

SCHOOL CRAWL: DROP OFF ADDS 22 MINUTES TO DAILY COMMUTE

- Road collisions during the 'school run' fall by up to 43% in holidays -

- **On average, commuters estimate they save 15 minutes per journey in the school holidays;**
- **65% of parents consider their commuting time when selecting their child's school;**
- **The average term time commute takes 32 minutes, with an EXTRA 22 minutes to drop children at school/nursery;**
- **Norwich drivers save the most time on their commute during the school holidays;**
- **Two thirds of drivers find it less stressful commuting during the holidays than in term time**

It's long been suspected and now a new investigation by [Admiral Car Insurance](#) has confirmed that the school crawl does play a significant part when it comes to the grind of the daily commute.

New research¹ reveals that the average commute of 20 miles or 32 minutes increases by 16 miles and an additional 22 minutes for drivers doing a school or nursery drop off.

Nearly half (48%) of those surveyed said they were late for work due to traffic at least once a month. But, when the school holidays come around, the average commuting time drops by a fifth (19%) to 26 minutes per journey.

As many parents find out this week whether their children have been accepted into their preferred primary school, Admiral revealed that 65% of parents considered commuting time when selecting their child's school or nursery. More than half (51%) said the commute was a factor in choosing their current job.

Despite the impact of the school crawl on commuting times, and that 71% of respondents felt too many parents drove their children to school during term time, Admiral found that four in five (80%) could use an alternative means to take their children to school, whether walking, cycling, by bus or train.

When it comes to safety, analysis of Admiral's own claims data from the last five years showed that the number of road collisions happening during the school run fell during the holidays. Admiral found there were on average 43% fewer collisions between 8am and 9am and 11% fewer collisions between 3pm and 4pm during the holidays in comparison to term time.

Stuck in the City

Regionally², those in Northern Ireland have the longest term-time commute at 43 minutes on average, with an extra 21 minutes for those who do a school/nursery drop off.

Commuters in Yorkshire fare the best, with an average term time commute of 28 minutes plus 17 more minutes for a school/nursery drop off. Those in the North West

benefit the most from the school holidays, with their average commute time dropping from 41 to 25 minutes, a saving of 16 minutes.

When it comes to individual cities, commuters in Aberdeen have the longest journey to work, taking an average of 53 minutes to do the daily commute.

The school crawl is worst in Belfast, with a 45 minute average commute **plus** an extra 42 minutes to complete a school/nursery drop off. Residents in Southampton have the shortest commute at just 23 minutes. The biggest school holiday saving is for commuters in Norwich, where their commute is cut by a third (32%) when the schools are shut, reducing from 45 to 31 minutes.

Commuting times by City:

City	Average commute (time) term time	Time to drop at school/nursery	Average commute (hols)	School holiday saving	How much time is saved in school holidays %
London	32	21	26	6	-18%
Birmingham	31	26	24	6	-21%
Leeds	29	17	23	6	-20%
Oxford	38	36	32	6	-15%
Norwich	45	31	30	14	-32%
Glasgow	34	20	30	4	-13%
Sheffield	40	31	31	8	-21%
Newcastle	32	21	26	6	-19%
Edinburgh	32	18	30	2	-7%
Liverpool	26	16	20	6	-22%
Manchester	27	18	20	7	-26%
Bristol	32	21	28	4	-11%
Cardiff	33	23	29	4	-11%
Coventry	42	22	31	11	-26%
Nottingham	32	40	25	7	-21%
Belfast	45	42	38	6	-14%
Aberdeen	53	7	43	9	-18%
Southampton	23	12	18	5	-22%

Regardless of city or region, statistics from the Department for Transport show that the 'school crawl' has an effect across the country's 'A' roads. Looking at the 'delay' on 'A' roads³ for the average weekday morning peak, the average vehicle took 29.5 seconds per mile longer in November (term time) than in August (school holidays).

	Monthly average delay weekday morning peak	Monthly average delay weekday evening peak
August 2018	36.5	54.6
November 2018	66.0	78.5
Difference	29.5 seconds per vehicle per mile LONGER in term time	23.9 seconds per vehicle per mile LONGER in term time

Source: DFT³

When asked why parents take their children to school/nursery by car, Admiral found 41% said it was the quickest option, 38% said it was too far to walk and 33% said it was so they could continue their commute to work afterwards.

