

Safer Road Crossings Survey

Dean Park Primary School Parent Council - April 2026

“We would prefer to walk or cycle to school and would allow our 11 year old to travel independently to and from school more if we were not so concerned about these crossings. He has already been hit once by a car when he was coming home from school crossing a road on his bike, it wasn’t serious and only a mild bump - the driver was at fault. After that we have completely stopped him from cycling to school and usually drive.”

North Balerno Catchment

South Balerno Catchment

Map showing the South Balerno Catchment area, divided into two numbered zones (5 and 6). The map includes residential streets, parks (e.g., Marchmont Park), and the Water of Forth. The catchment is outlined in red.

Survey & sample details

Survey open for 4 weeks: 4th March 2026 - 2nd April 2026

N = 203 parent responses

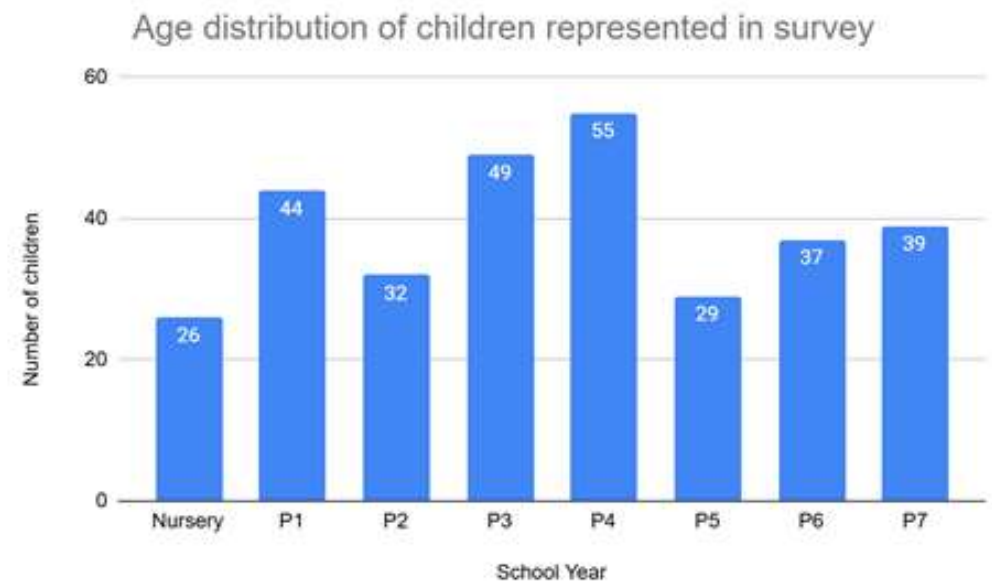
N = 311 children represented

(current school roll is $\cong$ 500 children)

52% children live in areas 1-4 (North Balerno catchment)

41% children live in areas 5-6 (South Balerno catchment)

7% children live outwith areas 1-6



“I walk [my child] to school as he isn’t safe with the way things currently are”

“I live next to the school and have witnessed many almost accidents”

“It feels like only a matter of time before a child gets hurt”

Safety of road crossings matters

- Road crossing safety was either “the biggest thing” influencing the choice to walk/wheel to school, or influenced the decision “a lot” for 61% of the children represented in the survey
- Children travelling to/from school independently is limited by lack of safe crossings
- 73% of parents responding said their child/children would walk/wheel to school more often if the crossings of concern were made safer

Crossings of concern

- **Bavelaw Green near Bridge Road - 64% (n=130)**
- **Marchbank Way near Deanpark Place - 55% (n=112) + 20 free text mentions**
- **Lanark Road West near Ravelrig Road - 55% (n=112)**

