

HAPPEN

Children's Views of the National 20mph Speed Limit in Wales Fact Sheet



The Research

The HAPPEN team conducted a study to assess children's perceptions of the 20mph speed limit in Wales shortly after its implementation. Responses from the HAPPEN Survey were analysed and we carried out a focus group in a school in Swansea to understand attitudes towards the speed limit among primary school pupils in Wales.



1,066 pupils
from 25 schools
in 12 local
authorities



24%
said the speed
limit was a good
idea

Key Findings

Urban Areas Favoured Speed Limit

Children from built up areas said they liked the speed limit more than those from rural areas. There might be more awareness of road safety in populated areas.

The Influence of Age & Gender

Older children said they thought the speed limit was a good idea. Girls also had a more favourable opinion compared to boys. Some boys said they wanted faster driving.

Impact on Active Travel

Children who walked to school had more positive opinions about the speed limit, highlighting the role of walking regularly in shaping beliefs about road safety.

Wellbeing Correlation

Children reporting higher levels of wellbeing were more likely to view the speed limit positively, indicating a connection between overall wellbeing and attitudes towards road safety.

A focus group in Swansea emphasised the influence of their families on their perceptions of the speed limit. Having discussions with parents about speed cameras and sticking to the speed limit, significantly impacted children's attitudes towards responsible driving. Road safety interventions need to consider age, gender, lifestyle, and other influences to create a safer road environment for children in Wales.