

# School Streets FAQs

## **What is a School Street?**

A School Street is a timed road closure at the beginning and the end of the school day designed to improve safety for the children and parents using the school. Trained volunteer marshals will physically restrict vehicle access while the School Street is in operation, through the use of moveable barriers.

It may take some time for everyone to adjust to a new School Street, but the end result is a healthier environment for everyone.

## **What is the purpose of a School Street?**

- To create a healthier and more pleasant environment for families arriving at school, while also tackling congestion and reducing risk from motorised vehicles
- To encourage active travel to and from school
- To improve air quality in the immediate area outside of the school
- To encourage a long-lasting shift away from the car

## **When are the School Street restrictions in force?**

The operating hours are dependent on the school and the area in which the school street is located. Typically, the marshals will be restricting access to the road for 45 to 60 minutes around the school's morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up periods. This will be during term-time weekdays only. A School Street does not operate during school holidays, INSET days or at weekends. The operating time of the restrictions will be displayed on the traffic signs on the site.

## **Is this legal?**

The temporary controls on the use of motor vehicles in School Streets sites have been implemented under an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order. This traffic order forms the legal basis for the School Streets closure and the activity of the marshals.

## **Are local residents and businesses consulted?**

The School Streets are being implemented on a trial basis using an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO). An ETRO allows local people to submit feedback to the County Council based on real-life experiences while the scheme is in operation, so that all aspects of the scheme can be considered before any decisions are made on whether to make the order/scheme permanent. More information is available at: [myjourneyhampshire.com/hants-school-streets](http://myjourneyhampshire.com/hants-school-streets). If you have any enquiries or feedback on the scheme, please contact: [safertools@hants.gov.uk](mailto:safertools@hants.gov.uk) or the participating school.

### **What if I'm already parked inside the School Street zone when it comes into operation?**

All vehicles already parked in the street before the times of operation would be able to leave when they need to. The School Streets marshals are able to let you out of the School Street zone. However, it is requested that where possible, you avoid moving your vehicle during the closure and if you must move your vehicle, you should do so at walking pace.

### **Will this move parking issues elsewhere?**

The aim of the School Street is to encourage a change in travel habits, toward a more active and sustainable transport choice. The scheme encourages the use of walking, scooting and cycling as an alternative to the use of the car for local journeys. Evidence from school streets schemes across the country indicates that displaced parking is not typically an issue, however we will be monitoring the impact of the scheme on local roads during the trial period, to see if existing traffic or parking issues are displaced onto other roads in the area. If this occurs, we can modify the scheme as required and also work with the school to promote other active travel initiatives (such as Park and Stride).

### **Who is exempt from School Streets restrictions?**

Specific arrangements differ between School Streets, but in all cases blue badge holders, emergency vehicles and school staff would be able to enter the School Street zone during the closure times. Access is also maintained for residents and businesses with premises within the closure, as well as their visitors, such as deliveries and carers. The school may also provide a list of exemptions, which would usually include home to school transport services arranged by the school. It is also important to remember that this is a School Streets trial. If it was agreed to implement School Streets as a permanent arrangement, exemptions would be one aspect of the scheme that would be examined based on feedback during the trial.

### **I'm a blue badge holder, would I still be able to access the School Street zone?**

Yes. Blue badge holders would be able to enter the School Street zone. You would be required to drive at walking pace (maximum 5mph) within the zone to ensure the safety of people within it.

### **I'm a parent or carer, could I drive into the School Street zone?**

No. Parents or carers dropping children at school are not able to drive into a School Street zone unless they can show that they are exempt. You would still be able to walk, cycle or scoot to school on the closed streets. The school will also be promoting the locations where they encourage parents to Park and Stride from, which is usually a short walk from the school.

### **How long do School Streets last?**

School Streets are being implemented on a trial basis, using Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders. The trial period will be until at least the October half-term (end of October 2021), at which time a decision will be made on whether to continue the trial for a longer duration. If

the trial is judged to be successful, based on the results of monitoring and feedback from the school community and local residents over a longer period of time, the restrictions may be made permanent.

### **Are the Stewards DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checked?**

No, stewards do not need to be DBS checked because they are there to manage the road closure. They are not responsible for pupils, who will remain the responsibility of the parents / carers on the journey to and from the school grounds, and the school while on the school site.

### **Who do I contact if I want to find out more about a School Street in my area?**

More information is available at: [myjourneyhampshire.com/hants-school-streets](http://myjourneyhampshire.com/hants-school-streets). If you have any enquiries or feedback on the scheme, please contact: [saferplaces@hants.gov.uk](mailto:saferplaces@hants.gov.uk) or the participating school.

### **What is the County Council doing to encourage and promote active travel to school and road safety?**

The County Council has a number of long-standing, and free comprehensive services which are offered to schools:

The Road Safety Team provides a range of initiatives for all age groups including Bikeability, Junior Road Safety Officer training and pedestrian training, ensuring that schools are able to equip children with the skills and road safety awareness that they need.

[www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadsafety](http://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadsafety)

Through the County Council's active travel brand, My Journey Hampshire, the Travel Planning Team aims to work with schools to look at the barriers to active travel, working in partnership with the school, and then engaging in a package of educational, promotional and capital measures to seek to reduce or remove those barriers.

[www.myjourneyhampshire.com/education](http://www.myjourneyhampshire.com/education)