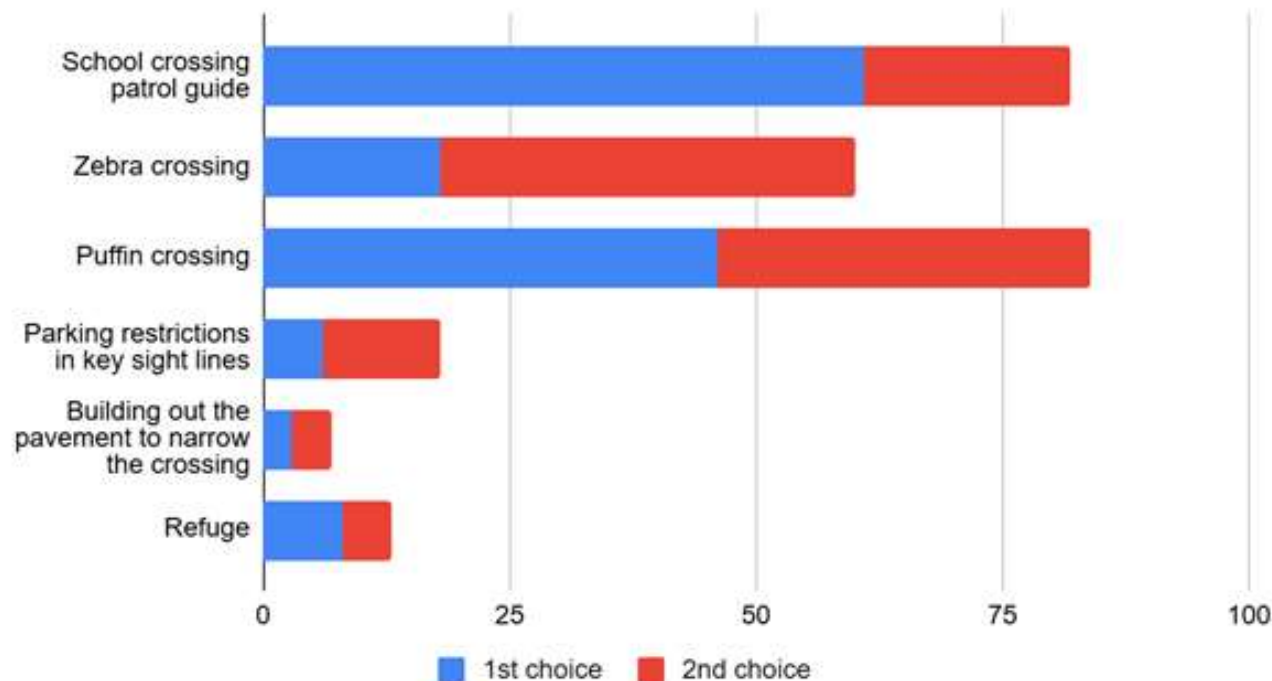
- Lanark Road West near Bridge Road - 38% (n=78)
- Bavelaw Road near Harlaw Road - 38% (n=77)
- Somerville Road near Lanark Road West - 16% (n=33)

