

#WhatsYourTake - Reducing car use July 2022



The #WhatsYourTake online survey is carried out each year to gather young people's views on current issues. This #WhatsYourTake survey was open from 10th June until 6th July 2022, and asked questions on the following topics:

- **Children's care and justice** - Imagining the future of children's care and justice
- **Reducing car use** - Working together to reduce car use for a healthier, fairer, greener Scotland
- **Cost of school** - Exploring the possibility of free school meals, school milk and low-cost uniform in secondary schools
- **Tobacco free Scotland** - Reaching for the future - building a Tobacco-free Scotland
- **Education** - Designing the national discussion on education
- **Children's Services** - Children's Services Reform

This report gives an overview of the key findings on the questions relating to reducing car use from the July 2022 #WhatsYourTake survey.

Respondent Profile

243 young people took responded to the #WhatsYourTake survey in July 2022.

Of these:

- **67.8%** are aged between 12 and 17, **16.7%** are aged 18-20, and **15.5%** are aged 21-25.
- **52.5%** identify as female, **35.3%** identify as male, **8.0%** identify as non-binary, and **3.4%** prefer to use their own term. The remaining respondents preferred not to say.
- **60.2%** are at school, **21.4%** go to university or college, **18.1%** are in full time or part time work, **0.8%** are doing an apprenticeship or other training, and **5.3%** are unemployed. **2.1%** are not taking part in any of these activities.
- **81.5%** identify as English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British.
- Respondents came from **28 local authorities**, [our 11 national voluntary organisations](#), and various others representing a diverse range of communities of interest and lived experience (including youth voice organisations, student unions, a range of cadets, and various sports clubs).

*This report was compiled by Rosy Burgess, SYP Governance and Events Manager -
rosy.b@syp.org.uk.*

Working together to reduce car use for a healthier, fairer, greener Scotland

Cars account for 38% of transport emissions in Scotland and Scottish Government / COSLA have published a [route map](#) to reduce car kilometres by 20% by 2030. This includes interventions to make it easier for people to travel without cars, including free bus travel for under 22's and increased spending on active travel and bus infrastructure.

We know it will be more difficult for some people to reduce their car use, but for many young people and their families there are other options - using online alternatives; choosing more local destinations; switching to walking, wheeling, cycling or public transport; and combining or sharing car trips if car is necessary.

We want to hear from SYP on how we can best engage with young people and their families, to get everyone in Scotland talking about the importance and benefits of reducing car use. Your views will inform our future public engagement.

This question looks at your current travel habits and your hope for how you'd like to travel in the future.

For the trips that you make regularly such as to and from school/college/work, what mode of transport do you:

	Use most often (currently)	Would like to use most often (currently)	Think you will be using most often in the future (eg. in 10 years time)	Would like to use most often in the future (eg. in 10 years time)
Walk / wheel (incl using mobility aid)	49.8%	20.2%	8.2%	11.1%
Cycle (incl using adapted cycle / e-cycle)	6.6%	16.0%	13.2%	25.9%
Bus	38.3%	15.2%	15.6%	9.1%
Train	12.3%	9.5%	19.8%	15.2%
Petrol / diesel car (as passenger)	31.7%	9.9%	11.1%	5.8%
Petrol / diesel car (as driver)	10.7%	5.8%	29.6%	12.8%
Electric car (as passenger)	4.9%	7.8%	14.0%	23.0%
Electric car (as driver)	1.6%	4.1%	23.5%	33.7%
Not travelling (as studying or working online)	6.2%	6.2%	11.9%	16.5%

Please pick the top three factors that are:

	Most influential in making travel choices	Least influential in making travel choices
Cost	72.8%	8.2%
Convenience	70.0%	5.3%
Journey time	62.1%	11.1%
Safety	37.9%	16.9%
Environment sustainability	30.5%	23.9%
Health	23.5%	27.2%
Travel behaviour of parents	23.0%	41.6%
Travel behaviours of peers	12.8%	51.4%
Travel behaviours of public figures / celebrities	8.2%	63.0%

Respondents were invited to indicate any other factors that influence their travel choices. Comments are:

- Mental health. I prefer to be driven by a family member as I have autism and anxiety and fear becoming overwhelmed or there being something I can't cope with using other methods. Being driven is less complicated.
- I live in a rural area. It's not safe or feasible to walk, cycle, use a bus or train.
- As a wheelchair user I don't trust public transport enough to use it by myself. A family car is more realistic and safer
- There is no policy as ill-thought out, as ineffective, as madcap or as unnecessarily punitive as net-zero. It is literally destroying lives. Man made climate change is the greatest scientific fraud in history. Even if it were true, only China & India could make any meaningful difference. EV's are the emperors new clothes.
- It's the only way I'm able to travel a far distance since my parents either can't drive or won't. To get to school I need to go far.
- Can't drive!
- I live in a village, my school is 4 miles away, we have no train service, and a very limited bus service, more environmentally friendly options are not available to us.