Safe Routes To School – Round 2

Dominican College Sion Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin

November 2026



Non-Statutory Public Consultation

Rialtas na hÉireann Government of Ireland | Tionscadal Éireann Project Ireland 2040

NTA Údarás Náisiúnta Iompair National Transport Authority

SYSTRA

Green-Schools An Taisce

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

dlr Comhairle Contae County Council

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAMME

- In March 2021 NTA launched their 'Safe Routes to School' (SRTS) Programme which is designed to encourage as many pupils and students as possible in primary and post-primary schools to walk and cycle.
- SRTS Programme aims to create safer walking and cycling routes within communities and alleviate congestion at the school gates by delivering the infrastructure along access routes and at the school gates.
- All Schools in the country were invited to make a submission requesting inclusion in the SRTS Programme.
- 932 schools applied (almost 1 in 4 schools nationwide).
- 25 schools in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown requested participation in the Programme.

AIMS OF SCHOOL ZONES

- Reduce vehicular traffic and congestion at school gates.
- Keep cars away from footpaths, reduce vehicle drop-off, pick ups and idling.
- Highlight presence of School and its vulnerable road users.
- Encourage drivers to slow down in vicinity of schools.
- Provide high quality place making features which give kids a sense of belonging within their front of school environment.

BENEFITS

- Safety for everyone.
- Children benefit from healthy public spaces to access schools.
- Children can travel to school actively, safely and independently with less exposure to poor air quality.
- Communities can enjoy cleaner air, safer streets and more vibrant and inclusive public spaces.



What is a school zone?

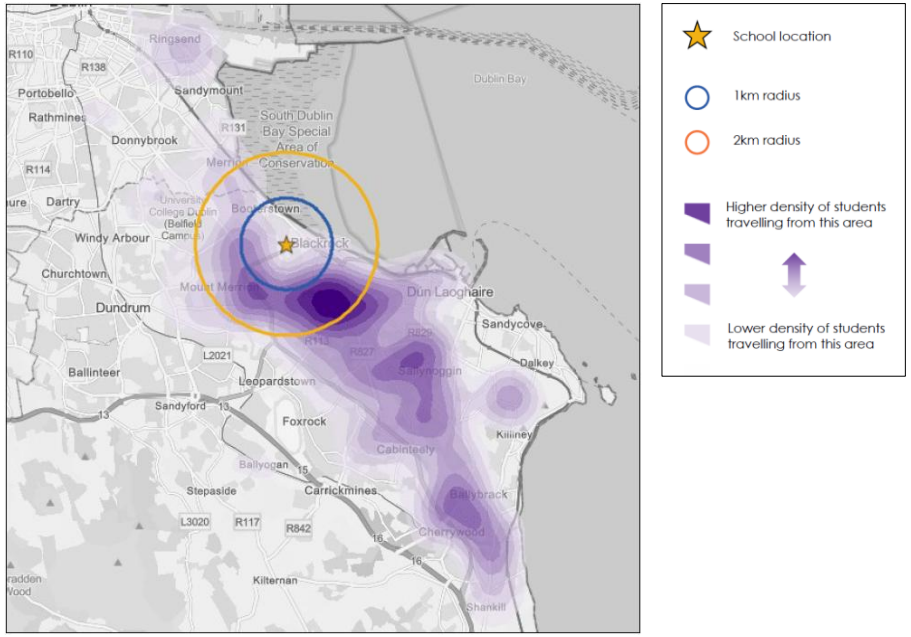
'School Zones' refer to the built infrastructural upgrades which are being developed at the from of schools across Ireland. These new instalments and features are designed to reduce traffic at school gates and to improve safe access for children. This brochure aims to answer questions which parents or guardians may have about School Zones.

