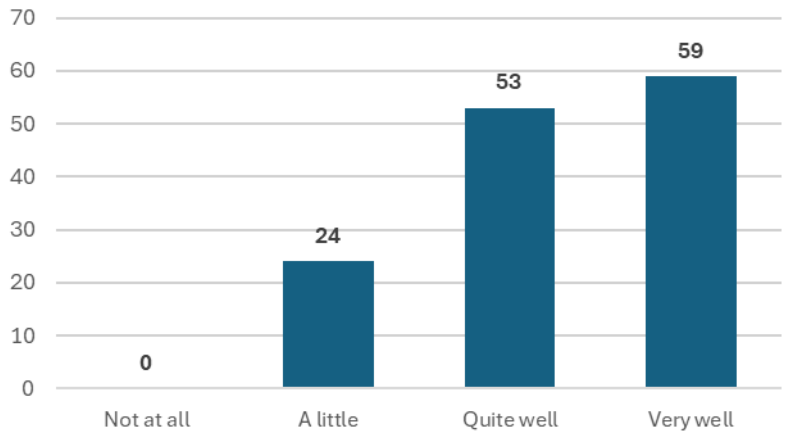
There is no significant difference in support for the scheme between respondents who are parents or carers of children aged under 18 (53% support) and those who are not (59% support).

There is however a **significant difference between respondents who already walk to the school with their children** (85% support, 24% oppose) or cycle/ scoot (13/15 who cycle or scoot support scheme), and **respondents who currently drive** a car to the school (24% support, **71% oppose**). Caution must be used with these results as we only have a very small sample size of 40 respondents who walk vs 21 who drive. However, it signals an important point of potential friction where many of the people who will need to change their behaviour may be against doing so.

Good understanding of the School Street concept

Most respondents (82%) felt they understood the School Street proposal either quite well or very well.

Chart 2 Q4 "How well do you understand what a school street is?"



Base size: 136 (all respondents)

For those who wanted more information, the following requests were made:

Table 1 Q5. "Is there anything else you think people need to know about?" – Requests for more information

Theme of comment	No. of mentions
More information on who gets a permit	3
Will there be better maintenance of / more pavements?	2
What can be done about BIRU staff parking on Alexander Rd?	1
What about people living on the estate?	1
Want to see evidence School Streets work	1
Will there be better maintenance of the museum car park?	1
Why can't we use a parking enforcement officer instead?	1
Could we have a zebra crossing?	1
Who has requested this? Where's the evidence it's needed?	1
How will you accommodate more cars when the school gets bigger?	1
What about Casely Crescent?	1
What about the unrestricted parking bays?	1

Base size: 32

Additionally a number of comments were made around congestion, parking and safety:

Table 2 Q5. Is there anything else you think people need to know about? – Other comments which were not requests for information

Theme of comment	No. of mentions
Other - will cause congestion or parking issues	11
Other - support / reasons it's needed	8
Other - museum car park too small	3
Other - dangerous roads	3
Other - Use Dings for car park	2
Other - need better option to support working parents	2
Other - scepticism	2
Other - sort out other roads first	1
Other - want to see bike bus/ walking bus	1

Base size: 32

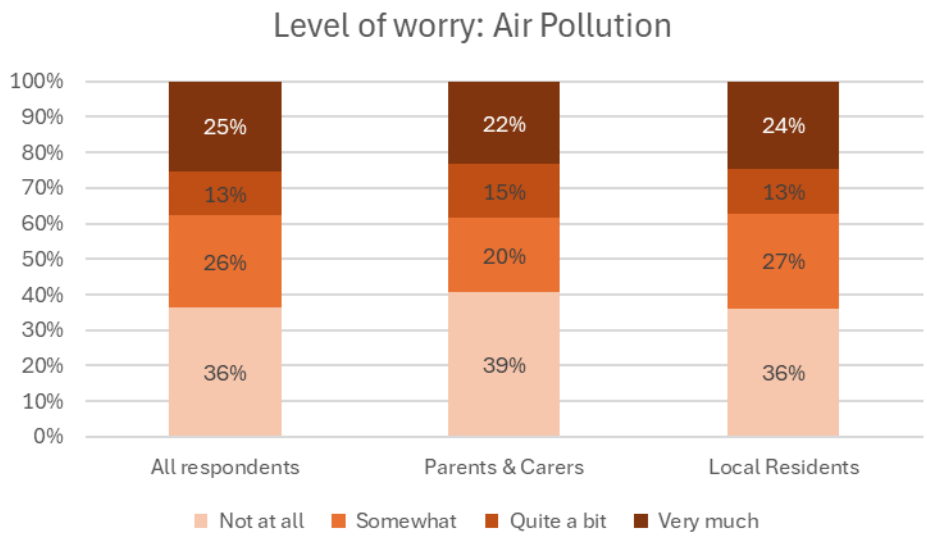
> *There are huge issues with traffic backing up on all the routes around the estate. I don't think it is feasible to trial this whilst the main roads are an absolute state. You are limiting options to get out! Also, the estate roads aren't yet completed. No road markings in place. Awful parking. Sort that out first.*

