



SCHOOL STREETS

**YOUR GUIDE TO CREATING
CAR-FREE SCHOOL STREETS**

LET'S MAKE OUR SCHOOL STREETS CAR-FREE!

WE WANT STREETS OUTSIDE SCHOOLS TO BE FREE FROM CARS AT THE START AND END OF THE DAY, SO THAT PUPILS CAN WALK, SCOOT OR CYCLE SAFELY TO SCHOOL.



Setting up a School Street is relatively simple and can make a huge difference to encouraging families to walk to school while improving the air quality in the area.

THIS GUIDE WILL SHOW YOU HOW TO GET STARTED

WHAT IS A SCHOOL STREET?

School Street schemes close the road to vehicles during peak drop off and pick up times. Councils put up signs, barriers and/or cameras to stop non-residents driving through the area. School Streets have been shown to have minimal impact on residents and businesses on the street as access is still permitted if driving at a walking pace.

WHAT IS A CAR-FREE ZONE?

Car-Free Zones are a good first step towards a full School Street. Here, parents and carers are encouraged to avoid bringing cars into the zone by walking their children the whole way to school or parking away from the school gates and walking the last 10 minutes. Our handy Park and Stride guide can help you set that up:

WWW.LIVINGSTREETS.ORG.UK/MEDIA/2035/PARK-AND-STRIDE-PRINT.PDF

WHY SCHOOL STREETS?

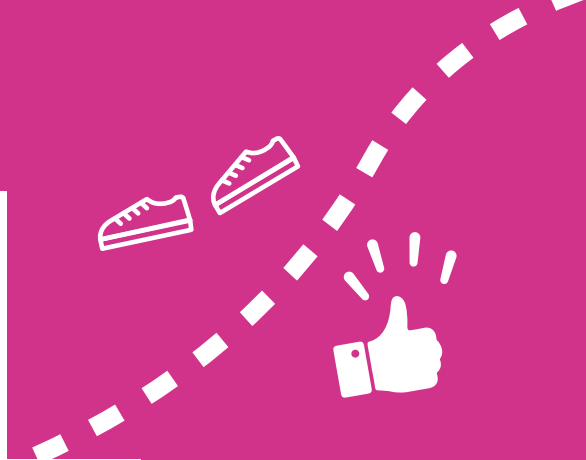


- » Children, families, carers and teachers reclaim their streets so they can walk, cycle and scoot to school;
- » School Streets help encourage even more families to get out of their cars and out walking;
- » When families walk or cycle to school it can lead to healthier and happier children, and it helps everyone get some exercise;
- » Safer school routes mean that children gain independence by walking to and from school themselves;
- » There's no congestion so road safety and air quality can improve.



WORKING TOGETHER TO OPEN UP OUR STREETS

IT'S AMAZING HOW A BIT OF COMMUNITY SPIRIT CAN TRANSFORM A WALKING ROUTE. GET INSPIRED!



SCHOOL ROAD CLOSURES IN CAMDEN

St Joseph's School in Camden is on Macklin Street, a narrow road that gets quickly congested. After several near misses, a child was hit by a car.

Camden Council recognised something had to be done to make the street safer for children and trialled closing it during weekday pick-up and drop-off times. Local businesses and residents saw the safety benefits and felt the road closures were positive for the street.

"SINCE THE ROAD HAS BEEN CLOSED, I THINK THINGS HAVE CALMED DOWN A LOT MORE, POLLUTION WISE AS WELL." - AMIE HENRY, PARENT



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

The Green in Croydon was a no-go area before Emma Hope-Fitch got involved to revitalise this walking route. The Love Lane Project saw residents clear land, plant fruit trees and install play equipment for children, and was London 'Play Street of the Year' (2016, 2017). It has really transformed walking along the path and has turned The Green into a destination for local families; creating a space to stop and socialise and turning the journey home from school into an opportunity to play with friends.

"IT'S NOW ONE OF CROYDON'S HEALTHIEST, HAPPIEST AND MOST USED WALKING ROUTES." - AMY FOSTER, CROYDON LIVING STREETS GROUP COORDINATOR





CAR-FREE ZONES IN LEEDS

Parents in Leeds were so concerned about congestion around the school gates that they decided to pull together to take action. As part of International Walk to School Month, one group successfully trialled a Car-Free Zone around Moortown Primary School to reduce traffic and encourage more families to walk to school. Some parents chose to Park and Stride - parking away from the school gates and walking the last bit of their journey.