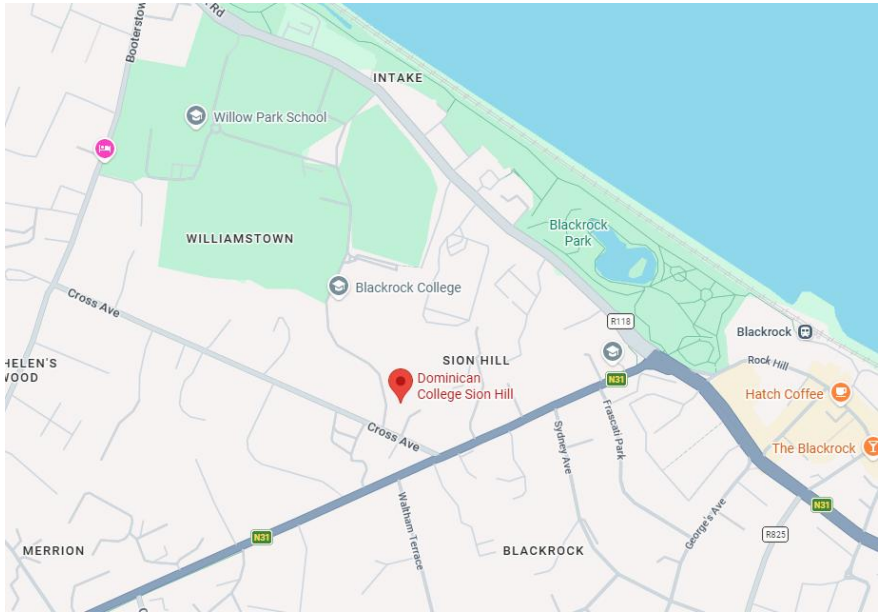
- What is the aim of a School Zone?
- Who benefits from a School Zone?
- What are the design considerations for School Zones?

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SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PARENT SURVEY

- The surveys were distributed to all families of Dominican College Sion Hill in January 2023.
- Parents were asked to reply to a series of questions.
- These included questions such as number, age and gender of represented students; where from and how students travel to school; what parents think about road safety around the school and if parents would support works at the front of school that improve student safety, putting pedestrians and cyclist first.
- Parents were asked to select elements from a list of improvements that would support students to walk, cycle or scoot to school.
- A comments box was available for parents who wished to share their thoughts and ideas.



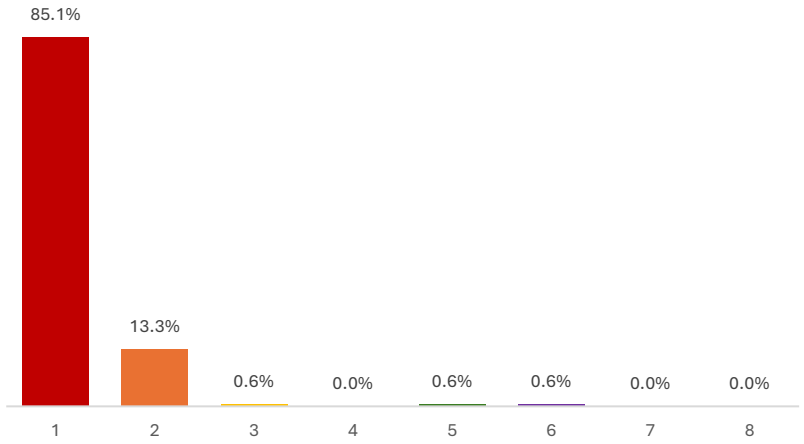


SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PARENT SURVEY ANALYSIS

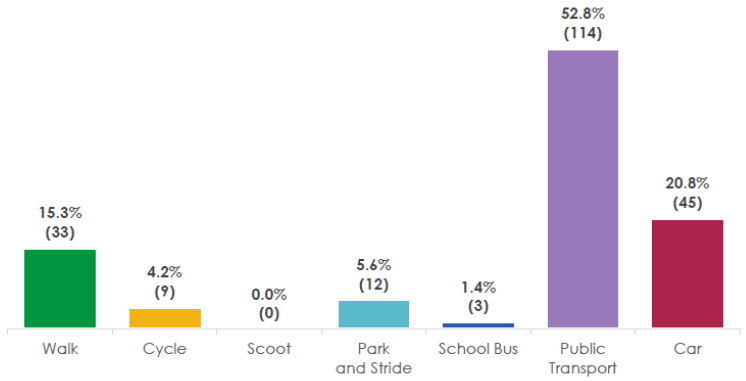
- Responses received: 181
- Student represented: 216 (42.5% of school population – based on a total of 508)
- Parents' comments received: 50

Parent Survey Results

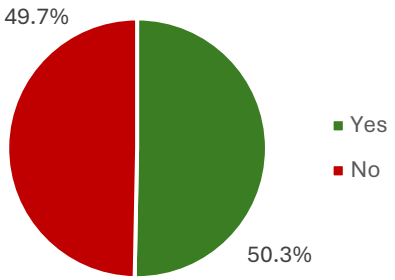
Q1. How many of your children attend this school?



