

How to: trial a school street



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CleanAirDay

What is a school street?

"School Streets" is a scheme to transform roads outside schools so that only pedestrians and cyclists can use them during pick up and drop off times, with restrictions applied to school and through vehicle traffic.

By encouraging students and parents to walk, scoot and cycle to school a school street creates an environment where the air pollution levels are down, safety is improved and child health is a priority.

Why trial a school street?

1

Safe social distancing at the school gate: Without restricting traffic, and making more space for parents/carers and children at pick-up and drop-off, many schools face the risk of parents/carers and children spilling into a road with traffic on it to avoid getting too close to other families.

2

There is a high level of public support the scheme: The majority of all adults across the UK want to see more space for cycling and walking, and for the low-traffic and safer roads of the lockdown to be retained for the long term.



Your council can find details on how to implement a school street in the [Hackney School Streets Toolkit](#)



Find more inspiration at mumsforlung.org/about-school-streets



How to apply for a school street?

Write to your local authority to request a school street. You can copy and paste the text below adding in your details

Dear [insert councillors name here].

[Insert name of school here] are writing to apply for a school street to be implemented on [insert name of road at the school gates here] as soon as possible. Our school is taking part in Clean Air Day 2022 and we want to make 16 June the cleanest Clean Air Day yet. Please help us to achieve this by granting permission for our school to have a school street in advance of Clean Air Day this year.

This request is of critical importance now as social distancing requirements at the school gate cause children and parents to spill out into the road making vehicle restrictions on school streets an urgent safety need.

[insert name of school here] is an ideal candidate for a school street as we are located in a pollution hotspot. Limiting vehicle access will maintain current lower levels of air pollution and allow the growing numbers of students who want to walk and cycle to do so safely. This provides a double benefit to children's health.

In contrast if families do not feel it is safe enough for their children to walk or cycle to school, we may see a surge in car travel while public transport use remains low. We see a school street as the solution and hope you will support our application.

I attach support for this scheme from our wider school community [if you have a petition or supporting letters from your school community attach them to the email]

[insert name of school here] believes this is the time to make a long lasting, positive change in our school and illustrate our commitment to cutting air pollution in [insert name of local area here] for everyone.



Find the contact information for
your local council at

www.cosla.gov.uk/councils



Additional things you can do to fast track your application:

1

Share a petition to evidence support from your wider school community



Six out of ten parents* are worried about increased levels of traffic when lockdown are lifted, gaining their written support will provide helpful support to your application.

2

Ask your school community to also write to your local authority



Parents are keen to play their part, over half (53%) plan to walk or cycle more than they did before after lockdown*, and the vast majority of those that plan to be more active (79%)* say that restricting vehicle access at certain times of the day would be helpful. Ask them to tell your local authority this.

3

Making your application public will encourage other schools to apply too. The more school streets the safer our neighbourhoods will become.



Find more inspiration at schoolstreets.org.uk/

* statistics from the Global Action Plan [survey](#) May 2020