“WE WANT TO MAKE THE STREETS AROUND OUR SCHOOL SAFER AND NICER PLACES TO BE. WALKING TO SCHOOL HELPS CHILDREN MOVE MORE AND DEVELOP ROAD SAFETY SKILLS. IT’S ALSO BETTER FOR THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT AND WILL HELP REDUCE CONGESTION. IT’S GREAT TO HAVE THE SCHOOL AND SO MANY FAMILIES GETTING BEHIND THE IDEA AND GETTING INVOLVED.” - SARAH SOWERBY, PARENT AND MOORTOWN LIVING STREETS GROUP MEMBER



EDINBURGH CITY COUNCIL

11 of the Scottish capital’s primary schools were closed to motorised traffic at peak times in Edinburgh City Council’s School Streets scheme.

The schools were chosen as they had problems with drivers going too close to the school gates. The success of the scheme saw it rolled out to more schools in Edinburgh.

“BY CLOSING THE IMMEDIATE STREETS OUTSIDE SCHOOL GATES, THE COUNCIL AND PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS ARE SENDING A RESOUNDING MESSAGE THAT WALKING TO SCHOOL, EVEN FOR THE LAST FEW MINUTES, IS INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT FOR THE WELLBEING OF YOUNG PEOPLE.” CHRIS THOMPSON - SCHOOLS & PROJECTS COORDINATOR AT LIVING STREETS SCOTLAND.



READY TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP?

FIVE KEY STEPS TO TRANSFORMING THE STREETS AROUND YOUR SCHOOL



1. DO YOUR RESEARCH AND START PLANNING

Many local councils are now supporting schools to run School Streets in their area. Check if there is a scheme you could join.

Find out if your school has a staff member for sustainable travel, community engagement or road safety. Talk to them about your concerns and signpost them to our resources.

Once your school is on board, speak to other parents and the PTA. Consult parents on your plans by running an event or talking to them at the school gate.

It's helpful to get local residents and businesses on board, before you firm up details.

It might be helpful to bring all interested people together to form a campaign group. You should all agree on a date to start the scheme.

Our friends at Playing Out have lots of information on closing roads to vehicles. Check out their guidance for more details: WWW.PLAYINGOUT.NET

2. GET THE GO AHEAD

The council will need to grant permission for any road closure and might be able to help with signage, cameras and closing the road.

You can use our online action to write to your council calling for a School Street here: WWW.LIVINGSTREETS.ORG.UK/PARENTS

This might not be needed if you're trialling a voluntary Car-Free Zone, but you will need to make sure the school is supportive.





3. TELL PEOPLE IT'S HAPPENING

Once plans are in place, develop a clear message explaining what you're doing and why. Talk to people at the school and in the local community about the School Street/Car-Free Zone and highlight the many benefits of reducing traffic around your school.

You'll need to let people know when the School Street or Car-Free Zone is happening – both at the school and in the local community. Use parents' networks and the school's newsletters, website and social media pages.

Promote the scheme by putting up posters, at community events and by knocking on doors.

Tell the local newspapers or radio station what you are doing and why.

4. GET PREPARED AND RUN THE SCHEME

Make sure that you've carried out a risk assessment. If you're running an event it's a good idea to have public liability insurance.

Ask people to take on specific roles to help it run smoothly. Have some stewards available on the first day to answer any questions.

WOW - the year-round walk to school challenge from Living Streets can help the transition to going car-free. Visit WWW.LIVINGSTREETS.ORG.UK/WOW to get your school involved

Think about creating activities for families to celebrate the beginning of the scheme. Take a look at our Family Walk to School kit (WWW.LIVINGSTREETS.ORG.UK/PARENTS) for some ideas or via Playing Out.

5. REFLECT ON HOW IT WENT

Thank everyone for playing their part.

Let the children and families know they are a part of its success.

Get more people involved to make it long-lasting and keep the momentum.



LIVING STREETS

A GENERATION AGO, 70% OF US WALKED TO SCHOOL – NOW IT'S ABOUT HALF. IF WE MAKE THE STREETS AROUND OUR SCHOOLS SAFER, WALKING TO SCHOOL BECOMES AN EASIER AND MORE ATTRACTIVE OPTION FOR FAMILIES. MAKING THE SCHOOL GATES A CAR-FREE ZONE IS ONE WAY TO DO THAT. OUR SCHOOL STREETS INITIATIVE WORKS WITH TEACHERS, PARENTS AND COUNCILS SO THAT CHILDREN CAN REAP THE REWARDS OF WALKING TO AND FROM SCHOOL.



OPEN UP THE STREETS AROUND YOUR SCHOOL GATE

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE TIPS AND TRICKS ON HOW TO GET STARTED

WWW.LIVINGSTREETS.ORG.UK/SCHOOLSTREETS

WWW.LIVINGSTREETS.ORG.UK

Living Streets (The Pedestrians Association) is a Registered Charity No. 1108448 (England and Wales) and SC039808 (Scotland), Company Limited by Guarantee (England & Wales), Company Registration No. 5368409. PC11