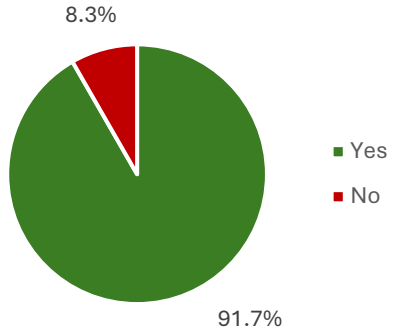
Q5. For each child, choose how they usually travel to school



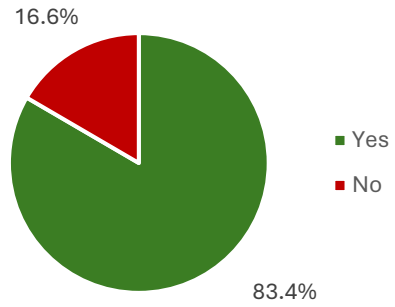
Q6. Do you think road safety is a problem around your school?



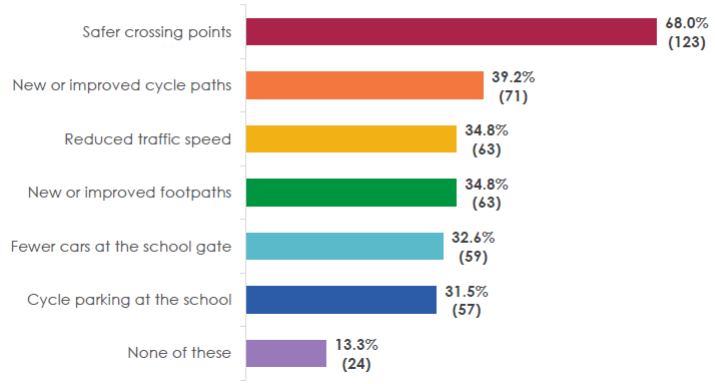
Q7. Would you support works at the front of school that improve student safety, putting pedestrians and cyclists first?



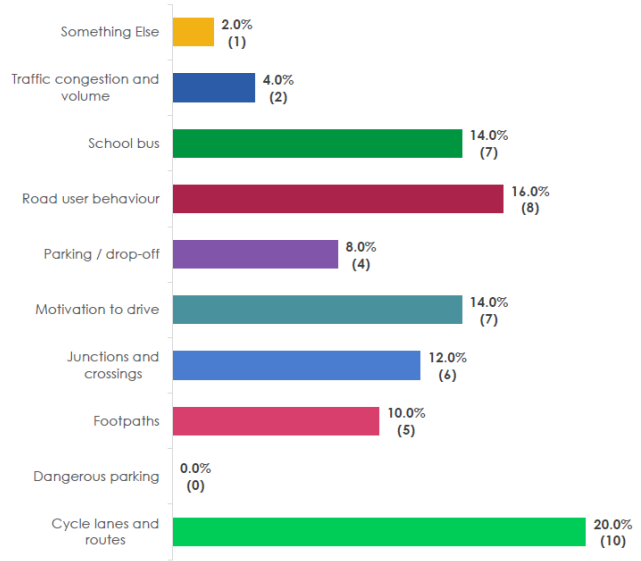
Q8. Would you support works that improve the walking and cycling routes to your school?



Q9. What improvements would support you to walk, cycle or scoot to school?

