



SCHOOL STREETS

LIVING STREETS SUPPORT

School Streets schemes open places up to people walking or cycling – closing the road off to motor vehicles and encouraging more active travel to school. They have been successfully implemented across the UK and Living Streets has taken an active role in ensuring several important School Streets projects have been implemented successfully.

Key to our approach is ensuring the community understands the benefits of School Streets and that projects are enforced effectively in their local contexts. Local Authorities will have many targets which School Streets can help with – including better road safety, air quality, liveability and public health.

Our expertise in supporting better walking environments means we can help with the entire cycle of a School Streets project:



1. POLICY CONTEXT

- Defining and linking the need for School Streets to Local Plans or Transport Plans.
- Our staff are based across the UK and have local knowledge to support different authority areas.
- We can share guidance and best practice from other areas, helping to tailor it to local needs.



2. PROJECT PLANNING

- Organising a team to plan School Streets and engaging with key stakeholders (LA officers, parking providers, school community, residents, businesses, etc.)
- Advising on methods for implementing School Streets in the local context.

3. TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW

- Working with key stakeholders to identify whether the location for a School Street is suitable – avoiding busy and main roads and minimising traffic displacement.
- Running a School Route Audit (where appropriate) to gain further buy-in for making a permanent School Streets scheme. Our School Route Audits support the Healthy Streets approach.
- Identifying Park and Stride sites and helping to negotiate agreements with local parking providers.
- Creating bespoke school or area active travel maps showing walking distances and elements which support active travel.

4. SCHOOL SUPPORT

- Running the appropriate Living Streets initiative(s); Little Feet (early-years), WOW (primary), Next Steps (secondary).
- Working with schools to create Active Travel Staff and Pupil Champions.
- Offering schools additional support such as; Air Quality assemblies, Parent surveys, Parent letters, marketing support.



5. RESIDENTIAL AND POLITICAL BUY-IN

- Supporting the buy-in from residents for the scheme pre-implementation by surveying and interviewing.
- Supporting the buy-in from Local Councillors for the scheme pre-implementation by consulting and advising on the benefits.

6. MONITORING, EVALUATION AND PROMOTION

- Monitoring and evaluating engagement – through our interactive WOW Travel Tracker and/or other methods.
- Reporting back on the results of the scheme.
- Promoting the scheme through case studies, partnerships and digital channels.



IN ACTION: BIRMINGHAM

Living Streets supported Birmingham City Council's School Streets pilot programme in six schools around Birmingham in 2019. As part of the dedicated team implementing the School Streets project, Raji Takhar, the Living Streets' Project Coordinator, helped patrol the streets that were closed around schools, promoted the scheme to parents and offered support to the schools to encourage Park and Stride.

Initial evaluation from the pilot project reflects positive feedback. There has been a high degree of demand from other schools, communities and local councillors to extend the scheme to other areas and early indications show that since the introduction of the scheme, walking rates increased in at least half of the schools involved.

Feedback from those effected by the School Streets scheme was also largely positive, with a majority of respondents (58%) stating they feel that the street around the school is safer (much more or a bit more), 55% feeling that the street is a more pleasant environment, and 53% feeling that it is healthier.

Deemed a success, the pilot School Streets programme is being rolled out to six more schools from September 2020. Six out of the 12 schools take part in WOW, Living Streets' year-round walk to school challenge, which will help to embed positive active travel behaviours as well as provide valuable monitoring data for the School Streets schemes.

■ Raji has provided support from the early stages of the project. Four of the schools are signed up to the WOW initiative so Raji already had good links with these schools. She has helped with various aspects of the scheme including marshalling, promoting park & stride to schools, helping with observations and talking to parents about the scheme for evaluation purposes. Going forward we're looking forward to continuing to work in partnership with Living Streets to make a success of phase 2! ■

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

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