

What is a School Street?

A School Street is where the streets around a school are closed to most vehicles for a short period at the start and end of the school day, during term time only.

Closing them to school and through traffic makes the area safer and nicer for everyone, and keeps access for vehicles registered to residents and businesses living in the zone, and good for people walking or cycling.

There are approximately 700 School Streets across London. By April 2025, 41 schools and 19,000 children and young people in Ealing borough will be benefitting from a School Street.

How do you know this school is suitable?

We have reviewed the location of all borough schools to determine which schools are suitable. We looked at the type of road, the road layout and the opportunity for alternative routes.

How and why is it enforced?

The School Street will be enforced by Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras.

The purpose of enforcement is purely to achieve compliance, we want the least amount of traffic possible travelling past schools at the start and end of the school day – a truly successful school street would be one with no fines issued.

Is a School Street just a parking scheme?

No, School Streets are not parking schemes. They just restrict access to the area during certain times. They do not limit parking of any vehicles. The usual parking restrictions will still apply to the local area, such as Controlled Parking Zones and yellow lines.

Parked vehicles can leave the zone at any time.

School Streets are part of our work to make the borough a safer, healthier and greener place to live.

What counts as a 'compelling' reason for the School Street not to go ahead?

So far, we haven't come across one, but there may be a unique characteristic to the area or school we're unaware of. We're asking for the views of the school community and residents so we can check we haven't missed anything and to make sure the School Street is implemented in the right way, considering the unique needs of the area.

For clarity, we have already considered the following:

- **Inconvenience** – while we understand that some short-term inconveniences are inevitable like adjusting daily routines, it is only for a limited time each day. We only implement School Streets where an alternative route is available. They may be

slightly longer, but using these is helping children and young people feel safer on their school journey.

- **Displaced traffic** – in our experience so far, and through monitoring of existing School Streets, we've found that traffic is usually dispersed over a wider area and won't have a negative impact on surrounding areas.
- **Displaced parking** –previous schemes have shown that parking is not usually an issue for areas outside the School Street, as more children and young people will be walking and cycling to school.

We have confidence these will not be an issue over time, but we will monitor the School Street to make sure.

Does it cause a knock-on effect to other streets?

Residents living close to but outside the School Street may worry about the parking and traffic caused by families from the school. But in our experience, and that of other London boroughs, school traffic slowly decreases, it doesn't just move elsewhere. Parking by those who do need to drive will be dispersed over a much wider area and should not affect residents. Schools will encourage families to use active modes of travel for all or part of their school journey, thereby reducing car use across the whole area.

We believe, once the School Street has bedded in, it won't cause problems for traffic or parking in the local area during its operational hours.

To make sure, we also monitor traffic in the surrounding streets by carrying out traffic surveys before and after a School Street is implemented.

Who can drive in the School Street?

Vehicles registered to residents and businesses within a School Street, and carers with official notification or their duties, can apply for a FREE permit, which always allows access to the zone.

We also offer special dispensation, on a case-by-case basis, to those that have particular circumstances that mean they are unable to drive themselves. Residents can contact us if they have concerns or feel they have special circumstances.

Delivery vehicles, tradespeople and visitors are not eligible for permits.

The impact on refuse collection has been considered in collaboration with the council's Waste and Recycling team. As with all transport schemes, we also consult with the Emergency Services on any change to their routes and access.

More details on vehicle access are on our website. They cover who can and cannot access the area during operational times. Visit www.ealing.gov.uk/ealingschoolstreets

Why do you restrict the types of vehicles that can access the School Street?

One of the aims of a School Street is to significantly reduce the number of motor vehicles accessing the roads around schools, to create a safer environment and encourage more walking and cycling to school. To make sure we achieve this, we only grant exemptions for cases that are necessary.

Residents living within the School Street need access to their properties at all times and are eligible for free permits.

What else have you tried to address these issues?

We have explored alternative measures to reduce motor vehicle movement in the area around the schools. We introduced School Streets with barrier enforcement in 2020, that did not require cameras, but it was too onerous for the schools due to limited staffing capacity to manage barriers.

While enforcement by traffic wardens can be organised for short term or ad-hoc requests, this is not sustainable because there are over 140 education providers in the borough, with students arriving and leaving at the same time of day, and the traffic wardens cannot cover them all.

What is your measure of success?

We expect to see more pupils using active and sustainable modes of travel for their school journey. Pupils that are already walking, wheeling, scooting and cycling to school will feel safer. Ultimately we want school children to feel and be safe on their school journeys.

Traffic survey data is usually collected before the School Street is implemented and one year after to give comparable data to show the impact of the scheme. A successful School Street will reduce vehicle movement in the area around the school gates, without having a negative impact on vehicle movement in the wider area.

Reducing the number of motor vehicles around the school gates will help to improve air quality for the whole community.

For more information please visit our website www.ealing.gov.uk/ealingschoolstreets

