

Parents' Travel Survey 2017 Results

This was the sixth parents' travel survey. Paper surveys were carried out in 2004, 6, 8 and 10 and drew response rates between 71% (2006) and 37% (2010). In 2016 a paper survey of Year 6 parents was conducted with a response rate of 83%.

This year's survey of all parents was the first to use on-line Survey Monkey, as there are no longer sufficient resources available to analyse a full paper survey. There were 66 replies, representing 80 children, a response rate of 29%, which was disappointing.

Q1. Where do you live?

	Survey result		School data (SIMS)
In Haddenham	42	64%	64%
Outside Haddenham	24	36%	36%

This question is important because everyone living in Haddenham can, in theory, get to school without using a car while most people living outside Haddenham will have to use a car, at least to get to Haddenham. The school data was obtained from postcode data using SIMS (School Information Management System). The survey result was almost identical showing that the sample of children in the survey is a representative one regarding location in or out of Haddenham.

Q2. Which year are your children in?

	Number	Survey %	School %
Year 3	19	24	23
Year 4	21	26	31
Year 5	18	22.5	22
Year 6	22	27.5	24
Total	80	100.0	100

Year 6 children are slightly over-represented at the expense of Year 4 children.

Q3. How did your child/children travel to school this morning?

Mode of travel	Parents' survey Mar 2017			
	Pupils' survey - Nov 2016 %	All replies %	Live in Haddenham %	Live outside Haddenham %
Walk all way	36.1	27.3	42.8	0
Cycle all the way	4.5	0.0	0	0
Scoot all the way	12.0	10.6	16.7	0
Public service bus (280)	0.8	0.0	0	0
School bus	0.0	0.0	0	0
Taxi	1.5	1.5	0	4.2
Park & Walk *	24.8	16.7	16.7	16.7
Car all the way	20.3	43.9	23.8	79.1
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Car share (% of car all way)	15	14	20	11

* Park & Walk is drive part of the way, but park away from the school and walk (cycle or scoot) the rest of the way.

Every November, in the Pupils' Hands-up Survey, pupils are asked how they usually travel to school, or if they are unsure, how they travelled to school on the morning of the survey. To keep the parents' survey simple, parents were asked how their children travelled to school on that morning. A question of this type has been asked in every single parents' survey.

It is interesting that pupils generally see themselves as travelling to school in a more sustainable way, with higher percentages recording walking, cycling, scooting and park & walk. Certainly, during the summer term a reasonable number of children cycle quite regularly so even in November those children may still consider themselves 'cyclists'. Alternatively, children may think parking in the tennis courts car park constitutes park & walk!

In this year's travel survey the proportion of children who park away from the school and walk the rest of the way is the same whether or not the children live in Haddenham (16.7%). A total of almost 96% of children living outside Haddenham use the car, at least part of the way to school, which is not a surprise. However, 40.5% of children living in Haddenham also travel by car for at least part of the journey.

Historical comparison of results

	March 2004	March 2006	Feb 2008	Feb 2010	July 2016	March 2017
Mode of travel	%	%	%	%	%	%
Walk	57	39	39	44	38	27
Cycle	0	5	6	5	8	0
Scoot	0	0	3	1	8	11
Service bus	0	0	0	0	0	0
School bus	15 ⁺	10	6	2	2	0
Taxi	0	0	0	0	0	1
Park & walk	Inc in walk	36	42	41	25	17
Car all way	28	10	4	7	19	44
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
Car share (% of car journeys)	17*	15*	26*	21*	20**	14**
% in Haddenham	65	Not known, but 78% in Neighbourhood Plan (2014)				64

* includes park & walk ** car all the way only + includes 3 children (1.7%) living within a mile of school

Historical comparison of results for children living in Haddenham

	March 2006	Feb 2008	Feb 2010	March 2017
Mode of travel	%	%	%	%
Walk	64	64	78	43
Cycle	9	11	8	0
Scoot	0	5	2	17
Park & walk	24	20	12	17
Car all way	3	0	0	23
Total	100	100	100	100

The 2004 results are not directly comparable. The July 2016 survey was for year 6 children only, at the end of their

time at Junior School. Not surprisingly almost all of these older children living in Haddenham walked, cycled or scooted to school (97%) with the remaining 3% being driven part way and then walking (park & walk).

