



# Summary of Student Travel Survey: Hawea Flat School

## Classroom Counts on Travel Choice – March 2011

### Background

Hawea Flat School has been implementing a school travel plan since 2009 and is one of five travel planning schools working in partnership with Queenstown Lakes District Council. The main goal of the programme is to increase safe travel choices for children and to work with the school community to address any road safety issues which come out of this process.

Students were asked how they got to and from school over a period of 5 days in March 2011. The data given in this report shows what these travel patterns were over the week, how they relate to each year group, and how this data from March 2011 compared with an earlier survey in May 2010. Children were also asked how they would *like* to travel to school if they had the choice.

Student travel surveys will be carried out at Hawea Flat School at a similar time every 12 months in order to build a profile of travel choice over time. This information can also help the school and the council monitor the school's travel plan programme.

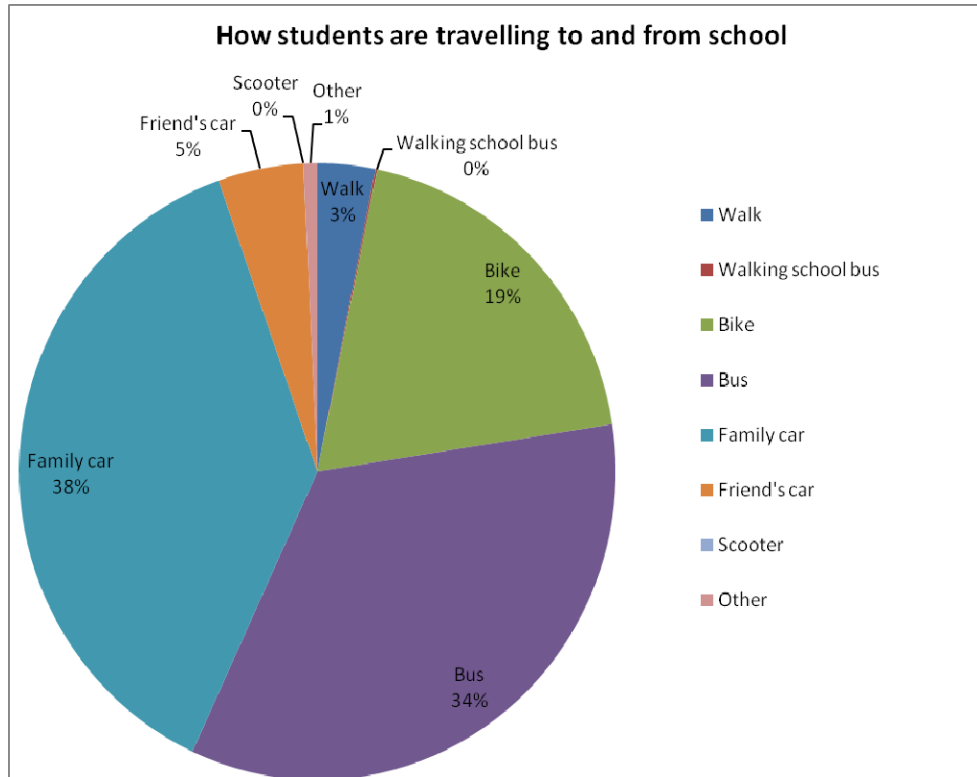
### Methodology

To collect classroom or 'hands up surveys', teachers ask students each morning how they travelled to and from school over a period of five days. We try and encourage teachers to oversee data collection, but some classes with older students elect a student to record this. We ask that rainy days and school trips are noted on the survey sheet.