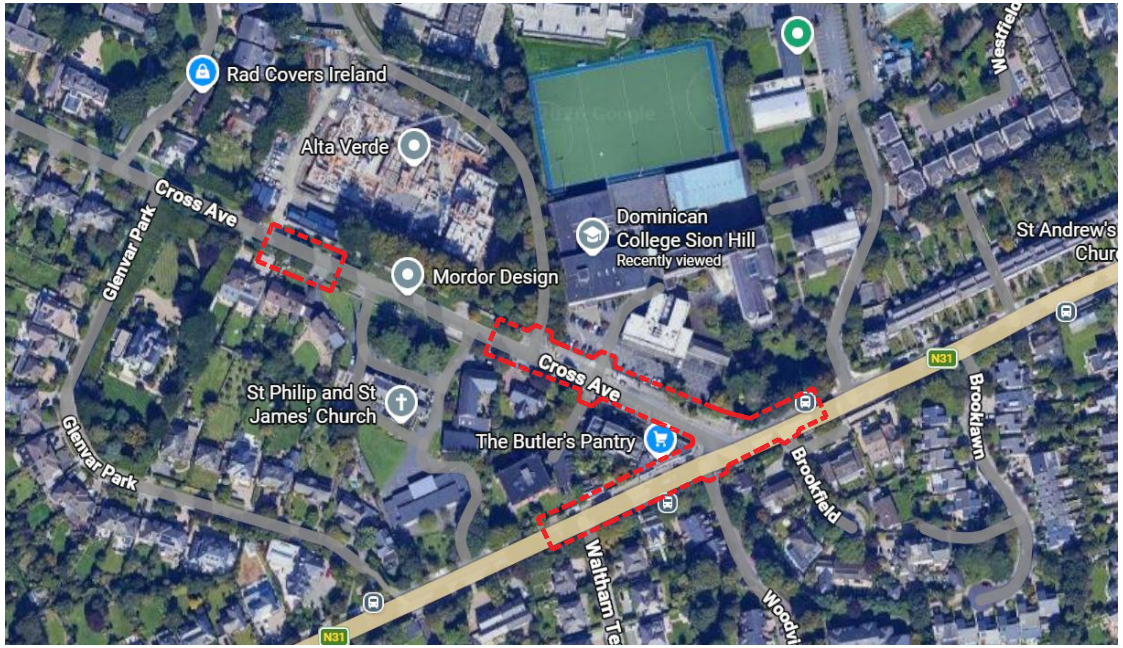


Parent Comments





Existing entrance to Dominican College Sion Hill on Cross Avenue

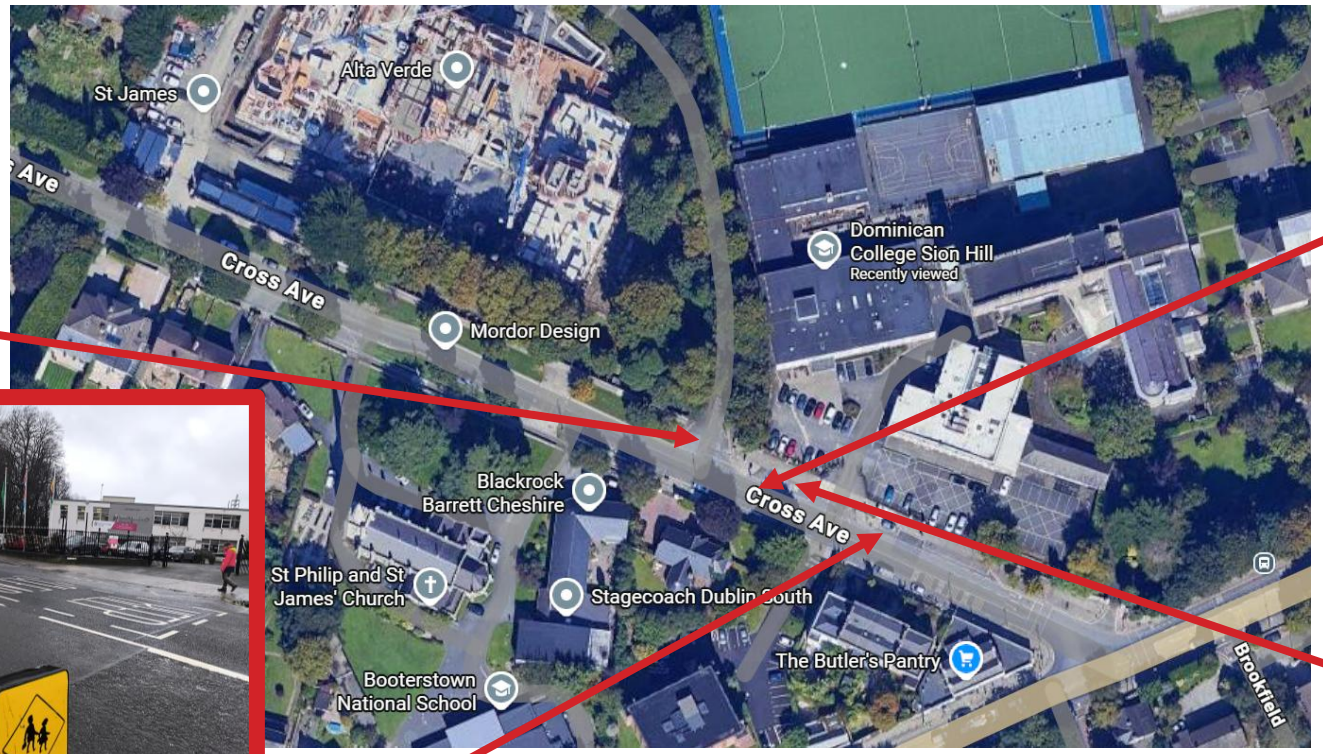


Indicative location of the proposed works

Challenges at the Existing School Entrance of Dominican College Sion Hill (Cross Avenue)



