

School Streets

A School Street is a road outside a school which restricts access by motorised traffic during school drop-off and pick-up times. The restriction applies to school traffic, through traffic and residential traffic alike. This results in a safer, healthier and more pleasant environment for everyone.

School Streets are also a great way to tackle air pollution, poor health and reduce road danger. A School Street can encourage a healthier lifestyle and active travel to school for families and lead to a better environment for everyone.

Why School Streets?

In recent years roads around schools have become plagued with an influx of traffic at drop off and pick up times. This increases the risk of collisions with vulnerable road users and other motorists, unlawful and inconsiderate parking, congestion and road rage. Pedestrians and cyclists are left feeling that the road is no place for them, this has long implications for everyone especially children.

Statistics from the Department of Transport reveal that 14% of children killed on Great Britain's roads in 2018 were between the morning school run (7-9am) and 23% after school between 3-5pm.

For the past 30 years, children have been increasingly removed from the roads which have been abandoned to motor vehicles. This has created a vicious cycle, because traffic makes the roads unsafe, parents will drive their children everywhere therefore creating more traffic and pollution as well as parents and children getting less exercise.

It's time to break the cycle by supporting families to switch to active travel to school by making it clear that motor vehicles have no place outside school gates.

What will this look like?

This will look slightly different outside each school depending on the nature of the road. In general a section of road outside the school will be closed using bollards or a gate for a period of time that is agreed with the school at the beginning and end of the school day. A member of staff will manage the closure of the road each day and will be on hand for the duration of the closure to ensure that emergency vehicles have access if required.

How will the school street be enforced?

Outside of London Enforcement rests with the police. The police do not have the resources to physically staff each School Street so the closure needs to be self enforcing. This means, installing a physical barrier such as bollards or a gate to ensure the restrictions are observed.

What are the benefits?

There are many benefits of introducing a school street! Here are a few:

- ★ By walking or cycling to school it will help children meet the recommended 60 minutes a day of moderate to vigorous physical activity which can improve their physical health.
- ★ Active travel to school can also have mental health benefits such as reduced stress, depression and anxiety and increasing happiness.
- ★ The extra exercise can also help reduce childhood obesity.
- ★ Increased physical activity associated with the school journey has been found to increase children's attention and alertness during their school day.
- ★ Physical activity can lead to improved learning and academic outcomes by supporting healthy brain development.
- ★ By walking or cycling to school you will be helping to reduce particulate air pollution around the school which will improve the air quality and reduce the associated risk of lung and cardiovascular diseases.
- ★ Reducing the amount of traffic around the school creates a safer place for everyone. It improves walking and cycling routes to school and enhances the safety, connectivity and quality of life for the whole community.