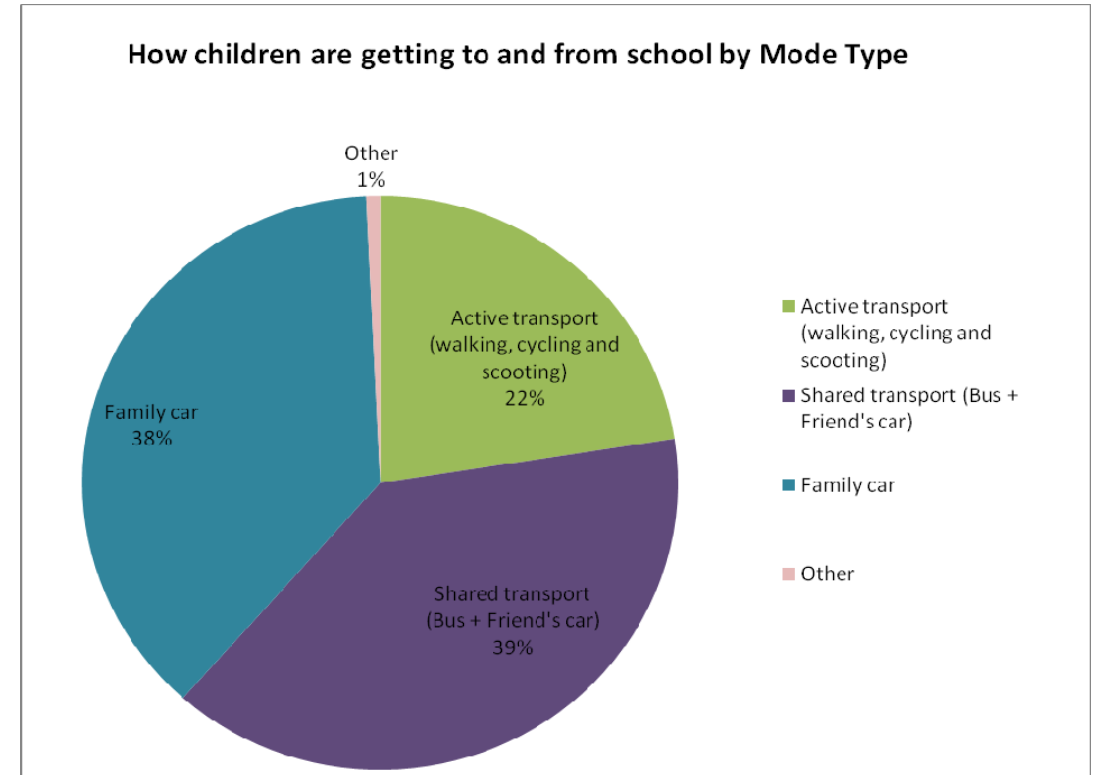
Participation rates for student surveys are generally high, with nearly all children present in the classroom having their answers recorded and most classes at school taking part. In this survey, we got data from 122 students (approx 80% of the school roll) compared to 90% participation rate in the May 2010 student survey. March was a busy time in the term with lots of competing activities and some data from classrooms was missing. No wet days were recorded for the March survey.

# How students are getting to and from Hawea Flat School in March 2011

**Figure 1:**



**Figure 2:**



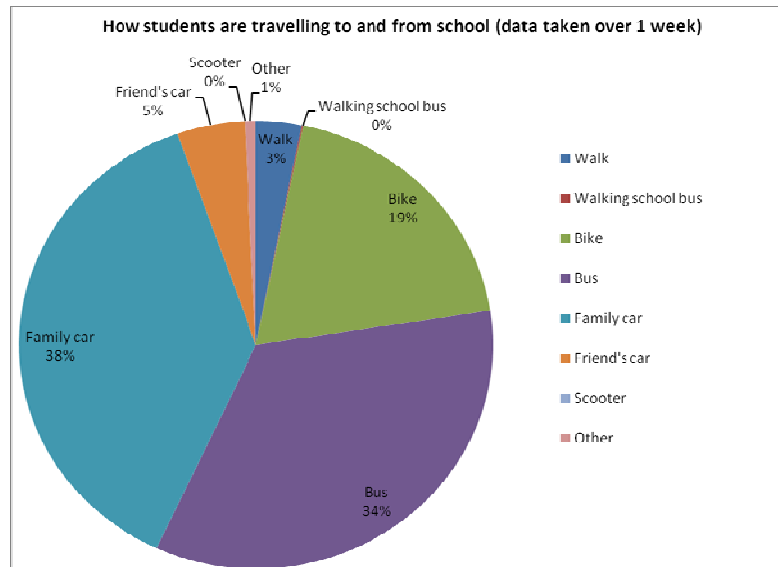
**Figure 1** gives a full breakdown of travel modes for students over a 5 day period. Nearly 40% of the trips students made during this week were in the family car, with just over a third travelling by bus.