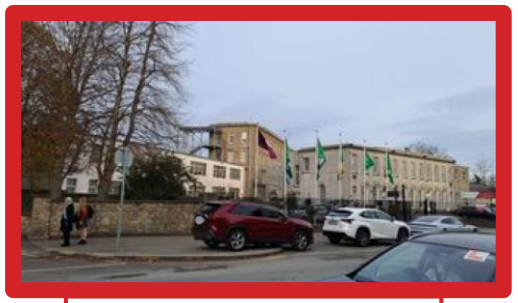
No adequate crossing features at entrance to Blackrock College



No crossing facilities at school entrance – heavy traffic



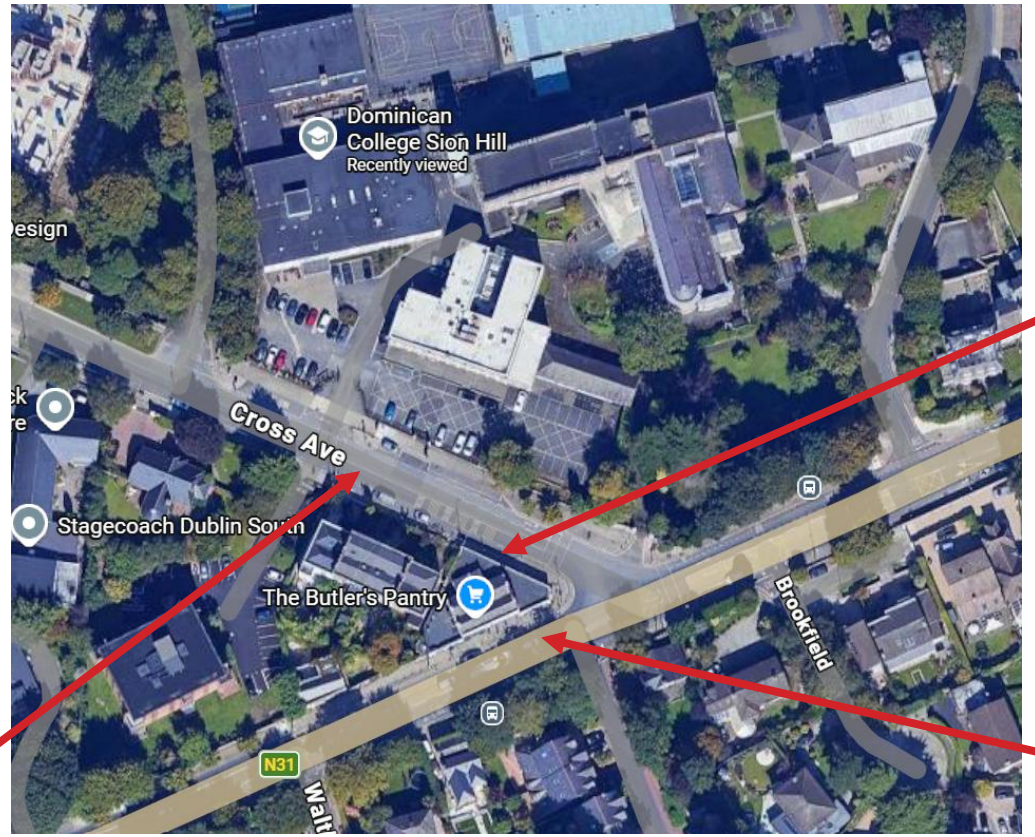
Drivers making 3-point turns and U-turns after drop off/pick up



