

Walkability Audit

19th January 2016



**St. Michael's College,
Ailesbury Road,
Dublin 4.**

Roll Number: 60561G

St. Michael's College is voluntary secondary school for boys. The school was founded in 1944 by the Congregation of the Holy Spirit (The Spiritans) and was extended in 1975. It is now operated by a partnership of laity and religious. St. Michael's provides mainstream second-level education to approximately 609 boys. The secondary school shares its campus with St Michael's College junior school.

St. Michael's College is located at the junction of Ailesbury Road (R824) and the busy Merrion Road (R118). It is in close proximity to the Merrion Shopping Centre and many diplomatic embassies and residences. The main vehicular access to the school is provided from Ailesbury road with parking facilities on site. Pedestrian access is also possible from an entrance on Merrion Road. The School is located approximately 400 meters from Sydney Parade Dart Station and approximately 150 meters from a Dublin bus stop served by the number 8,4,7 and 27x.



A **Walkability Audit** is a methodical examination of how pedestrian-friendly a route may or may not be.

The word **Walkability** means the “**ability to walk**”.

Members of the school population identified a possible walking route to school to audit.



Objectives:

1. To evaluate the safety of pedestrian areas near the school.
2. Identify any issues and suggest solutions to the Local Authority.

We used a number of tools on the audit to record our findings:

- Maps of the routes
- Recording sheets
- Recording devices (phone apps e.g. pedometers)
- High-visibility vests
- Camera
- Pencils/Clipboards



Description of the route audited:

The area surrounding St. Michael's College was audited for pedestrian safety. The audit began at the vehicular entrance on the Ailesbury Road (R824) and continued in an easterly direction towards the Merrion Road junction (R118). Crossing this junction, the audit continued on to Sydney Parade Dart Station. Upon reaching the station, the audit team travelled southwest along Sydney Parade Avenue to Nutley Lane and

completed by turning northwest onto Nutley Road. The audit covered a distance of over 2 km. The location of the school and the audit routes taken by the pupils are illustrated on the map below.



Not to scale



We noted the following findings from our Walkability Audit:

1. Pedestrian footpaths in the immediate area of St. Michael's College are generally at a good standard. However, signage around the school site is limited.
Recommendation: Twin Flashing Amber Signals (Signal S 102) could be erected on the Merrion Road in conjunction with a School Ahead sign (W 141).
2. A pedestrian crossing is in place at the junction of Merrion Road and Ailesbury road. The signal uses tactile and audible signals, which is very positive. However, the audit team noted that the wait time was often too long, causing pedestrians to occasionally cross without a signal.

Recommendation: A Pedestrian Countdown Timer (S 101) could be added to the existing light to encourage pedestrians to wait.

3. The junction of Ailesbury Road and Sydney Parade Avenue is a hazard for pedestrians. A tight corner and the location of road markings combine to form a blind spot where the visibility of crossing pedestrians is greatly reduced.

Recommendation: A pedestrian zebra crossing (RPC 001) could be useful at this junction on Sydney parade Avenue. For safety, a guard rail may also be necessary on the 'blind' corner.

4. The Dart line impedes the progress of pedestrians and creates a hazard. The safety barrier can be down for up to four minutes during commuter times. When this barrier lifts, pedestrians must negotiate the crossing with heavy traffic. This is particularly an issue at peak times.

Recommendation: Pedestrian permeability and safety should be evaluated. Access to the existing pedestrian footbridge over the railway line at Sydney Parade Dart Station for the use of pedestrians at peak times could be considered.

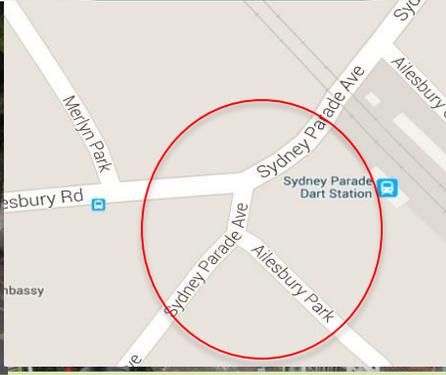
5. The formal pedestrian pathway from Sydney Parade Avenue to the Merrion Road is covered with muck and debris. Pedestrians have forged an informal, more direct, pathway leading to the pedestrian lights.

Recommendation: This informal pathway could be paved and the existing pathway should be cleaned and upgraded.

6. The footpath around the loading bay on Nutley Lane has many potholes. These loose blocks and unstable pieces of paving are a hazard for pedestrians.

Recommendation: The footpath needs to be repaired beside the loading bay of the Merrion Shopping Centre on Nutley lane.

More details and photos of these findings can be viewed in the pages following.



Crossing the junction of Ailesbury Road and Sydney Parade Avenue is a hazard for pedestrians. The tight corner and location of the road markings creates a blind spot for pedestrians crossing. The visibility at this corner is poor.

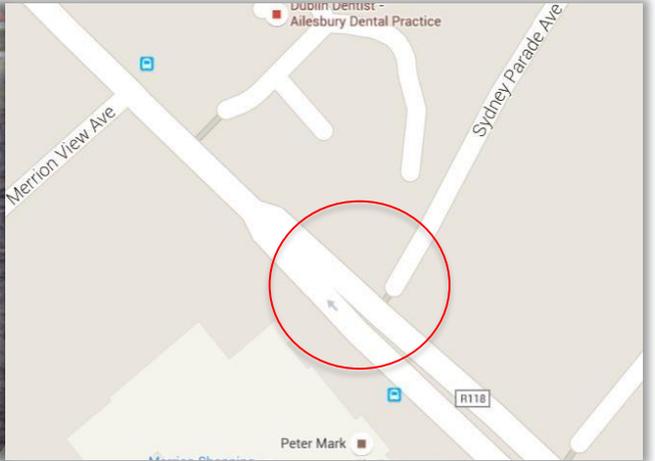
The Dart line impedes the progress of pedestrians and creates a hazard. The safety barrier can be down for up to four minutes during commuter times. When this barrier lifts, pedestrians must negotiate the crossing with heavy traffic. This is particularly an issue at peak times.

A pedestrian zebra crossing would be useful at the junction of Ailesbury Road and Sydney Parade Avenue. A guard rail may also be necessary on the corner.

of pedestrians at peak times could be considered.

* Some images sources from Google Maps

Pedestrian permeability and safety should be examined. Access to the existing pedestrian footbridge over the railway line at Sydney Parade Dart Station for the use



Pedestrian pathway from Sydney Parade Avenue to the Merrion Road is in a bad state to repair. The formal pathway is buried under muck and debris. Pedestrians have forged an informal direct pathway leading to the pedestrian lights.

potholes. These are a hazard for pedestrians. This informal pathway could be paved, the existing pathway needs to be upgraded.



The footpath around the loading bay on Nutley Lane has many

This footpath needs to be repaired beside the loading bay on Nutley lane.

Thank you for reading our report.

Please contact us with your feedback using the details below.

Green-Schools Travel Education Officer

Martha Gouldsbury

Email: mgouldsbury@eeu.antaisce.org

Phone: 01 - 4002222

School Details:

Name: Rory O'Connor, Green-Schools Coordinator.

School: St. Michael's College

Ailesbury Road,

Dublin 4.

Email: admin@stmichaelscollege.com

Phone: 01 - 2189400