**Figure 2** shows travel modes grouped into; active forms of transport (walking, cycling and scooting), shared motorised transport (bus and carpooling) compared to trips in the family car. This shows that just around 61% of trips are via active or shared transport, with 38% coming by car.

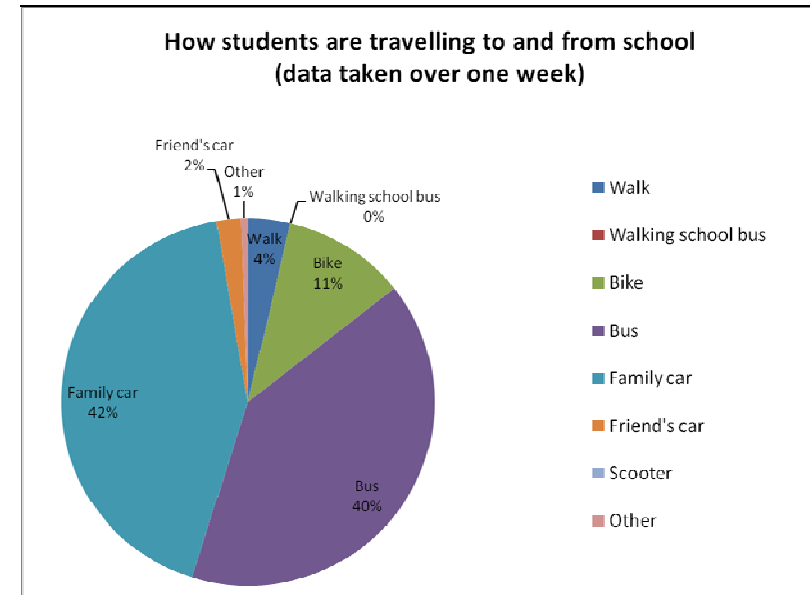
# How students are travelling to school: Comparisons of two surveys

These graphs compare data from March 2011 from an earlier survey carried out in May 2010

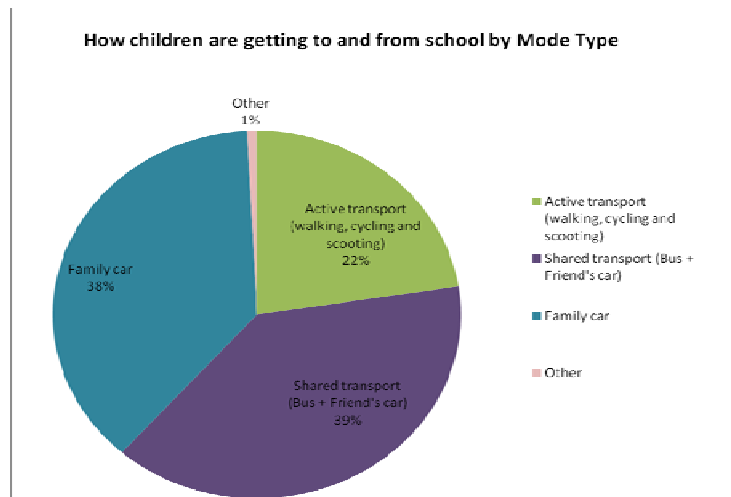
**Figure 3: Breakdown of *all modes* in March 2011:**