Dangerous and illegal parking

Challenges near the Junction with N31 Mount Merrion Avenue

- Traffic congestion during school opening and closing hours
- Improve safety of children approaching school and crossing the road at school entrance





School environment poorly defined

Need to increase awareness of school zone

Lack of cycle infrastructure along Cross Avenue



Drainage issues during autumn, accumulation of wet leaves

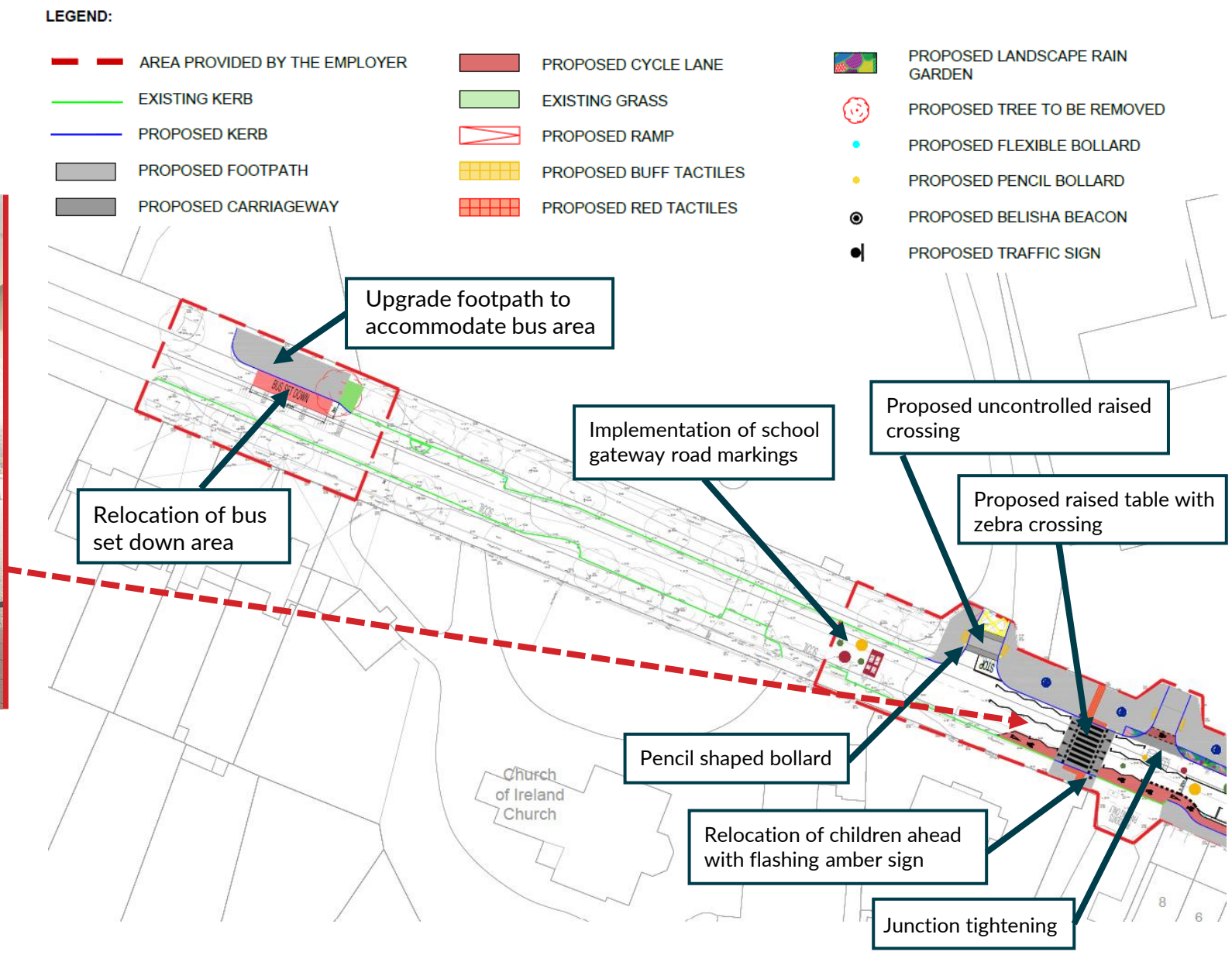


High demand pedestrian crossing

Design Proposal Main Improvements – Cross Avenue



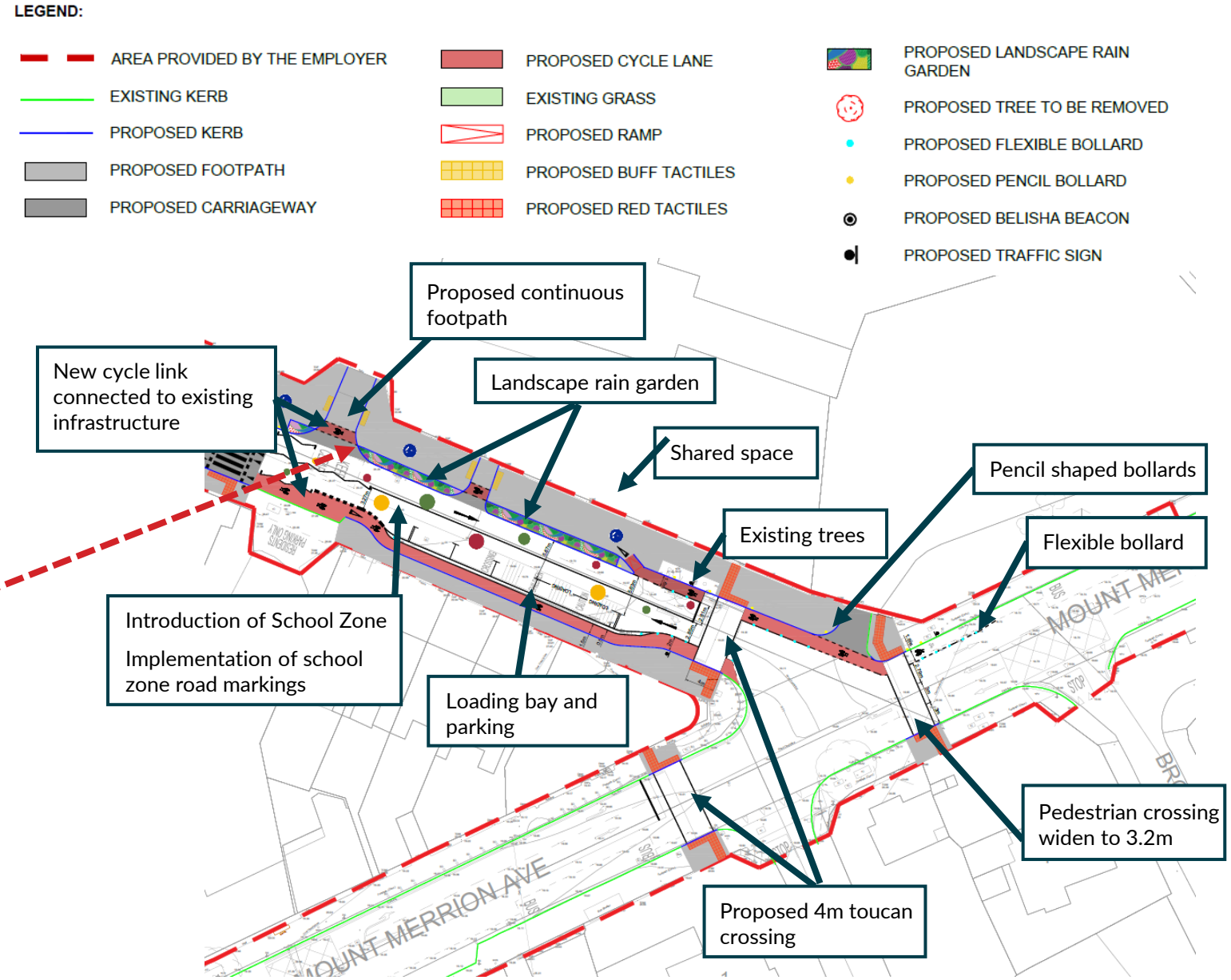
Visualisation of the proposed design for the Dominican College Sion Hill pedestrian entrance, vehicular access and surroundings



Design Proposal Main Improvements – Cross Avenue



Visualisation of the proposed design for Dominican College Sion Hill western approach



Design Elements of Proposed Scheme



Pencil shaped bollards



Speed ramp



Cold applied high friction buff surface



Low level shrub planting in low planters



Micro art



Zebra crossing



Continuous footpaths at junctions



SUDS, low level shrub planting



School branding/ banner totem



Raised pedestrian crossing



School gateway road markings



Segregated cycle track

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