

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

A School Street creates a pedestrian and cycling zone, encouraging more children to walk or cycle to school, helping them stay healthy. School Streets also help to provide cleaner air, reducing vehicle movement and create a safer and more pleasant start and end to the day for everyone in and around school communities.

## **How does a School Street work?**

A School Street limits motor vehicle access at pick-up and drop-off times during term-time, perhaps using a barrier such as a line of cones, depending on each individual scheme. Some smaller schemes may use signage only. Residents and businesses within the School Street zone, blue badge holders and emergency vehicles are permitted to enter or leave the School Street. The main aim of the scheme is to prevent the School Street being used by through-traffic and to encourage parents who could walk from home not to park outside the school.

A new School Street can take a few months for everyone to adjust to the changes, but the result is a safer and healthier environment for everyone.

## **Why do we want to create School Streets?**

In other areas School Streets have helped with a number of issues, to:

- Reduce congestion and vehicles travelling through the School Street when large numbers of children and parents are present
- Reduce pollution close to school with fewer engines running
- Encourage more walking, cycling and active journeys from pupils and parents/carers
- Reduce inconsiderate parking and dangerous manoeuvres
- Create a calmer, safer and cleaner environment

School Streets also provide additional space to support social distancing in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **Can I comment on School Streets?**

Yes, we would love to hear from you. Please contact [school.streets@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:school.streets@bradford.gov.uk)

## **Are School Streets a permanent scheme?**

With the support of schools, we are trying out School Streets for several months under an Experimental Traffic Order to enable us to monitor any impacts before considering the possibility of making the schemes permanent. Though we encourage everyone to support the School Street if our findings are positive, taking part in the trial period does not mean you will have to make the scheme permanent at your school.

### **Does the Council consult with local residents and businesses?**

Yes. The Council will gather feedback from children, parents, residents and businesses.

### **Who will be exempt from the School Street restrictions?**

People walking, scooting, using wheelchairs, mobility scooters and cycles (including adapted cycles) are not restricted.

All other motor vehicles are restricted during the operating times displayed on the signs, subject to the exemptions below.

Though we encourage everyone to support the School Street, where they are able, the following motorised vehicles are allowed access:

- Residents and businesses within the School Street zone
- Blue badge holders (when their destination is within the School Street zone)
- Emergency vehicles
- Carers and healthcare workers visiting residents within the School Street zone
- Council waste trucks making collections within the School Street zone
- Postal service vehicles emptying post boxes within the School Street zone
- Emergency companies such as water and gas attending emergency works within the School Street zone
- School buses and school transport within the School Street zone
- Public transport and taxis (Hackney Carriage and private hire) picking up or dropping off within the School Street zone

### **What if I am already parked inside the School Street zone before the operating time?**

You will be in contravention of the legal Order if you drive along a School Street during its operational times (unless you have a permit issued by the Council). Any vehicle already parked in the zone before the operating time will have to remain in its parked position until the end of the operating time.

### **How will parents, carers and children with limited mobility be affected by the School Street?**

The School Street will make it easier for pupils, parents and carers with limited mobility to access the school by reducing traffic outside the school gates. Those holding valid blue badges will be exempt from the restrictions but should still avoid parking on school 'keep clear' (zigzag) markings.

### **Will the School Street cause a displacement of traffic?**

We expect that the introduction of a School Street will reduce the total volumes of traffic near to the school during drop-off and pick-up times.

It is difficult to predict exactly how much traffic will be reduced. This is why we are testing out School Streets with an experimental traffic order.

There is potential for parking to be dispersed over a wider area rather than concentrated outside the school gates. We will be working with the school and local community to identify locations away from schools where parents can park safely without obstructing residents on neighbouring streets.

### **Should parents and carers be driving children to school to avoid public transport during the COVID-19 pandemic?**

No. The government encourages parents and children and young people to walk or cycle to their education setting where possible.

As part of the initial investigations before considering a School Street, a travel survey is carried out so that the Council has an understanding of existing travel behaviour.

### **Some parents or carers will say that it's essential that they drive their child to school; is this scheme designed to penalise them?**

No. The aim is to make the journey to school safer, healthier and more enjoyable for children, parents and the whole community, not to penalise parents. Those who cannot avoid using a car for children to travel to school, can park slightly further away and walk the last part of the journey. We will work with schools to accommodate any special needs.

Many children already walk, scoot or cycle to school. A School Street should help to make it safer and more enjoyable, with less traffic and cleaner air around the school.

If there are ways that you feel we can improve the scheme, we'd love to hear from you via [school.streets@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:school.streets@bradford.gov.uk)

### **How will the scheme be managed?**

The Council will provide initial support and monitoring. Schools, where possible, will look for volunteers to help marshal the scheme to make sure it is safe. Marshals are to be provided with specialist training.

## **How will the scheme be enforced?**

The scheme will be marshalled by volunteers working with Council officers. Only the Police can take enforcement action. The scheme is designed to improve the experience for children, parents and residents who are encouraged to support the scheme to make the street safer and more pleasant. Vehicles are not to be restricted using physical barriers or bollards. Volunteer marshals may help by managing the zones with cones.

The owners of vehicles entering School Streets during operational hours without having applied for an exemption, will receive a Fixed Penalty Notice.

## **How will visitors know about the School Street?**

Signs will be installed at the entrances to the restricted zones, informing people of the timed closure outside the school.

The Council will send flyers and letters to notify residents, parents, school staff and local businesses.

Prior to the School Street launch, and where possible, volunteer marshals will test a 'soft opening' of the School Street during the planned closure times and provide information about the upcoming changes to people who use the street during that time.

We ask the school and anyone within the School Street to tell their visitors about the restrictions when visits are being planned. Visitors can park on surrounding roads outside the closure.

## **How will the School Street be monitored?**

The Council will undertake traffic counts to measure vehicle levels and surveys to measure how children are travelling to school.

We will also launch a survey for parents, carers, residents and local stakeholders to understand the impacts of the School Streets on people in the area.

Observations and feedback is also invited from members of the public via [school.streets@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:school.streets@bradford.gov.uk)

### **Is this legal?**

Yes. Local authorities can implement Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) or Experimental Traffic Orders (ETROs) to control traffic in their area. The Department for Transport has issued statutory guidance to all local authorities in England to help them adapt their streets to provide safe space for walking and cycling.

School Streets support a healthier and more peaceful start and end to the school day. This is a huge benefit and we are keen to support their long-term success. We hope that residents, children, families and local businesses will see and feel the benefits.

### **What if I want to speak to the Council about the School Street?**

Please email [school.streets@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:school.streets@bradford.gov.uk).