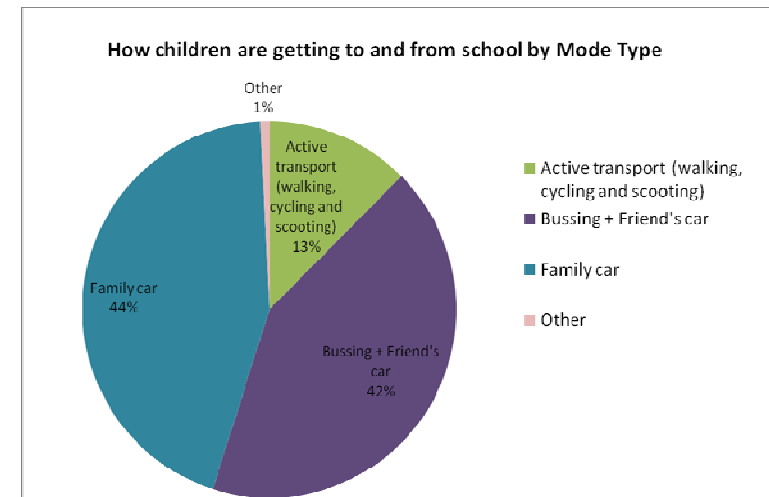
**Figure 4: Breakdown of *all modes* for May 2010:**



**Figure 5: Groups of *transport type* in March 2011:**



**Figure 6: Groups of *transport type* in May 