Current perception of issues to be addressed

Overall, **congestion is the most common concern**, with 48% of respondents being very worried about it and a further 15% being quite worried. Safety concerns almost half of respondents 'very much' (49%), and this is slightly higher for parents or carers, whereas local residents are slightly more concerned about congestion. Only a minority of survey participants are very worried about air pollution (38%).

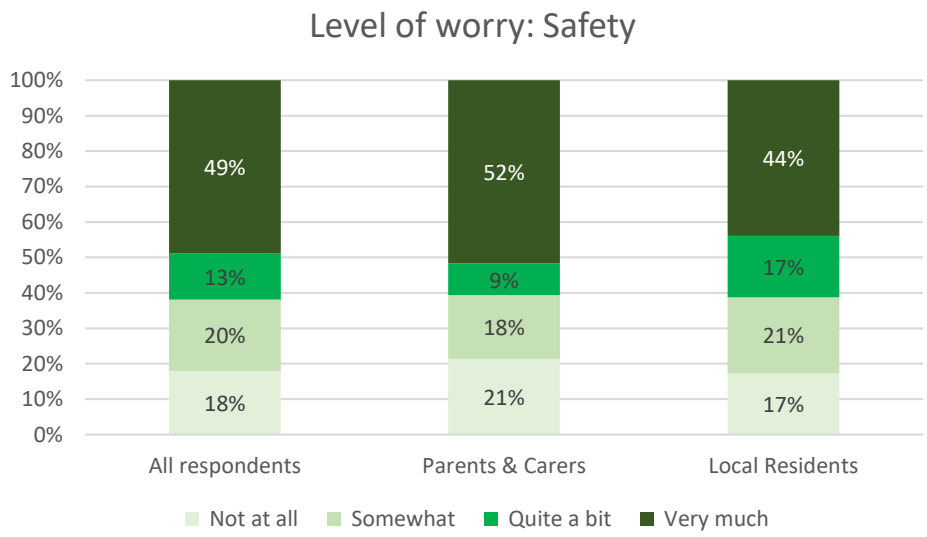
It's therefore important that the school street is seen to improve congestion and safety, however the main concern seems to be that it will make one or both of these factors worse.

Chart 3 Q3. "Are you worried about any of these issues on Alexander Road at school pick up and drop off times?"



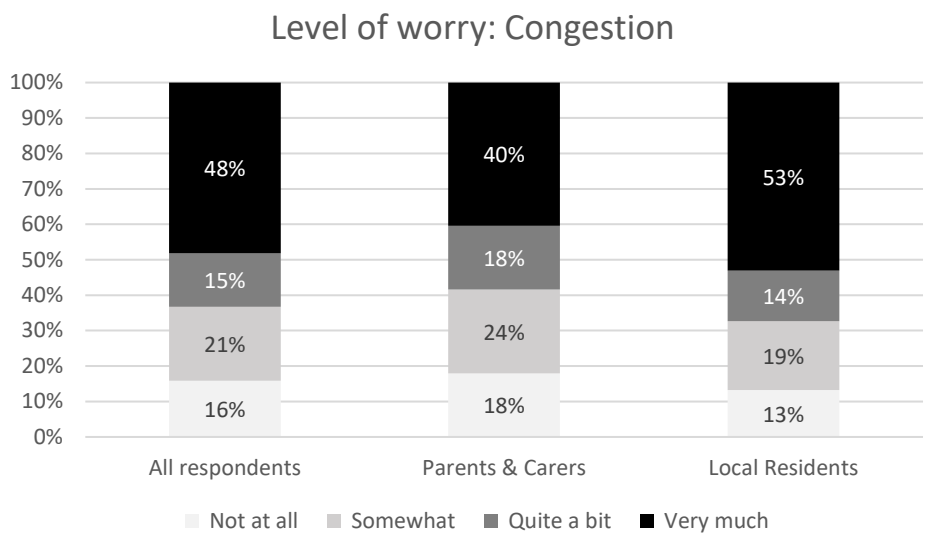
Base size:all respondents n=135, parents & carers n=89, local residents n=94