The results from previous surveys, particularly 2004, are not exactly comparable but certain trends are clear –

- The percentage of children travelling to school by bus has declined from 15% in 2004 to 0% now. In 2004 37% of children living outside the village travelled in by bus.
- The percentage of children walking, at least part of the way to school (i.e. walk and park & walk) is significantly lower than in 2006, 2008 and 2010
- This is offset, to some extent, by scooting to school, which is much more popular now
- The percentage of children travelling all the way by car has risen since 2006
- Almost a quarter of children living in Haddenham are now driven all the way to school

In 2004, similar proportions of children lived in and outside Haddenham compared with the present and travel patterns were more similar. In 2005 ‘Go for Gold’ was introduced to encourage more parking away from the school and was very popular for a time. There was a noticeable reduction in car use for 4 or 5 years, helped by an increased proportion of children living in Haddenham. This was partly the result of Cuddington & Dinton schools forming a combined school in 2008. After a few of years pupils from Chearsley, Cuddington and Dinton no longer came to Haddenham Junior, which led to a decline in Haddenham Junior school roll but an increased percentage of children living in Haddenham. Those children from outside Haddenham came from further afield, for example Aylesbury, Stone and Kimble, with no school buses provided. During this period, the proportion of children living in Haddenham rose from about 65% to 78% of school roll. The combined effect of all these factors was to reduce bus use but also to reduce car use.

In 2012 ‘Go for Gold’ was stopped because it had gradually fallen in popularity and children were not sticking to the rules. It was replaced by walk-to-school competitions which, in recent years, have been held in October (Walk to School month). The school also takes part in the national Big Pedal competition in March or April.

Since 2014 the school roll has increased and so has the proportion of children living outside Haddenham, mainly in towns and villages where a school bus is not provided. This has not led to bus use, but an increase in car use. Proportions walking, at least part of the way to school, have fallen back and are now well below 2006 levels.

Areas to target are –

- Reduce car use for families living in Haddenham – persuade those driving all the way to park further away from school (park & walk) and as many as possible to choose alternative forms of travel to school
- Encourage more park & walk for families living outside Haddenham

Q4. If you ticked car all the way – no car share, what prevents you from arranging a car share?

Answer choices	Number
a) Do not know anyone else in my area who travels to the Junior School	11
b) Insurance issues	1
c) After school activities	2
d) Younger siblings at another school	7
e) Time constraints	11
f) Other – only drive to school occasionally	4
- go on to work	2

This was the first school travel survey to include this question and parents were allowed to tick more than one option. 27 people gave 38 reasons.

Historically between 15 % and 26% of car journeys have included car sharing. When asked, in 2010, whether they would like to car share, 20% of parents replied that they would. However, the two main reasons for not trying car share are not knowing anyone in the same area and time constraints, which is also affected by having children at different schools and going on to work afterwards. Children travel to the Junior School from 27 different towns or villages. For ten of these only one child comes to the Junior School and for a further 9 only two children (who may be siblings) come to the Junior School (information from SIMS). There is most scope for car share with families from Aylesbury (28 children) and from Stone (17 children) but it is likely that most families wishing to car share already do so.

Q5. When asked, in November 2016, how they would prefer to travel to the Junior School the main options pupils chose were cycle (34%), walk (29%), scoot (17%) and bus (10%) with only 6% choosing car all the way. If your children are not able to travel to school in the way they prefer what prevents them?

Answer choices	Number		
	All replies	Live in Haddenham	Live outside Haddenham
a) Live outside Haddenham or too far from Junior School	24	1	23
b) No safe cycling or walking route	19	7	12
c) No bus service/school bus	6	0	6
d) Younger siblings at another school	7	2	5
e) Parent going on to work	23	16	7
f) Time constraints	12	8	4
g) Too much to carry to school	4	4	0
h) Other – All of above	2	1	1
- Bus too expensive	1	0	1
- Weather	1	1	0

Parents could tick more than one option and 48 people ticked 99 reasons. Interestingly 24 (out of 42) Haddenham parents gave a reply while all 24 parents living outside Haddenham replied.

The one person in Haddenham who ticked option a) (Live too far from the Junior School) also ticked options e) (Going on to work) and f) (Time constraints). It is interesting that a high proportion (67%) of Haddenham families who answered this question ticked option e) (Going on to work).

The historical comparison of results is also interesting –

Q5: Can't travel in preferred way	% of replies given				
	March 2004	March 2006	Feb 2008	Feb 2010	March 2017
a) Live too far away	47	43	28	36	25
b) Not safe to cycle or walk	7	9	21	27	19
c) No bus/bus too expensive		4	8	*	6
d) Younger siblings at another school	6	7	12	6	7
e) Parent going on to work	9	18	18	17	23
f) Time constraints		5	2	*	12
g) Too much to carry to school					4

h) Weather	18	7	9	4	1
i) Other	13	7	2	10	3
	100	100	100	100	100

* included in Other

This question was not asked in July 2016. In 2004, the question asked was 'What stops you walking to school?' and answer choices a, b, d, h and i were offered, hence the high proportion citing weather as a reason! There was no mention in any of the comments that year of problems regarding the school bus.