Holiday heaven

Admiral also found commuters estimated that on average they saved 15 minutes per commute in the school holidays.

Admiral found spending more time in bed (23%) setting off at the same time but coming home earlier (18%) and taking more time getting ready for work (18%) were the top three things commuters did with time they saved during the school holidays. More than two thirds (67%) agreed it was less stressful getting to work during the school holidays than in term time.

School run scrapes

Analysing the types of collisions that happened on the morning and afternoon school run, Admiral found drivers were most likely to hit a third party in the rear during the morning rush hour, and to be hit by a third party whilst their car was parked or unattended during the afternoon school rush hour⁴.

Commenting on the findings, Sabine Williams, head of Motor at Admiral, said:

“Our investigation has laid bare the impact of the school run on the morning commute, with proof that dropping children at school or nursery is affecting all commuters, both those with and without children.

“What’s more, the ability to commute has an impact on the nursery and school places parents are selecting for their child, with two thirds admitting it was a factor when choosing where to send their kids. Those parents receiving confirmation of primary school places this week could find the school crawl is about to have a larger impact than anticipated.

“Not only do the school holidays mean shorter, less stressful commutes, they also mean a safer commute, with an average 43% fewer collisions during the morning rush hour in the holidays compared to term time.



“A huge 80% of parents admitted that they do have alternative options to the car for taking their children to school or nursery, and using them could reduce the time spent on the school crawl, commuter stress levels and car collision levels. In addition, ditching the car could help reduce pollution levels around schools. ”

**Steve Brooks, Wales’ Director of UK sustainable transport charity Sustrans
Director said:**

“It’s not surprising that research has found there are less traffic collisions during school holidays. Currently, roads outside schools are overcrowded and congested. This congestion is also affecting air quality with four out of ten children breathing toxic air at school.

“By improving and investing in better walking and cycling infrastructure, we could see an increase in children walking and cycling to school, lessening the amount of cars on the road during the school run. Reducing the number of cars is a key way to tackle the ongoing problem of congestion.

“The average school journey is 1.6 miles and yet one in four cars on the road during the morning peak are doing the school run. This distance could easily be travelled by walking, scooting and cycling to help tackle congestion and to improve air quality.

“Governments across all levels need to support families and schools to make walking and cycling possible and implement investment in walking and cycling paths and training programmes.”

Notes to editors

¹Research based on survey of 2000 commuters conducted March 2019. Further details subject to availability on request.

²Commuting times by region below

³Data on the average speed, delay and reliability of travel times on the local 'A' roads, produced by Department for Transport. (Seconds per vehicle per mile compared to free flowing traffic) <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/average-speed-delay-and-reliability-of-travel-times-cgn>

⁴Most common collision types

Rank	Morning school run	Afternoon school run
1	Insured hit Third Party in rear 16%	Third Party hit parked/unattended insured 13%
2	Third Party hit insured in rear 15%	Insured hit Third Party in rear 12%
3	Third Party hit parked/unattended insured 9%	Third Party hit insured in rear 12%
4	Insured hit parked/unattended Third Party 6%	Insured hit parked/unattended Third Party 7%
5	Third Party pulled out of minor road 6%	Third Party pulled out of minor road 5%

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About Admiral:

Admiral (a trading name of EUI Ltd and part of Admiral Group plc) is a UK based insurance company, founded in 1993 to specialise in car insurance. In 2005, it launched MultiCar, a product designed to help people with two or more cars get a better deal and in 2013, it launched its telematics product LittleBox which helps safe drivers receive discounts based on their driving style. Admiral also offers other insurance products including home insurance, travel insurance, pet insurance, van insurance, learner driver insurance and recently MultiCover, enabling customers to insure their cars and home on one policy. Admiral was also voted the UK's Best Car Insurance Provider at the 2017/18 Personal Finance Awards and the Admiral Group employs over 6,200 people in the UK and has over 4 million UK customers.

Additional data:

²Commuting times by region:

Region	Average commute in term time	Time added for school/nursery run	Average commute in school holidays	Average time saving in hols
East Midlands	33	24	25	8
East/ East Anglia	41	32	30	11
London	34	23	28	6
North East	35	21	30	5
North West	41	21	25	16
NI	43	21	36	7
Scotland	31	40	26	5
South East	31	21	25	6
South West	30	19	25	5
Wales	30	27	27	3
W Midlands	28	20	23	5
Yorkshire & the Humber	28	17	23	5