2010:**



## How children *currently* travel to school and how they would *like* to travel

Figure 7: Data from March 2011:

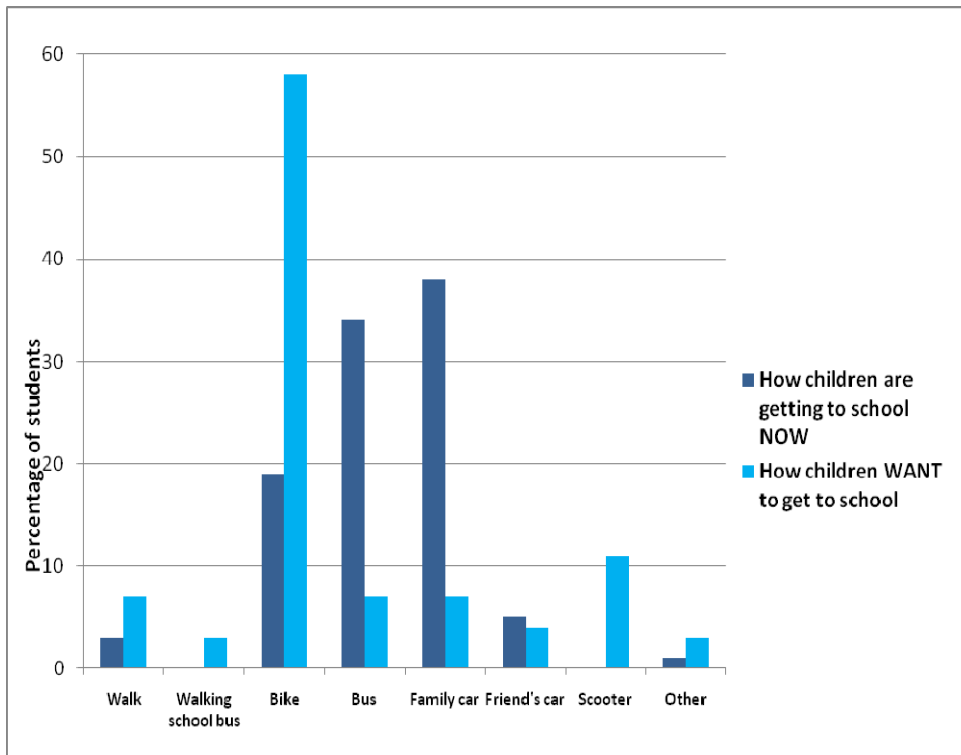
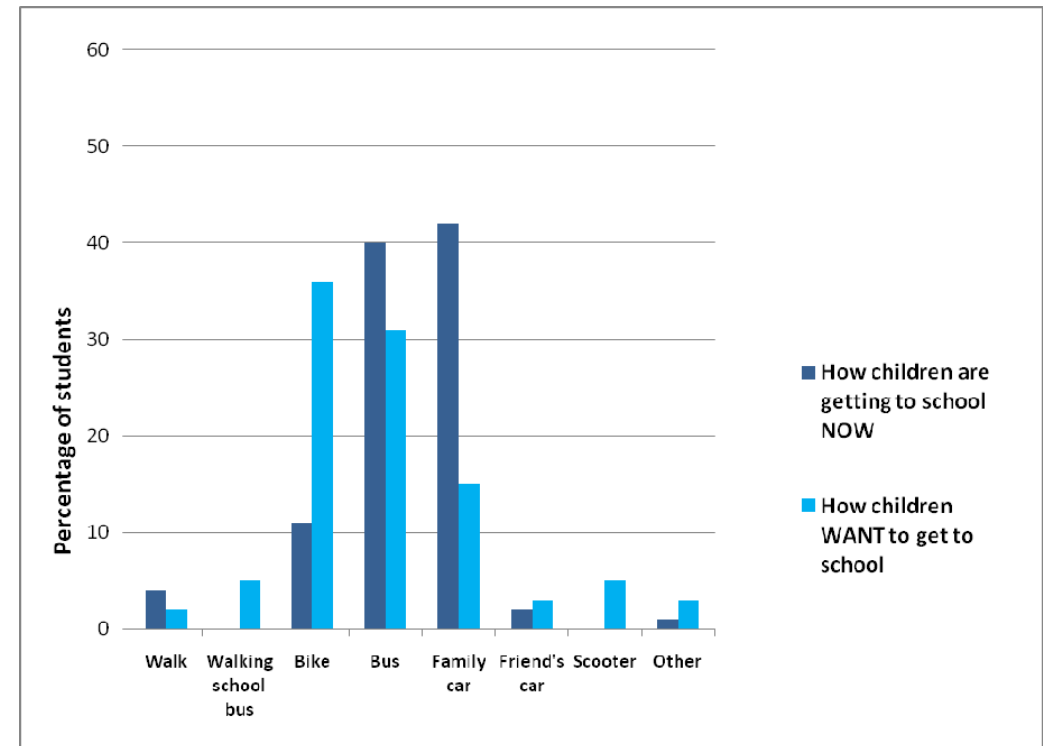