In 2006 the same question was asked and the same answer choices offered. From an analysis of comments in 2006 it was found that 6 parents complained either that the bus to Dinton was too expensive (3) or that a bus was needed to other places (3). Similarly 8 parents gave time constraints as a reason for not walking. These figures have been taken into account in the table and the figure for 'other' adjusted accordingly.

In 2008 and 2010 the question was rephrased as 'What stops your child travelling to school in the way you would like?' and answer choices a, b, d, e, h and I were offered. From an analysis of comments in 2008, it was possible to estimate percentages for options c (bus issues) and f (time constraints) but a similar analysis was not possible for 2010.

With the caveat that this year's sample is small, the pattern emerging from these results is quite striking –

- Distance from school has declined considerably as a reason for not travelling in the child's preferred way
- Safety issues rose considerably in 2008 and are still high
- Bus issues became a problem from 2006
- Considerably more parents are going on to work now, having dropped off their children at school
- If an answer choice is given people will tick it. Hence high proportions listing weather as an issue, when this was an answer choice, but not giving it as a reason this year, when it wasn't offered. This year time constraints was offered instead, hence the relatively higher figure.

Q6. If you used a car for all or part of your journey today where did you park?

Answer choices	Number		
	All replies	Live in Haddenham	Live outside Haddenham
a) Tennis courts car park	10	3	7
b) Roberts Road	1	0	1
c) New Health Centre	3	0	3
d) Churchway	7	3	4
e) Village Hall	7	6	1
f) Shops	6	4	2
g) Other – Fort End	2		2
- School car park (work at school)	1		1
- other	1		1
	38	16	22

Of the three parents living in Haddenham and parking at the tennis courts car park two are going on to work and one has three children to get to different schools (one at Junior School). It is interesting that only one person chose Roberts Road as we get a lot of complaints from residents there about inconsiderate parking by parents. The historical analysis is as follows –

	March 2004	March 2006	Feb 2008	Feb 2010	July 2016	March 2017
Q6: Where park	% of replies to this question					
Tennis courts car park	40	8	8	8	33	26
Roberts road	4	5	10	15	13	3
New Health Centre		4	12	2	0	8

Churchway	7	35	27	28	8	18
Village Hall	4	10	15	12	4	18
Shops	8	26	21	25	17	16
Lay-by	34	4	2	0	0	
Other – Fort End/Bakery			3			5
- School Car Park					4*	3*
- other	3	8	4	10	21^	3
	100	100	100	100	100	100

* one parent who works at school ^ includes business park 4%

In 2004 a large proportion of people dropped off in the lay-by (some actually parked there) and the tennis courts car park. Many parents complained about problems with congestion around the school. As a result of this the 'Go for Gold' scheme was introduced in 2005 and Woodways was made an exclusion zone. This led to a marked reduction in parents parking in these two areas. It is noticeable that the tennis courts car park is used a lot now, with many children being driven in from outside the village and no 'Go for Gold' scheme in place.

Other parking places go up and down in popularity. Parents are not meant to park at the new Health Centre (but some still do).

Q7. If you parked in the tennis courts car park or Roberts Road what stopped you parking further away from school so that your child could walk, cycle or scoot the rest of the way?

	All replies		Live in Haddenham	Live outside Haddenham	Q5		2016
Answer choices	No	%	No	No	No	%	%
a) No safe walking or cycling route	1	4	0	1	19	28	0
b) Younger siblings at another school	2	8	0	2	7	10	9
c) Parent going on to work	6	23	2	4	23	33	9
d) Time constraints	11	42	5	6	12	17	73
e) Too much to carry to school	0	0	0	0	4	6	0
f) Other –	6	23	2	4	4	6	9
	26	100	9	17	69	100	100

20 parents ticked 26 options, which is a very small sample. Also comparison with Q5 shows inconsistent answers, with safety being much less of a concern and time constraints being much more important. This is more in line with the results from 2016 (year 6 only and an even smaller sample). The question was not asked in earlier travel surveys.

Q8. What would encourage you not to use the car park or to park further away from school so that your child could walk, scoot or cycle the rest of the way?

