Frequently asked questions about School Streets

**What is a School Street?**

School Streets prioritise pedestrians and cyclists on roads outside schools by temporarily restricting most motor traffic from entering the roads during pick-up and drop-off times. Parents and carers are asked to either walk, scoot or cycle with their children to school or to park a little further away and walk the last few minutes of their journey.

**What is the main aim of a School Street?**

The main aim of a School Street is to reduce the amount of traffic on streets around a school.

They help tackle congestion and improve air quality at the school gates, making it easier and safer to walk and cycle to school. They create a more pleasant environment for everyone, while making sure residents and businesses located within the street, pedestrians and cyclists can still use the road.

**How will it work?**

Church Road from its junction with Vine Road to the junction with Wolsey Road, will temporarily become a Pedestrian and Cycle Zone at set times in the morning and afternoon. Vehicles are not permitted to enter the ‘zone’ between these times unless they have been granted an exemption for their vehicles. Signs inform drivers of the restrictions at the entrance of the closed road.

**What times are the restrictions in force?**

The proposed operating times are 8.15am -9.15am and 2.30pm – 3.30pm (subject to agreement with the school).

The School Street will only operate Monday to Friday during School Term only. School Streets do not operate during school holidays or at weekends.

**How will it be enforced?**

An Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) camera will be installed at the junction of Church Road/Vine Road. Vehicles entering the School Street zone during its operational hours without having registered an exemption, will receive a PCN (penalty charge notice).

For the first 6 months of operation a letter of warning will be issued to non-exempt vehicles entering the School Street Zone during times of operation, if they repeat the offence a second time, a penalty notice of £70 will be issued (£35 if paid within 21 days).

**What if I’m already parked inside the School Street Zone when it comes into operation?**

Though we would discourage the movement of any vehicles within the school street zone within its controlled hours; any vehicles already within the zone would be free to leave at any time.

**Who will be exempt from School Street Restrictions?**

Though we encourage everyone to support the school street, where they are able, the following motorised vehicles are automatically exempt:

* Emergency vehicles
* Council waste trucks serving properties within the School Street zone.
* Postal service vehicles serving post boxes within the School Street zone.
* Statutory undertakers (such as water and gas companies) attending emergency works within the School Street zone.

The following vehicles are also exempt, but they **MUST APPLY** for an exemption using our online exemption form or contact us for assistance:

* Residents and businesses within the School Street zone.
* A parent/carer with a Blue Badge dropping off and picking up their children.
* Children with a Blue Badge.
* Carers and healthcare workers who provide care to residents within the School Street zone.
* Private hire vehicles/taxis carrying residents who have a registered disability or who are unable to walk from the entrance to the restricted zone.
* Transport provided for pupils with special educational needs (SEND).

**What about deliveries?**

We would ask residents to try to schedule deliveries so that they arrive outside the restricted times. However, in the following circumstances a **Temporary Exemption via our online portal;** can be granted by completing our online exemption form or contact us for assistance:

* Tradespeople/service providers serving properties within the School Street zone.
* Delivery vehicles- Supermarket deliveries/large household goods -serving properties within the School Street zone.

Applications for a Temporary Exemption must be made before 5pm on the day you entered and include the following information:

* Name of School Street zone entered.
* Date you entered.
* Vehicle Registration number (VRM) that entered.
* Reason for entering School Street zone.
* Proof of eligibility (i.e. Service/delivery/job schedule)

Applications received by us later than 5pm on the day of entering the School Street zone will need to follow the statutory appeals process, if a PCN is issued.

**I have an injury. Can I claim for a Temporary Exemption from the controls?**

Yes, however we would ask you contact the school to arrange a drop off facility within their car park in the first instance.

**How do I apply for an Exemption?**

We will contact residents and advice of the steps they will need to follow to acquire an exemption. Temporary Exemptions can be made via our online portal.

If you cannot access the online portal, please contact us for assistance.

**What happens if I have a courtesy car or have to use another car?**

The onus will be on you to keep the council updated with the details of any vehicle that you need to use during the controlled times. Residents will need to provide evidence of the rental agreement or lease or insurance information covering you for the vehicle being used.

**Will the School Street cause displacement of traffic?**

The total volumes of traffic near to the school are expected to decrease during drop-off and pick-up times as it will become easier to walk, scoot or cycle rather than drive. There will also be less through traffic. It is acknowledged that there might be displacement of parking onto other roads, however the concentration of parking immediately near the school will be reduced.

**Some parents or carers will say it’s essential that they drive their child to school; is this scheme designed to penalise them?**

The objective of the School Street is to make the school run safer, healthier, and more enjoyable for the whole community, as well as for children travelling to school; not to penalise parents. For those who need to rely on the car for children to travel to school, they can park slightly further away and walk the last part of the journey.

**How will visitors know about the School Street?**

At the Church Road/Vine Road junction and at the Church Road/ Wolsey Road junction there will be two ‘No Motor Vehicles’ traffic signs together with a ‘School Street Plate’ which tells people the times at which the restrictions are in effect.

Advanced warning signs will be put up on all surrounding roads to indicate that there is no way through for motor traffic at school opening and closing times. A campaign of flyers and letters to notify residents, parents, school staff and local businesses of the School Street Launch.

We ask the school and anyone within the School Street to tell their visitors about the restrictions when visits are being planned.

A social media campaign will also be part of the launch. We notify satnav providers so that the School Street is visible on their systems.

**How will the School Street be monitored?**

We will undertake a range of measures to monitor the School Street. These include:

* Traffic counts to measure vehicle levels before and after School Street implementation.
* Surveys to measure how children are traveling to school before and after implementation.
* Consultation feedback.
* Stage 1,2 and 3 safety audits before and after implementation
* Safety review after implementation and settling of the scheme.
* PCN data.