Figure 8: Data from May 2010:

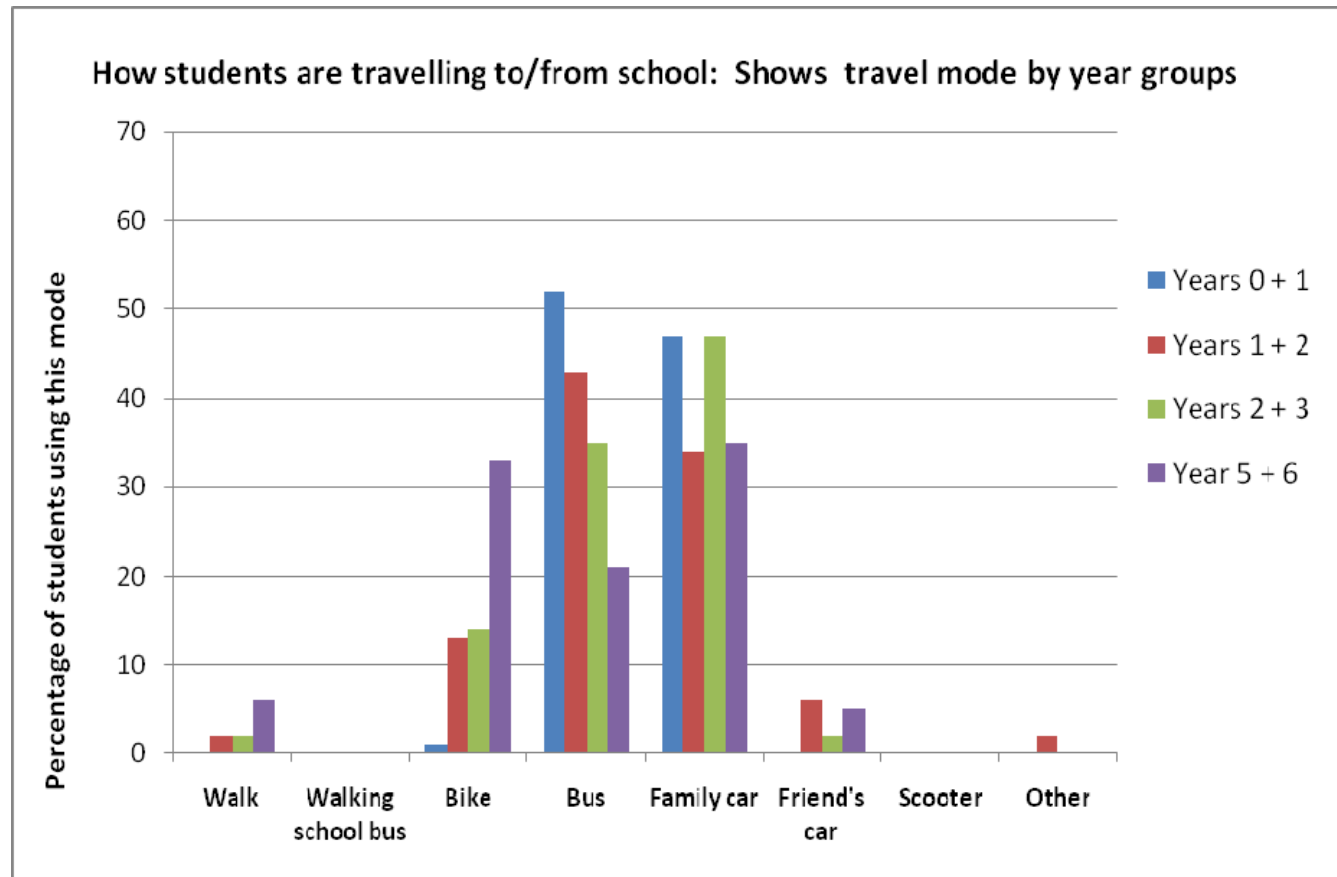


This data shows how children are *currently* getting to school compared to *preferred travel modes* in two different surveys; March 2011 and May 2010.

In both surveys, being driven to school is the main travel mode and biking is the students' most preferred option. Data in March 2011 shows nearly 60% of students would *like* to bike, compared to the 19% who are *currently* biking. Conversely, nearly 40% of students are being driven to school in March, even though just 7% would *choose* to get to school this way. There is a noticeable spike in the number of children who *want to bike* to school. It is difficult to know to attributes these changes, but season may influence this, as may the fact that March data was taken near "walk n wheels week".