Chart 4 Q3. "Are you worried about any of these issues on Alexander Road at school pick up and drop off times?"



Base size:all respondents n=139, parents & carers n=89, local residents n=98

Chart 5 Q3. "Are you worried about any of these issues on Alexander Road at school pick up and drop off times?"



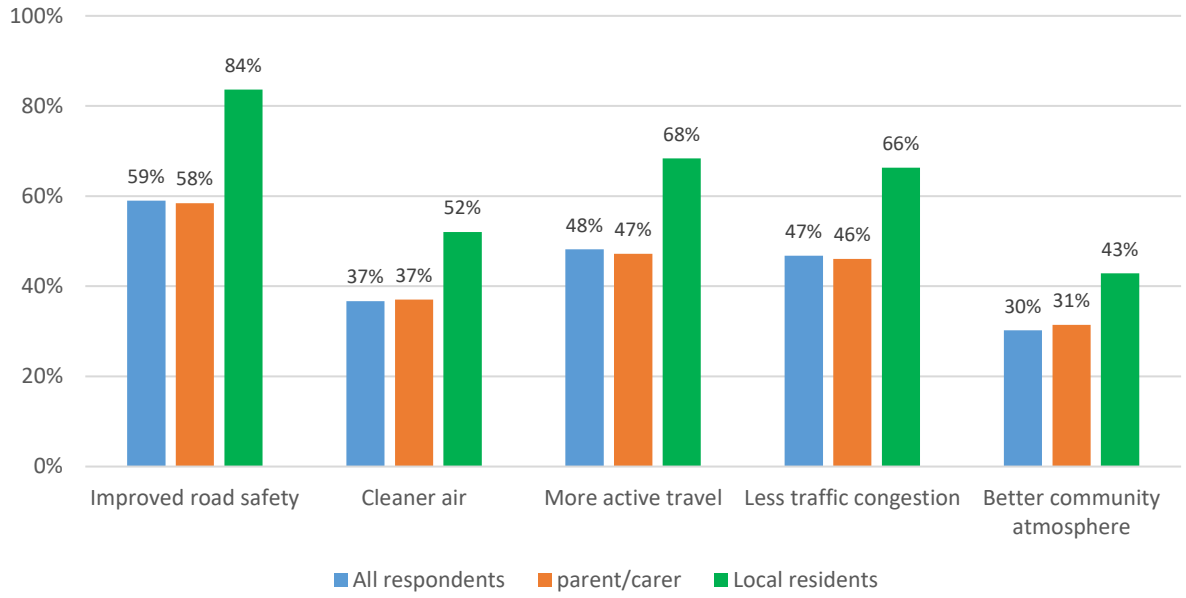
Base size:all respondents n=139, parents & carers n=89, local residents n=98

Perceived benefits and potential issues of a School Street

Just over half of respondents expected to see improved road safety, and just under half thought there would be more active travel and less congestion (see chart 6). However just over half of respondents were concerned about a negative impact on traffic elsewhere (chart 7).

Only 37% thought there would be a reduction in air pollution and only 30% thought there would be more of a sense of community. Respondents who lived near the school were slightly more likely to expect any of the benefits suggested. Six respondents said they would not expect to see any benefits.

Chart 6 Q7. "What benefits do you think a School Street might bring to Frenchay?"



Base size:all respondents n=139, parents & carers n=89, local residents n=98

Table 3 Q7. "Do you have any concerns about the school Street?"