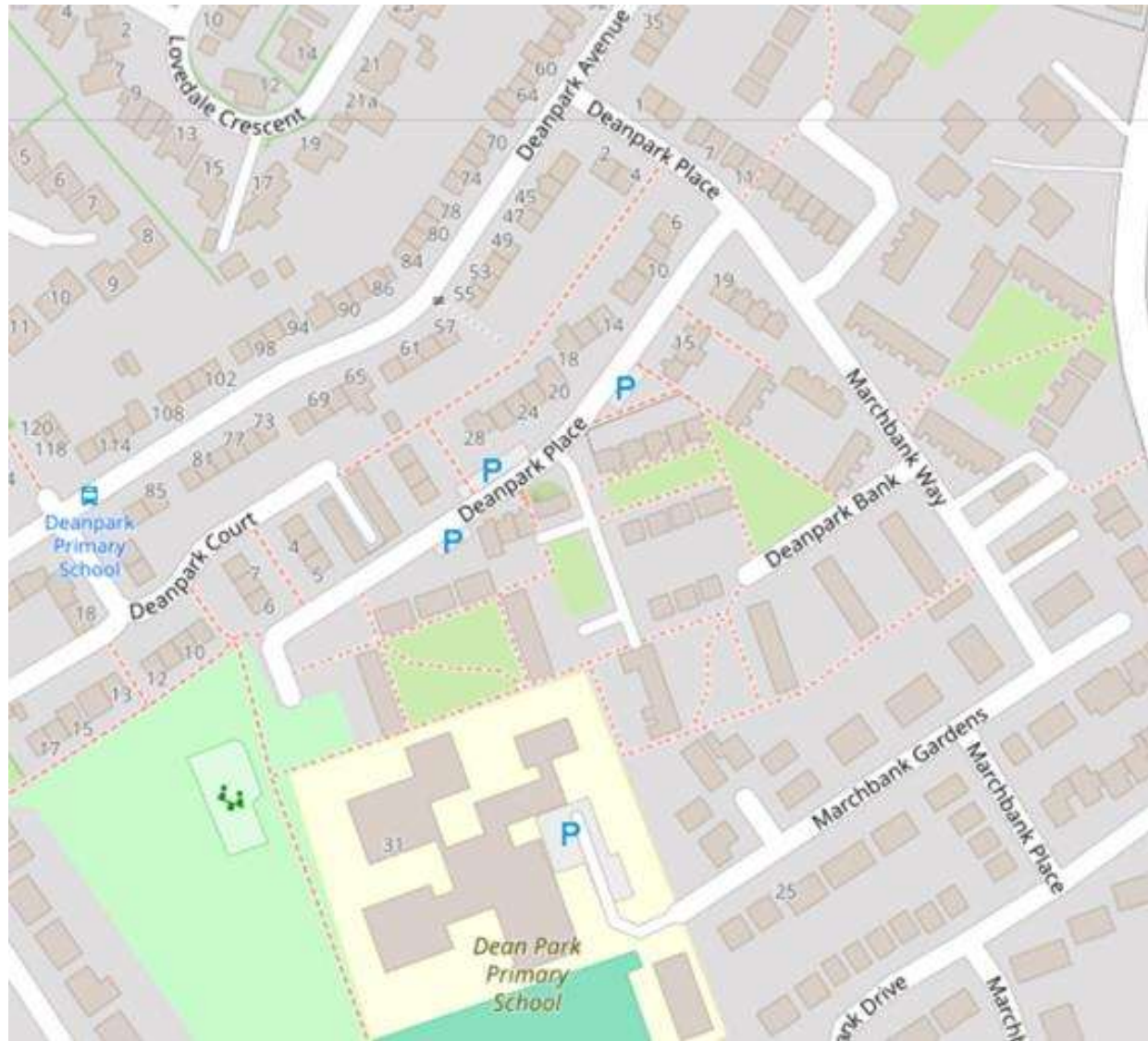


Preferred solutions for Bavelaw Green near Bridge Road

Respondents favour a school crossing patrol guide as the first choice (n=62), but there is also substantial support for a puffin crossing (n=46).

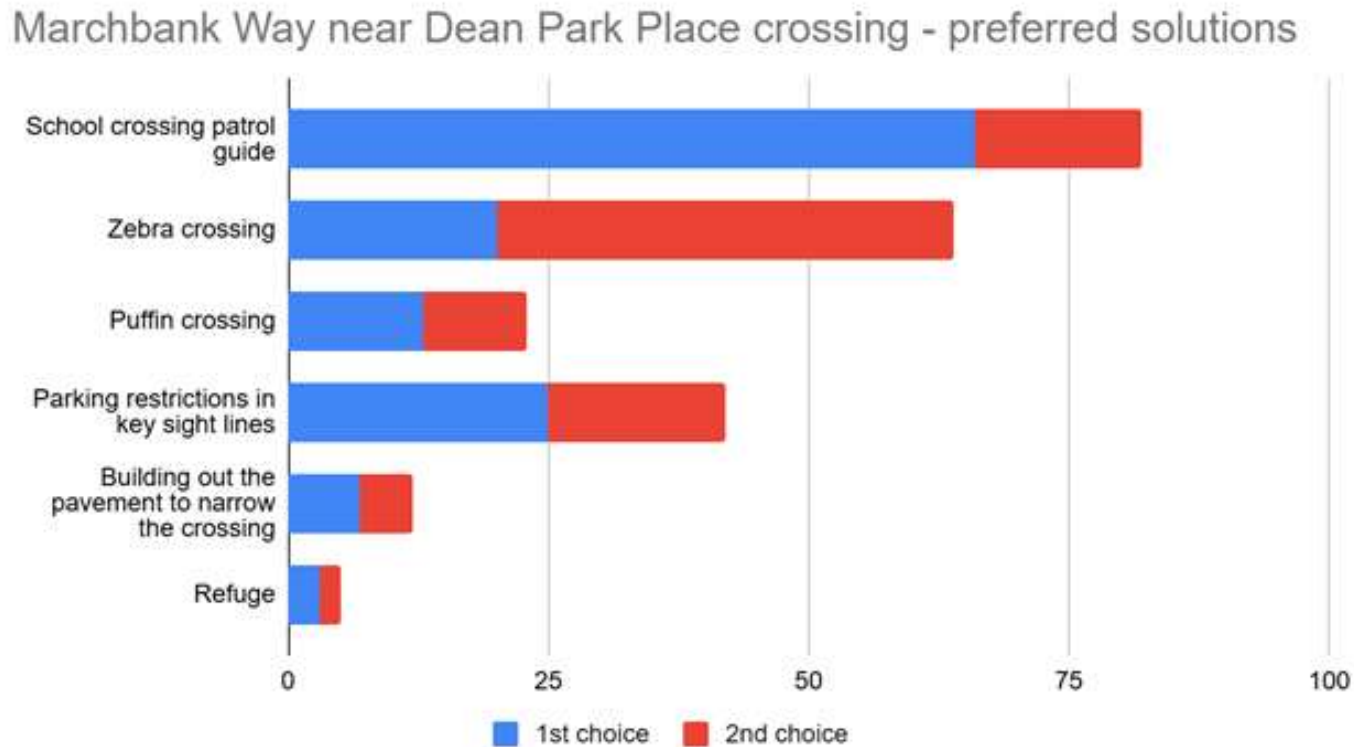
Bavelaw Green crossing - preferred solutions