## Mode of Travel for Different Year Groups for March 2011

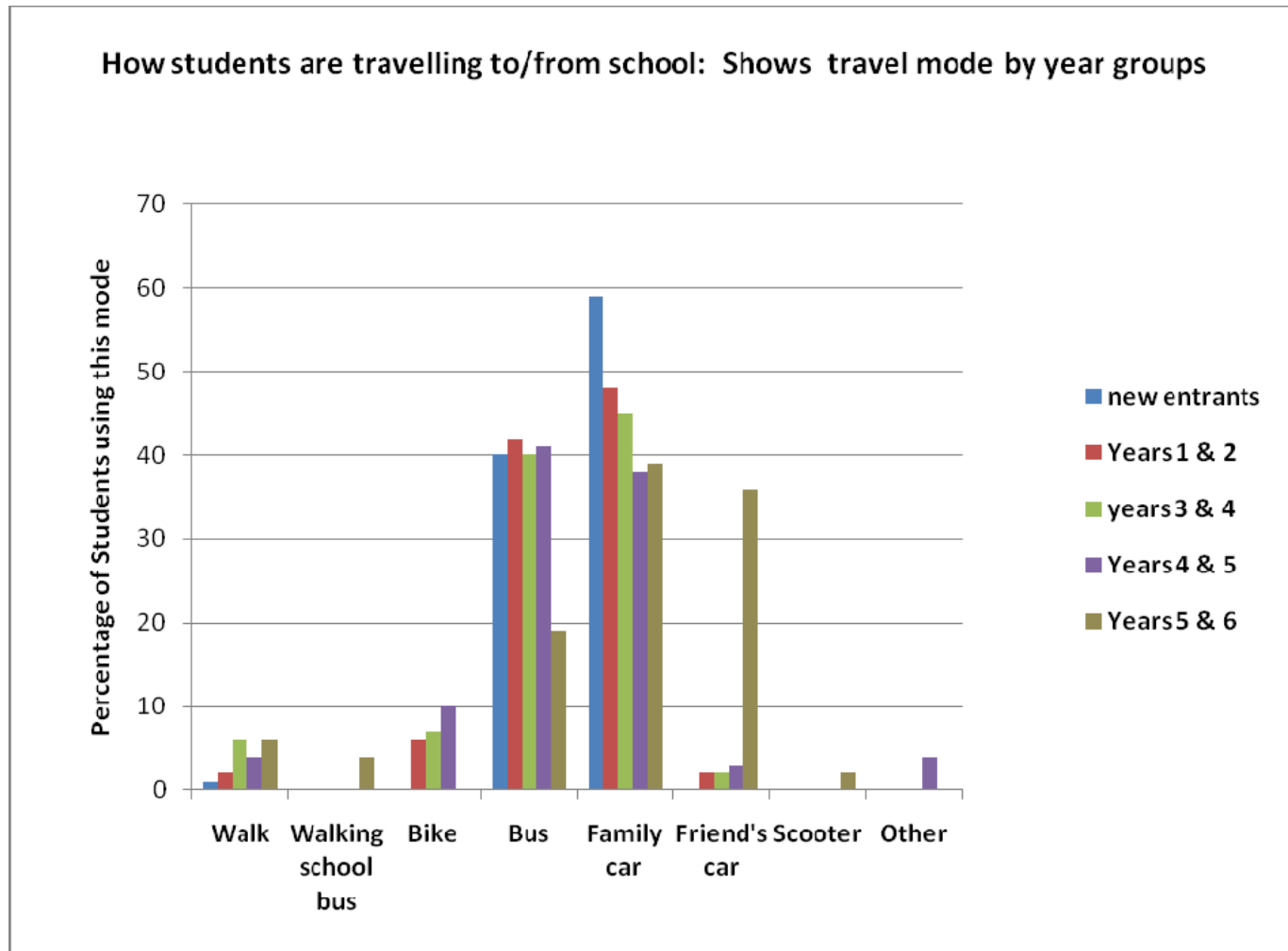
Figure 9:



**Note:** data was missing from Year 4 class

## Mode of Travel for Different Year Groups for May 2010

Figure 10:



## OPPORTUNITIES

- Biking to school is a consistent favourite with Hawea Flat children – a trend which is typical of many primary schools surveyed in the district. The numbers of children wanting to bike has increased in March and the numbers of Year 5/6 children currently biking is also increased.
- Hawea Flat School continues to support cycling and there is a lot of potential to tap into students' enthusiasm to encourage safe cycling, particularly in the warmer months. Special bike to school days, cycle skills and bike safety checks have proved popular and each new programme shows that safety messages are getting through.
- Hawea Flat School families are geographically dispersed, indicated by the high numbers using the school bus service and previous parent travel surveys. Biking or walking is often impractical given the distances involved and the rural road environment (100km/h speed limits with little or no shoulder in parts). However locals witness high numbers of children biking and walking from nearby subdivisions (Hawea Flat itself) to the school and the new shared pathways which are now established have further enhanced this.

*For more information about the travel plan programme, please contact Kirsty Barr on 03 443 8609 or [barrkerr@ts.co.nz](mailto:barrkerr@ts.co.nz). You can also contact Denis Mander at Queenstown Lakes District Council on 03 441 0499 or visit [www.qldc.govt.nz](http://www.qldc.govt.nz).*