

Potential solution ideas

School Streets are traffic management schemes implemented around schools to create a safer and more pedestrian-friendly environment during drop-off and pick-up times. The main objective of School Streets is to restrict motorised vehicle access and prioritise active modes of transportation such as walking and cycling. Here's how School Streets typically work:

1. **Planning and Consultation:** Engage with the school, parents, residents, and local community to build support and momentum for implementing a School Street scheme. Raise awareness about the benefits of reduced traffic, improved safety, and better air quality.
2. **Make the Case:** Involve children in activities that raise awareness about pollution, health, and active travel. Conduct surveys, data analysis, art projects, and campaigns to educate and engage students. Demonstrate the demand for active travel options and highlight the benefits of a School Street scheme.
3. **Collaboration with Authorities:** Connect with local authorities, such as School Travel Officers, Travel Planners, Safety Travel Officers, or Road Safety Officers, to discuss the possibility of implementing a School Street scheme. Explore the local authority's plans for walking and cycling and advocate for including School Streets.
4. **Traffic Management Order:** Local authorities can regulate traffic and restrict access under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. A traffic management order is applied to a street around the school, temporarily restricting motorised vehicle access during specified times (typically 30-45 minutes) on weekdays during term times.
5. **Exemptions and Registration:** Residents who live or work on a School Street can register for exemptions from the temporary restrictions. Blue badge holders and those with temporary disabilities may also be exempt. The registration process is usually done online through the council's website. Consultation with residents is conducted before the scheme is implemented.
6. **Enforcement:** Enforcement of the temporary restriction can be done through retractable or collapsible bollards or Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras. School staff members can operate bollards, while ANPR cameras identify and penalise vehicles entering the zone without exemptions. The choice of enforcement method depends on the budget and specific circumstances of the street.
7. **Signage and Notifications:** DfT-compliant signs are installed at the entrance of a School Street to inform drivers of the restrictions. Some signs may have flashing lights during the restricted period. Vehicles parked in the street before the restricted time can exit without penalties.

8. **Evaluation and Decision:** School Street schemes are typically introduced as Experimental Traffic Management Orders and evaluated over several months. The impact on motorised traffic reduction and the influence on surrounding streets are assessed. Based on the evaluation, a decision is made to make the scheme permanent through a Traffic Management Order or Traffic Regulation Order.

School Street schemes have shown positive results in reducing traffic congestion, improving air quality, and enhancing school safety. By prioritising active modes of transportation, School Streets promote healthier and more sustainable travel options for students and their families.