



Tackling air pollution
in & around schools



Why School Streets?



- They reduce traffic, and therefore pollution. *(25% of rush hour traffic in London is cars doing the school run).*
 - They create a safer environment for everyone near and outside a school.
 - They encourage active travel, which improves health and learning outcomes for children.
 - They raise awareness of air pollution and the need to reduce traffic.
 - They are a brilliant way to introduce people to the joy of car-free roads and living!
-
- Out of the 33 London boroughs, 31 are implementing School Streets.
 - The first London School Street was in Camden in 2017. In April, 81 schemes were in place. By the end of the year, over 450 should be implemented!

How do School Streets work?

- Temporary road closures around schools at drop-off and pick-up times. Term-time only.
- Only pedestrians and cyclists allowed to use the roads at drop-off and pick-up times (there are exemptions though - see below).
- Signs put up to inform drivers of the road closure.
- Barriers or cameras used to enforce.
- Residents, local businesses, blue badge holders able to apply for exemptions.



Why Emergency School Streets?

- Covid-19 provides us with major challenges in how we get around. There is reduced public transport/narrow pavements/lack of safe cycle routes.
- More trips being driven in response to reduced public transport capacity.
- If implemented with a bollard, School Streets can prevent crowding at school gates - people can walk in the road instead to enable safe social distancing.
- Research suggests links between air pollution and Covid-19*.



* <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.04.16.20067405v5>

How to campaign for an Emergency School Street

- Join forces with other parents. Residents are allies - be pragmatic.
- Understand your community and their concerns. Develop solutions.
- Use our template letter (on our website) to write a letter to your school, councillors and council.



- Get your headteacher on board, as they are the ones who need to approach the Council. Address concerns about teachers who may need to drive (eg use park and stride).
- Councils look more favourably on schools with a good track record of action on active travel, eg through TfL STARS/Modeshift schemes, and those with safety issues.

Next steps - the consultation process



- Once your School Street is up and running - celebrate it! We have posters available on our website that you can put up.
- Email your councillors and cabinet member for Transport/Environment to pass on your positive thoughts, and any issues that you think need changing to the scheme.
- If your council has set up a Commonplace website for immediate feedback, add your comments there too and encourage others to.
- There might be another more formal consultation after 6 months or so. If there is, please do respond, and encourage others to.

Resources

Hackney's [toolkit](#)

Our website has our [emergency template letter](#), school streets flyer and new campaigning guide on it

Join our Facebook [group](#) (called Mums for Lungs School Streets)

Sustrans/Edinburgh Napier University [evidence review](#)

Sustrans [website](#)

School Streets Initiative [website](#)

Living Streets: [Walk to School](#) campaign

Car Free Day London [Ask For It](#) tool

Healthy Streets Scorecard: School Streets' [data](#) by London borough





1 School Street can reach approx:
300 pupils
50 staff
550 parents/carers
100 residents
= 1000 people!

Please get in touch – we
want to help!
Email:
mumsforlungs@gmail.com



Campaigning for action on main roads

- Expansion of the Ultra-Low Emission Zone initially to the north and south circulars (October 2021) and then as quickly as possible in all 33 London Boroughs
- Smart road user charging
- Low Emission Bus Zones
- Protected cycle track
- Reduce number of lanes for general motor traffic, reclaiming space for bus lanes & protected cycle track
- Remove car parking bays on main roads
- Wider pavements
- 20mph speed limits