Concerns	No. of respondents	% of respondents
Impact on traffic elsewhere	76	55%
Access for residents	49	35%
No concerns	34	24%
Inconvenience for drivers	29	21%
Other concerns	20	14%
Emergency vehicle access	13	9%

Base size:all respondents n=139

The majority of respondents told us about at least one concern they had. The **most common issue was the belief it wouldn't change the amount of congestion or pollution**, it would only change where it was (28 mentions). A similar but smaller number of respondents felt that it was going to make congestion and parking worse (21 mentions).

13 respondents said it would **make life more difficult** for parents by making it hard to get to another school, nursery or work on time, and 8 local resdents felt it would make their life harder or felt it was too restrictive for the council to dictate when they can or can't use the road they live on. There are a few suggestions by parents that if the times children can be dropped to school could be widened to more than a ten minute window this would help.

There were 12 mentions that it would make walking to school **more dangerous** because parents were more likely to park on roads that had more traffic or did not have pavements

> *Full School Street closure on Alexander Road will just push the same cars onto surrounding roads and make them more dangerous and congested instead. The Frenchay Village Museum car park does not have anywhere near the capacity needed for even a small proportion of families who will have to park, which will inevitably force many cars onto the main road. This creates a real safety risk for children, as Bristol Road is a fast-moving arterial route into the city centre. Parents who still need to drive will have to park further away or stop in other roads, which could lead to more unsafe crossings and more frustration for residents elsewhere*

> *The traffic on Alexander road will just be transferred onto the side roads, note the nearest one to the school which I live one, Caseley Cresent, doesn't even have a pavement, reducing safely and increasing congestion*

Table 5 Q8 "Please tell us more about things you like and things you're worried about"

Theme	No. of mentions
Won't reduce congestion or pollution, just changes where it is	28
Will *increase* congestion, bad parking, and inconvenience	21
Inconvenient/ problem for *parents*: late for work / nursery - makes parenting harder	13
Inconvenient / difficult for *residents,* too restrictive/ authoritarian	8
Dangerous (no pavement/ crossing, busier roads)	12
Go further - stronger restrictions / bigger area	10
Car park too small	4
Sceptical	4
Cost of proposal / must be cheaper options	3
Suggestion - drop zone no stopping outside school	3
Already mentioned	3
Time it will take to walk (incl. when bad weather)	2
Suggestion - wait until building work is finished	2
Make smaller	2
Impact on deliveries	2
No park and stride for other side of school	1
Kids' lateness to school will increase	1
Can they open the back entrance of school to ease congestion?	1
Asking for more info / evidence	1
Oppose	1

More permits? - residents, businesses	1
Add zebra crossings	1
Need better public transport	1

Base size: respondents to Q8 (n=89)

A number of respondents also took the opportunity in this question to tell us that they liked the scheme. The most common factor was an expected increase in road safety.

Table 5 Q8 "Please tell us more about things you like and things you're worried about"

Theme	No. of mentions
Will increase safety	17
Congestion/ parking is currently a problem	7
Current no-waiting zones aren't working	2
Will encourage active travel	4
Like (reason not given)	1

Base size: respondents to Q8 (n=89)

Just under half of respondents believed the timings of the School street were correct. Over a quarter were not sure. Less than a quarter (33 respondents) thought they were not the right times. There was no significant difference for respondents who were parents/carers. 28 participants commented on the times for the School Street, but this was a mix of some people wanting longer waiting times to avoid car users parking on the street for longer, or to cover breakfast club and afterschool club, while others want shorter restrictions or say it is unnecessary to cover the wrap-around care hours because the number of cars is too few to warrant the inconvenience. It should be noted the number of **respondents suggesting longer or shorter hours (10 in total) is very small compared to those who are happy with the hours or have no opinion (102).**

Table 4 Q9 "The School Street would be in place from 08:20 - 09:05, and 15:00 - 16:00. Are these the right times?"

	All respondents	Parent/ Carer
No answer	8	3
No	33	23
Not sure/ Don't know	42	25
Yes	60	39

Base size: all respondents n=143. Parent/carers n=90

In terms of anything else respondent wanted us to know about, the most common thing were three roads which due to lack of pavements or being outside the scheme, drew concerns that it would be dangerous for the council to encourage more parents

to park or drive down them, and encourage more children or families to be walking on these roads with increased traffic. Table 6 details the roads in question. There were requests to add pavements, crossings, road crossing officers or parking restrictions. This issue of unsafe walking conditions was also mentioned more generally by 7 respondents.

