



LIVING

STREETS



**LET'S
WALK TO
SCHOOL**

WOW LEARNING RESOURCES KS1/P1-3

ENVIRONMENT



DURATION Approximately 60 mins
(excluding the extension and at home section).

AIM

To help pupils consider the benefits of creating a traffic exclusion zone around school during drop off and pick up times.

OBJECTIVES

This lesson will enable pupils to:

- compare the current school environment at drop off and pick up times with what it might be like without traffic;
- consider how fewer vehicles on the road can benefit the environment, the wider school community, and the physical and mental health of pupils;
- create a convincing, persuasive argument for having fewer vehicles around the school and start a conversation about making this a reality.

RESOURCES

- Council Letter Writing pupil sheet
- Writing materials
- Whiteboard or flipchart

CURRICULUM LINKS

- **ENGLISH/LANGUAGES** – letter writing, persuasive writing
- **GEOGRAPHY/SOCIAL STUDIES** – local area
- **SCIENCE** – plants, animals (including humans), everyday materials



ENVIRONMENT

PREPARATION

It would be best to start this activity in the morning soon after coming to school, if possible, so drop off time is fresh in everyone's minds.

INTRODUCTION

- 1 To start the lesson, ask for some volunteers from the class to talk about the area outside the school at drop off and pick up times. Ask questions such as:
 - ✓ What can they see, hear and smell?
 - ✓ Is the area busy with cars and buses picking up pupils?
 - ✓ Do some drivers leave their engines running while they wait?
- 2 Follow up by asking how this affects pupils on their journey to or from school. Perhaps they need to be extra careful when crossing the road, or can smell exhaust fumes in the air?
- 3 Now ask the children to imagine that for a whole month no motor vehicles are allowed into the streets around the school during drop off and pick up times, which is called a 'traffic exclusion zone'. Emergency and disabled access vehicles still have access.
- 4 Ask them what they would see, hear and smell at drop off and pick up times. Write these on the board. Use the following as conversation starters if you need them:
 - ✓ Would the air be cleaner? Is this better for people, plants and trees?
 - ✓ Think about parents and carers. Would they have more of a chance to socialise if they didn't have to move on as quickly?
 - ✓ Could pupils cross the road or play with their friends more safely?
 - ✓ Would it help people to feel calmer and ready for the rest of their day?



ENVIRONMENT



DEVELOPMENT

- 5 Explain that today, the class is going to write to the council suggesting that a traffic exclusion zone around the school would be a good idea to try for a week or a month, as it will help the environment, which benefits everyone.
- 6 Talk about the components of letter writing such as the address, greeting and style of letter (formal or informal).
- 7 Then, ask the class to work together to suggest some sentences to write on the board. They will have to try to convince people by being persuasive and thinking of some strong arguments. Explain what it means to persuade – to make someone want to do or believe something.
- 8 Distribute the Council Letter Writing pupil sheet. Pupils can pick a sentence to copy down onto the sheet, where the letter has been started for them. Write the school's address on the board for them to copy onto their Council Letter Writing pupil sheet as well. Depending on ability and age, they could also write independently.
- 9 Help them personalise the letter by finding out who they should be addressing the letter to at the council, and writing their name on the board for them to copy.
- 10 They can also think about and draw what the area at the school gate might look like with fewer cars. Would there be more space for people enjoying a chat? If the air was cleaner, what effect might that have on plants nearby?

PLENARY

- Invite a few pupils to read out the sentence they chose to copy (or their own letters).
- Then, work together on making the sentences into a full letter that the class can send to the council requesting a meeting about creating a traffic exclusion zone, perhaps during Walk to School Week in May.
- End with a think, pair, share activity where pairs of pupils choose their favourite reason why walking, cycling, scootering or Park and Stride to school is preferable to travelling the whole way in a motor vehicle.
- Make sure the pupils know that it's fine if several pairs have come up with the same idea – perhaps it's a really good reason.

Think, pair, share: pupils think of some ideas on their own, then chat with a friend about their ideas and together pick one idea to share with the class.

ENVIRONMENT

EXTENSION

- Use some of the ideas generated in the lesson to make posters to put up around the school that aim to persuade families to walk more.
- Pupils could work together to write an article for the school newsletter or website about why they think a traffic exclusion zone is a good idea. They could conduct interviews and include information about the benefits of walking, tips and ideas and fun activities like competitions and quizzes.

AT HOME

- Encourage everyone to look at their route from home to school and, as a family, plan one thing they could do to help the school set up a traffic exclusion zone, such as walking, cycling, scootering or doing Park and Stride.
- Ask pupils to think of ideas that could encourage families to make these changes to their routine, such as making sure there is plenty of bike and scooter parking at school, having enough shelter or benches for families to sit on while they wait. Perhaps some families can help plant flowers and plants in the waiting area outside school. There are lots of tips to get you started on the [Living Streets website](#).
- Encourage the pupils to bring in feedback from parents and families who have made changes already/when they make changes. The class could then include these in an article for the school newsletter.

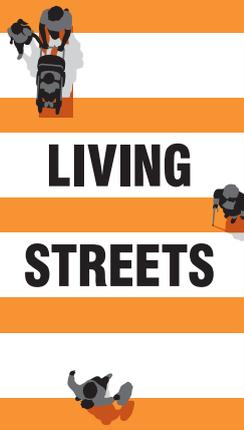
We are Living Streets, the UK charity for everyday walking. These learning resources support participation in WOW – the year-round walk to school challenge.

For further information on WOW, visit www.livingstreets.org.uk/WOW

Get in touch: walktoschool@livingstreets.org.uk 020 7377 4900

If you require these learning resources in Welsh, please email wales@livingstreets.org.uk

ENVIRONMENT WORKSHEET



**LET'S
WALK TO
SCHOOL**

CLASS

SCHOOL

ADDRESS

DATE

Dear

We think that there should be less traffic near our school at drop off and pick up times.

This is why:

Our school would look like this if there was less traffic:

Thank you for reading my letter.

Yours faithfully,

