



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council



Údarás Náisiúnta Iompair
National Transport Authority



SAFE ROUTES
TO SCHOOL

Gaelscoil De hÍde, Oranmore

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Aug 2025

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Overview

Galway County Council in conjunction with The National Transport Authority and An Taisce Green Schools aims to provide a Safe Routes to School Scheme (SRTS) for Gaelscoil De hÍde, Ard Na Mara Road, Oranmore. Gaelscoil De hÍde was successful with their application in 2021 for inclusion in the SRTS programme. The project aims to provide a range of measures designed at providing safer access to the school by enhancing footpaths & cycleways, providing safer crossing points, and highlighting the school zone.

Background

The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Programme is a programme devised by the National Transport Authority (NTA) in partnership with Green Schools, An Taisce. The programme was developed in 2020 to satisfy demand for support for schools to increase walking and cycling to school. The aims of the programme are to improve safety at the school gate by providing 'front of school' treatments to alleviate congestion and improve access, improve access routes to school by improving walking and cycling infrastructure, and increase the number of students who cycle to school by expanding the amount of cycle parking. The works are categorised into two groups: front of school measures and routes to school measures and can include visibility improvements in the School Zone and Gateway Areas, new/upgraded walking and cycling infrastructure, safer pedestrian crossing points, junction treatments, upgrades to existing school entrances, and improvements to permeability links

Scheme Location

This scheme is located on L-41034, Ard Na Mara Road, Oranmore, Co. Galway. Fig 1 below illustrates the location in proximity to Oranmore village.

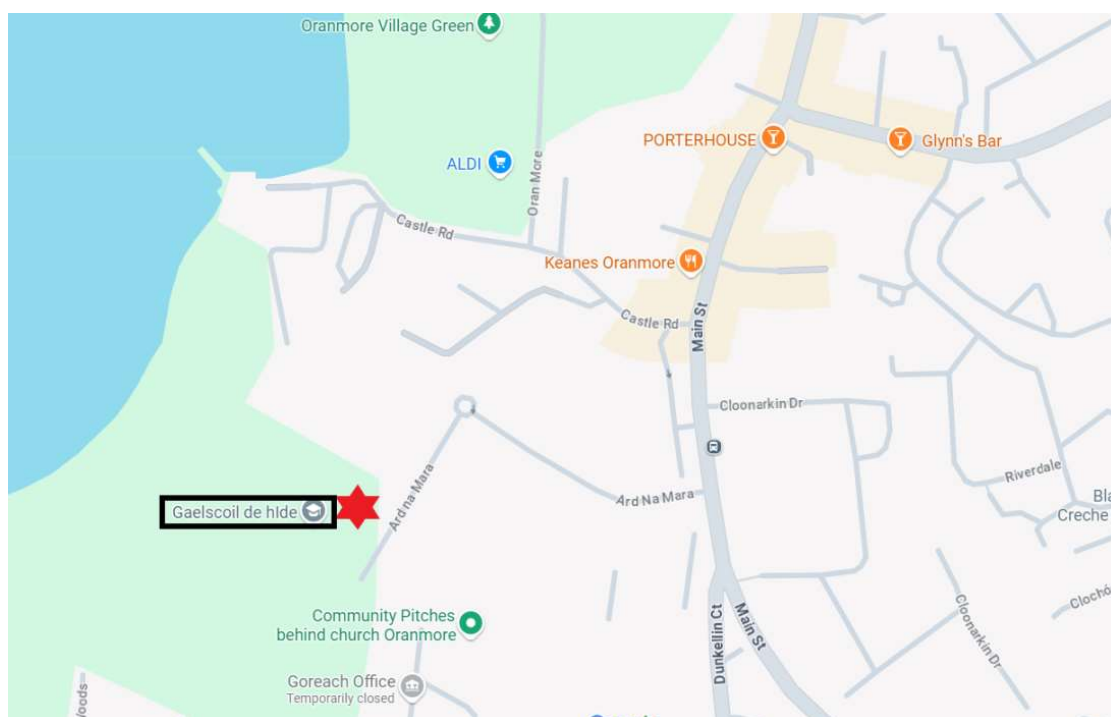


Fig 1- Scheme Location

Project Objectives

The primary objectives for this Project are as follows:

- To encourage more students to walk and cycle to school
- To increase road safety and driver awareness in the vicinity of the schools
- To provide for better and safer access to public transport
- To provide for better permeability linkages between schools and other trip generators
- To reduce reliance on car trips and increase modal shift by providing sustainable alternatives
- To ensure accessibility for all

Summary of Proposed Measures

Design proposals at **Gaelscoil de hÍde** can be summarised as follows:

- Junction tightening and a ramped zebra crossing to CDM has been provided at the junction between Ard na Mara and Main Street along with appropriate connections and tie-ins to existing infrastructure.
- Red Surfacing has been applied to existing cycle lanes and SRTS pencil bollards have been added to separate the cycle lanes from the carriageway.
- SRTS branding has been added at the junction of Ard na Mara and Main Street and elsewhere.
- The width of the set down area outside Scoil Mhuire has been reduced and a cycle track has been placed to the back of it to facilitate the provision of a continuous cycle facility. A shared use facility has been provided on the southern quadrant of the adjacent roundabout, between existing ramped zebra crossings for the same purpose.
- A bike stand has been added outside Scoil Mhuire.
- 3 No. existing zebra crossings have been retained

Design proposals for Gaelscoil de hÍde are illustrated in the drawing attached to this consultation.

What has been done so far?

We have progressed through Phase 3 (Gateway 3 approval) of a 7 stage NTA Project Approval Process. Figure 2 below illustrates the 7 stages of this process.



Fig 2- NTA's Project Approval Process

What happens next?

This is Phase 4 of the process of the NTA project cycle, Statutory consultation stage of the project. The project is being progressed under Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994. The public are invited to view the online material, and representations in relation to the proposed scheme may be made in writing to the Active Travel Section through the following two options only:

- In writing to the Active Travel Team, Galway County Council, Aras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway, H91 H6KX or,
- Electronically via <https://consult.galway.ie/>.

The deadline for submissions is Friday 22nd August 2025 at 12:00pm.

Please Note:

All comments, including the names of those making comments, submitted to the Council in regard to this scheme will form part of the report to be presented to the Executive of the Council. Accordingly, the report will list the persons or bodies who made submissions or observations with respect to the proposed Active Travel Scheme in accordance with the regulations of the Road Traffic Act 1994.

The submissions will also be included in the report being published on Consult.ie with the scheme determination. By making a submission it is accepted that the name of individuals or bodies will appear on the statutory report. Galway County Council will review all the comments and observations and consider where appropriate, changes to the design.