After this, the main contention was residents opposing restricted access to their properties (9 mentions) and requests for alternative methods to discourage driving (9 mentions).

Table 5 Q12 "Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about?"

Theme	No. of mentions
Particular road mentioned (see Table 6)	10
Can't take away access to our own property / unfair inconvenience to residents & parents / overly restrictive	9
Find other methods (yellow lines, parking warden, patrol staff)	9
Current terrible parking & congestion	7
Current roads are unnacceptable with no pavements etc not safe / widen roads	7
Support for the scheme	7
main issue is not being addressed / inadequate or problematic parking issues	5
Will make things worse	4
Don't believe it will help	4
Moving problem to other streets	4
suggestion - one way/ drop area instead	3
BRIU emergency vehicle or staff access	3
Not enough capacity (for blue badge holders / at museum car park)	3
makes no allowance for elderly / disabled residents or parent-carers	2
won't work for deliveries	2
council keeps makeing traffic issues worse	2
Oppose / bad idea	2
More info - on impact it will make, what fines will be put towards	2
Suggestion use Dings car park / old redrow builders car parking	2
What about in adverse weather?	2
suggestion - soften/ widen sch start time / how will sch deal with lateness caused by this?	2
Walking bus run by school	2
how do residents with permit allow guests to visit during times?	1
Suggestion - block commercial vehicles	1
Question about enforcement	1
How will you collect our feedback once trial starts? / Important we can feedback	1
Concern about how parents will respond	1
Reopen side gate	1
Current footpath unsafe - poor/ no lighting	1
No comment	1

Table 6 Q12 “Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about?”

Roads mentioned	No. of mentions
Beckspool Rd	4
Casely Crescent	4
Belsey Rd	2

School Engagement Event Feedback

An in-person engagement event was held at Frenchay Primary School on Wednesday 10 December from 15.15 to 19:00, so that parents could voice their views and concerns to council staff and get answers to their questions.

The most common requests was to **re-open the side gate to the school on the footpath**, to allow a second access point to the school from the opposite side. It was felt this would reduce walking time for many school-users and also reduce the flow of traffic to Alexander Road.

An equally frequent comment was around the **displaced traffic and parking**. Many participants wondered how this would be managed, or were concerned about the roads with no pavements.

A common concern was the **effect on commuting time**. Parents who drove to the school from outside the village, especially Fishponds or Downend, or needed to head in that direction after drop-off, did not know how they would manage to fit the park and stride into their schedule. Some felt they should be allowed to drive because they did not have the option to walk as people in Frenchay did.

There were a few requests to change school drop off times in the morning as apparently there had been a different system in place pre-Covid, and that this would make it easier for parents who drive to adjust to the new park and stride system.

A number of parents showed support for the scheme, saying they **hoped it would be safer for children to walk or it would increase health and wellbeing**. However not everyone was convinced air pollution was a problem and therefore the scheme would make a difference or was warranted.

A number of additional suggestions were made, including:

- **Additional lights or signage**: the footpath between the museum car park and the school has no lighting so during winter is not safe. There was also a request for flashing lights with the signage to make drivers aware of the school street
- **Walking bus / staff or volunteers to pick up and drop kids who walk** from /to the museum car park so parents who need to commute can save 15-20 minutes doing this once or twice a day.
- **Additional crossings, pavements or road markings:** a crossing from the “moor” to footpath, crossing on Beckspool road needs sings and reduced speed limit, pavement on Belsey road
- **Alternative methods** to prevent parking such as signs, bollards, traffic wardens or yellow lines.

There were also questions about whether the restrictions only operated during term time and what the provision was for those who could not walk unassisted.

Conclusions

The scheme is supported by parents wanting to encourage active travel and increase pedestrian safety. However, opposition comes from two main sources: those who rely on using a car to meet a current tight schedule and are not sure how to make it work if the park and stride takes longer than the current system, and also many respondents worry that the scheme will unintentionally make congestion, parking issues and pedestrian safety worse. It will be important to address these concerns for those who must make behavioural changes by providing additional information on how the council and school will help minimise commuting time, traffic and parking issues.