	All replies		Live in Haddenham	Live outside Haddenham
Answer choices	No	%	No	No
a) Improved safety of walking or cycling route	18	35	12	6
b) School Crossing Patrol on Churchway	8	16	8	0
c) Introduction of 20 mph speed limit on village roads	12	23	10	2

d) School bus	6	12	0	6
e) More competitions to encourage walking, scooting & cycling	1	2	0	1
f) Travel map with safe walking/cycling routes etc	2	4	0	2
g) Other –	4	8	2	2
	51	100	32	19

There were many more replies for this question than for Q7 and the replies seemed to correspond better to Q5. Options a, b and c all reflect safety issues for children travelling to school and account for 74% of replies (94% of replies for families living in Haddenham). Support for the introduction of 20 mph speed limit on village roads is from about 20% of parents who took the survey. There is little appetite for more competitions or a travel map. Historically parents have been asked whether the introduction of 20 mph on Woodways would make the journey to school safer. Results have been –

	% of replies supporting measure				
	March 2004	March 2006	Feb 2008	Feb 2010	March 2017
Would introduction of 20 mph make the journey to school safer/encourage parking further away from school?	62%*	74%*	79%*	57%*	25%**

* Parents were asked whether introduction of 20 mph on Woodways only would make journey to school safer and there was strong support.

** Parents were asked whether the introduction of 20 mph would encourage them to park further away. One person did not tick this option but asked for 20 mph in comments.

Q9. What effect do current initiatives such as Walk on Wednesdays (October) and Big Pedal (March) have in encouraging walking, scooting and cycling to school?

	All replies		Live in Haddenham	Live outside Haddenham
Answer choices	No	%	No	No
a) Large effect	9	14	7	2
b) Moderate effect	21	32	13	8
c) Little effect	19	29	12	7
d) No effect	21	21	8	5
e) Don't know/not aware of initiatives	4	6	2	2
	66	100	42	24

Opinion is roughly evenly divided as to whether or not Walk on Wednesdays and Big Pedal are effective in encouraging walking, scooting and cycling to school, with parents living in Haddenham marginally more enthusiastic than those living outside.

It is worth noting that children are much more enthusiastic. Big Pedal, in particular, sees a large increase in the number of children cycling to school with 16% of pupils cycling at least once. Compare this with the percentages for cycling recorded in the parent surveys – between 0% and 8%.

Q10. Do you have any comments about trying to reduce car use for school journeys or in general about school travel issues?

28 parents made comments and the main concerns were safety issues – there is a lot of traffic, traffic is very fast,

pavements near the school are too narrow, Churchway is dangerous to cross and safer travel routes are needed.

In particular, there were concerns about children cycling to school and six parents asked for better cycle routes/cycle lanes in the village. Three parents thought a speed limit of 20 mph would help. These are both issues on the agenda of Haddenham Safe Walking and Cycling Group, but are unlikely to be resolved in the near future.

The remaining comments cover a wide range of points of which parking is the most common. People would welcome a car park in the village where children could be dropped off and then walk to school, possibly in an official crocodile! Failing that, getting the Health Centre to allow parent parking would be welcome.

Focus of the 2017 Parents' Survey

Just as the questions to ask in this year's survey were being considered Bucks CC announced that it was setting up a Select Committee to inquire into the use of cars to get children to school asking 4 key questions –

- What initiatives have schools successfully run?
- What are the key factors to the success of these?
- What are the challenges and barriers/limitations to encouraging behaviour change and/or reducing the number of school journeys made by car?
- What are the opportunities to further encourage schools and communities to reduce car use for the school journey?

It was decided to make the third and fourth of these questions the focus of the 2017 survey and this was explained to parents in the Survey Monkey introduction –

'Buckinghamshire County Council has recently set up a Select Committee to inquire into the use of cars to get children to school and to see how schools can encourage people to adopt more sustainable travel options and reduce car use for the school journey. Please answer the following short survey to help us find practical ways to approach this issue.'

Relating the results of the 2017 parents' survey back to the questions from Bucks CC –

Challenges and barriers to reducing car use for the school journey –

- a high proportion (36%) of children live outside the village with no school bus,
- almost a quarter of parents go on to work (23%)
- general time constraints, including taking siblings to other schools, are an issue (19%)
- safety concerns for walking and particularly cycling are important (19%)

Opportunities to encourage reduced car use for the journey to school –

Comparing parents' surveys with the annual Pupils' Hands-up Surveys, it is clear that children are much more keen to travel to school in a sustainable way. They are also much more enthusiastic than their parents on competitions such as Walk on Wednesday and Big Pedal. This suggests that the best approach is to work closely with the children to encourage them to change their parents' attitudes. If there were more resources then it might be possible to run more competitions and possibly re-introduce Go for Gold, which had a such big impact when it was initially introduced in 2005.

AFM

17th May 2017