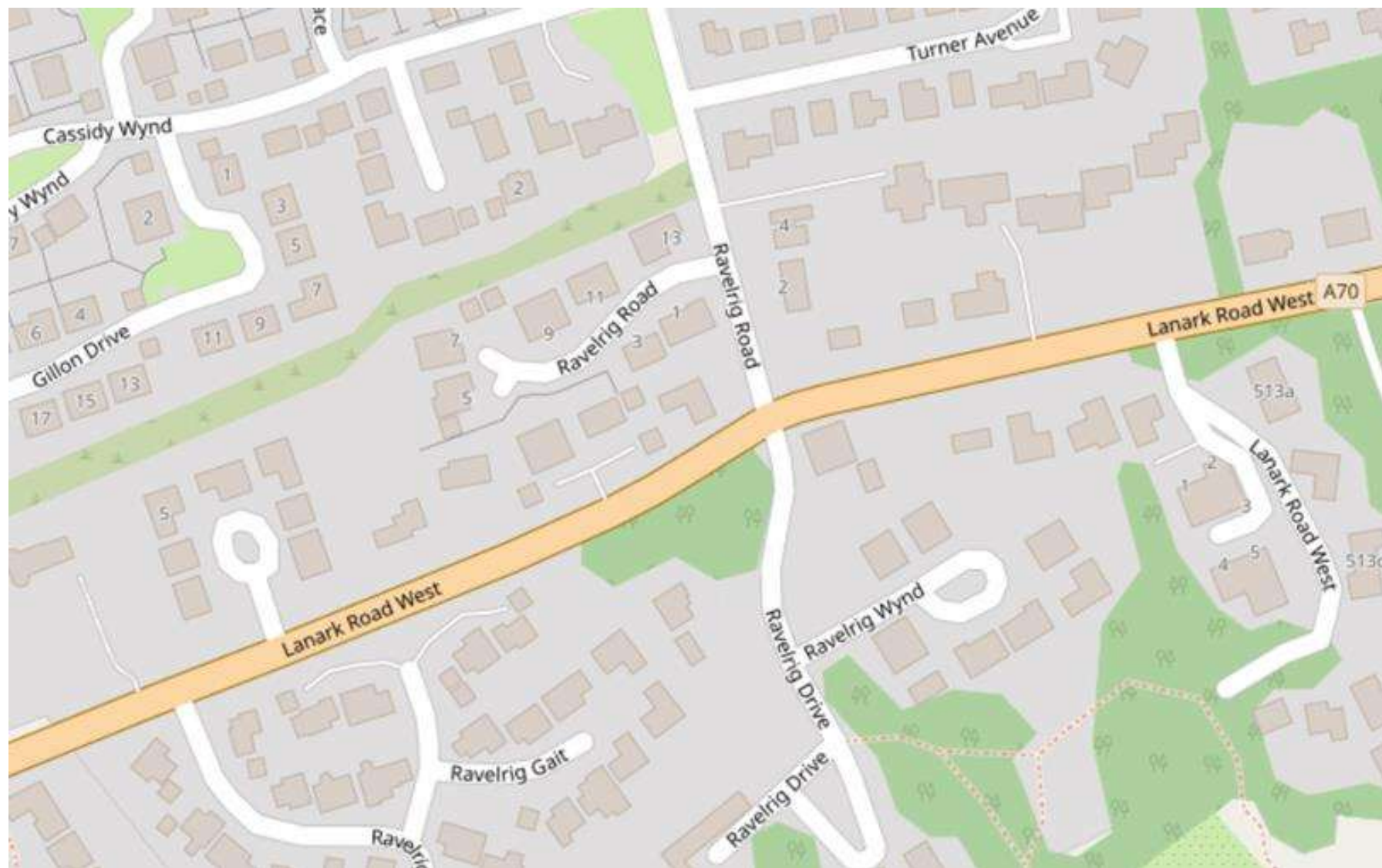




Preferred solutions for Marchbank Way near Deanpark Place

There is a clear preference for a school crossing patrol guide as the first choice (n=66), followed by parking restrictions (n=25) and a zebra crossing (n=20).