During the trial of the scheme the council can communicate to local residents and school parents how we are measuring congestion, parking and safety issues after implementation, and for us to continue to collect feedback of parents' and pupils' experiences of park and stride through the Commonplace website.

Appendix: Survey Respondent Profile

Most of the survey participants live nearby (100 respondents), however there is no significant difference in support for the scheme between those that say they live nearby and those that don't.

Just over a third of survey participants have children who are currently pupils at the school (52). Around half of respondents do not travel to the school. Of those who do travel to the school, there were far more participants who currently walk (41) than those who use a car (22). Unfortunately, the sample size of those who drive is statistically too small to be a reliably accurate representation of all parents who use cars to get to or from the school.

Q2. How do you travel to/from the school?

Method of travel	**No. of respondents**
Walk	**41**
Cycle/scooter	**15**
Car	**22**
Bus	**0**
Taxi	**0**
Other (mostly children haven't started school yet)	**6**
Not applicable - I don't need to go to the school	**79**

, *Base size: 143 (all respondents)*

Demographic Profile

	Count
Gender	
Female	76
Male	50
Prefer not to say	13
Which age group do you fall into?	
18 or under	1
19 to 29	8
30 to 39	43
40 to 49	38
50 to 59	20
60 to 69	12
70 or over	9
Prefer not to say	8
Total	***139***

Appendix: Copy of Survey

Tell us what you think about the proposed School Street in Frenchay

We are proposing to introduce a trial School Street outside Frenchay Primary from 1 March 2026, to create a safer and healthier environment for children and the local community.

Submit your response by **28 December 2025** to have your say.

What do school parents and pupils think?

We want to hear from everyone, and would be especially keen to know what parents and pupils of the school think. However, if you're a young person, we need you to answer the survey slightly differently.

If you're under 13:

- You should ask a parent or teacher to complete the survey for you.
- Other than telling us you are under 18, you must not tell us anything more about yourself. Please **don't tell usyour name, where you live or write a telephone or email address** for you or your parents in any of your answers.

First, it would be helpful to know why this project matters to you...

Why are you answering the survey?

Select one or more options

I go to Frenchay Primary school | I'm a parent or carer of a child at the school | I'm a teacher or other member of school staff | I live nearby | I work at/run a local business

Add something else

How do you travel to/from the school?

Select one or more options

Walk | Cycle/scooter | Car | Bus | Taxi | Not applicable - I don't need to go to the school

Add something else

Are you worried about any of these issues on Alexander Road at school pick up and drop off times?

	Not at all	Somewhat	Quite a bit	Very much
Air pollution	○	○	○	○
Safety	○	○	○	○
Congestion	○	○	○	○

Your views on the proposal

Do you understand what a School Street is?

Select one option

Not at all | A little | Quite well | Very well

There is more information about School Streets on this page.

Is there anything else you think people need to know about?

Do you like the idea of a School Street here?

Select one option

Strongly support | Somewhat support | Not sure / no opinion | Somewhat oppose | Strongly oppose

What benefits do you think a School Street might bring to Frenchay?

Select one or more options

Improved road safety | Cleaner air | More active travel (walking / cycling / scooting) | Less traffic congestion | Better community atmosphere

Add something else

Do you have any concerns about the School Street?

Select one or more options

Access for residents | Impact on traffic elsewhere | Emergency vehicle access | Inconvenience for drivers | No concerns

Please tell us more about things you like and things you're worried about

The School Street would be in place from 08:20 - 09:05, and 15:00 - 16:00. Are these the right times?

Select one option

Yes | Not sure/ Don't know | No

Tell us if you have other ideas for times

Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about?

Ideas, feedback or things we need to be aware of if the School Street trial goes ahead

About you

These questions are important. They help us understand how well we've managed to hear from different types of people.

REMEMBER: If you are under 13, you should only answer the question about your age.

Are you....?

Select one option

Male | Female | Non-binary | Prefer not to say

Add something else

Which age group do you fall into?

Select one option

18 or under | 19 to 29 | 30 to 39 | 40 to 49 | 50 to 59 | 60 to 69 | 70 to 79 | 80 or over | Prefer not to say

Do you have any children/dependents of the following age groups living in your household?

Select one or more options

0 to 4 | 5 to 10 | 11 to 17 | 18 to 24 | No | Prefer not to say

So we can tell how far you live from the school, please enter your postcode: