

Brent Active Travel Programme

Emergency School Street Zone – Mount Stewart Avenue (Mount Stewart Junior and Infant School)

Dear Business/ Resident,

COVID-19 has disrupted our daily travel habits. We want to support and encourage people to adopt greener, more active forms of transport. We have developed a plan to introduce short, medium and longer-term improvements in the borough. The plan supports social distancing, walking and cycling. As part of the plan, the Council is working in partnership with Transport for London to deliver a series of rapid improvements to the transport system in the Brent area. This includes the implementation of a series of School Streets around the borough, which aim to support schools.



What is a School Street?

A School Street is a term-time restriction of motorised traffic on a road by a school during the school's pick-up and drop-off period.

Residents, blue-badge holders and emergency vehicles will be exempt from these restrictions. The road also remains open to pedestrians and cyclists. The main principle is to make the route to school safer for pupils by enabling social distancing, reducing the volume of cars, reducing air pollution, enabling more walking, and cycling.

Why do we need School Streets?

As lockdown restrictions are eased, it is expected that many people will be avoiding using public transport, which may lead to increased car use. This could lead to more congested streets, worse air quality, increased road danger and negative impacts on climate change. We have to take action outside schools to protect Brent's school community and to encourage more people to walk and cycle as part of their daily routine.

School Streets aim to:

- Reduce congestion and pollution near the school.
- Make it easier to implement social distancing measures as more people choose to walk, wheel or cycle to school.
- Increase confidence amongst the school staff and parents that it is safe to travel and return to school.

What is happening in my area?

The attached plan shows where traffic restrictions are proposed in your area. The named street(s) nearby the school will become a pedestrian, cycle only zone during pick up and drop off in the morning and afternoon. This restriction will operate Monday to Friday (in term-time) from 8:15am to 9:15am in the morning and from 2:30pm to 4:00pm in the afternoon. Each closure will have moveable barriers placed in the road by the School at set times. Associated signage will also be installed.

As the barriers are movable, residents and emergency vehicles will be able to access the street by car during the closure times but all other vehicles will be prohibited. We'll put up advance warning signs to inform drivers of the restrictions at the entrances of the School Street Zone.

How will the closure operate?

As a resident of this road, you are exempt from these restrictions. However, it is important to exercise caution driving during these times as more parents and children may be walking on the road to comply with social distancing guidelines

To reduce road danger and maximise space for social distancing, please try not to drive on the School Street during the times of the restrictions. If you have to enter or exit the zone during these times could you please replace the barrier to its original position. If you need assistance with moving the barrier, a contact will be available at the point of closure. We also ask that residents avoid deliveries during this time where possible.

To aid with enforcement we will be utilising ad-hoc CCTV. So that we have a record of your vehicle, **please email your vehicle registration number and your address along with the reference number at the top of this letter to schoolstreets@brent.gov.uk**.

Where can I get further information?

More information is provided on the Council's website: www.brent.gov.uk/activetravel

How can I comment on these proposals?

Because of the urgency required in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, Government has asked councils to introduce measures as soon as possible. The scheme will therefore be introduced as a temporary scheme using an experimental traffic order.

This means that public comments are made during the experimental period that lasts from between 6 and 18 months. Taking all comments into account a decision will then be made to make schemes permanent with or without amendment, or to remove schemes. Following the 6 month consultation period, a decision report will be prepared and a decision made on whether to extend the period or make the scheme permanent with or without amendments.

This website provides a place where you can make comments:
<https://consultation.brent.gov.uk/highways-and-infrastructure/mount-stewart-infants-junior-emergency-school-stre>

What happens next?

We expect the works to be completed by September 2020. We will assess how the scheme is functioning over this period. A letter will be sent after six months of operation informing you of the decision whether to extend the experimental period or any other plans to amend the scheme.

When will School Streets be introduced?

The School Street Zone will be operational from when the Schools return in September.

Yours Sincerely

Sandor Fazekas- Project Development Manager

Highways and Infrastructure Service, Brent Council

**IF YOU REQUIRE THIS DOCUMENT IN LARGER PRINT, PLEASE TELEPHONE
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