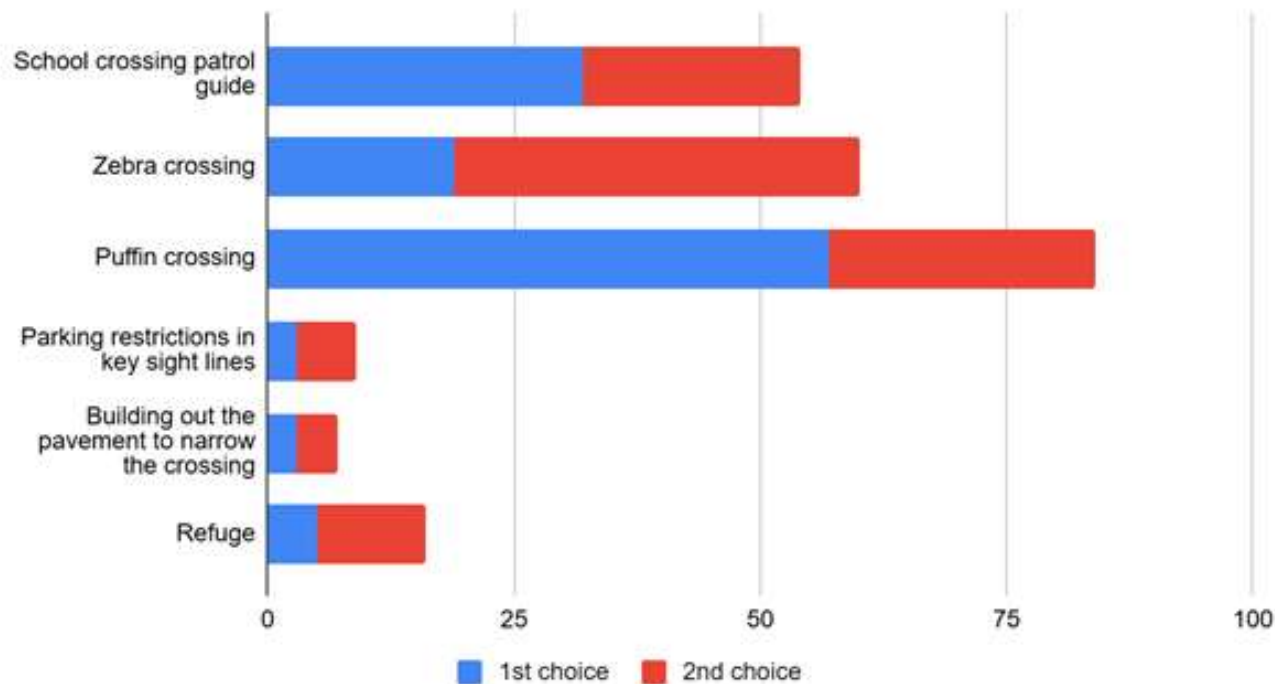




Preferred solutions for Lanark Road West near Ravelrig Road

There is a clear preference for puffin crossing as the first choice (n=57), followed by a school crossing patrol guide (n=32).

Lanark Road West near Ravelrig Road crossing - preferred solutions



Other comments

Responses from open field for comments grouped into 7 themes:

- Vehicle speed, driver behaviour and accident risk (n=46)
- Parking pressure (n=30)
- Safer crossings and street layout (n=25)
- Congestion / school run traffic (n=23)
- Walking/cycling independence and route quality (n=20)
- Restrictions, School Street measures and enforcement (n=18)
- Other context, neutral comments and non-safety factors (n=14)

Other suggested solutions

- “School street” / residents only vehicular access on streets immediately around school
- Parking restrictions near school
- Designated parking areas further away from school
- Speed limit enforcement
- Speed reduction measures
- Somewhere (aside from a car) for parents to wait between P1/P2 and P3-P7 collection times

In summary...

Parents who already walk with their children are concerned about the safety of road crossings, even whilst they are accompanying their children

Parents are **choosing to drive, rather than walk**, due to concerns about the safety of road crossings

Almost **three quarters of children are walking less frequently** to Dean Park Primary School than their parents would like, explicitly **because of lack of safe road crossings**

Dean Park Primary School community is looking for:

- **Concrete, timely** action to improve road crossing safety
- **Equitable** road crossing safety measures with schools in our local cluster
- Crossings of **most concern** addressed **promptly**