

School Streets Frequently Asked Questions

What does this mean for blue badge holders?

Parents / guardians with blue badges with a child enrolled in a school with a school street scheme will be exempt. This will include immediate family members like grandparents who may be responsible for picking up or dropping off children. Each application will be assessed on individual merit.

Children with blue badges enrolled in a school with a school street scheme will be exempt. Parents with another child with a blue badge who is not enrolled with the school will also be exempt if their disability makes it impossible for the parent / guardian to take the enrolled pupil to school on foot. Each application will be assessed on individual merit.

How do I get an exemption?

In order to get an exemption you will need to scan / photograph a copy of the relevant documents listed below and email Trafficandparkingcontrol@havering.gov.uk as you would for a permit.

For example;

- Proof of your child's school attendance
- A copy of the child's or an immediate family members blue badge
- Proof of the vehicle V5C showing the name and the vehicle registration number for the holders of the blue badge(s)

If you change your vehicle registration (VRM), it is your responsibility to notify Traffic and Parking Control in writing of any changes immediately.

What is a whitelist?

To be added to a whitelist means a vehicle registration is classed as exempt. The cameras will still monitor vehicles on the whitelist, but will consider them to be permitted access and will not record any footage.

What is the parking permit referred to on the sign?

The parking permit is not a physical permit that you need to display. It is merely a way of recognising your vehicle has an exemption to the enforcement for the school street.

A successful application for an exemption will mean the cameras are programmed to ignore your registration if you drive through during the times of enforcement.

How long will the trial be for?

The School Streets are being implemented using an experimental traffic management order. This means the order is only valid for a maximum period of 18 months before it is either made permanent or withdrawn.

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We will publically consult on the effectiveness of the schemes before the end of the school year, approximately 6 to 9 months after the orders are implemented to make an informed decision on whether or not the schemes have been successful.

Where have the consultation results been published?

The consultation outcome has been published on the Council website on the page for Council decisions found here: Council and democracy / Councillors, senior staff and decision making / Decision register.

On this page you can search for the latest decisions made by the Council by key word or by date. Alternatively you can copy this address into your browser:

<https://democracy.havering.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=5720>

Why are these schemes being implemented under COVID-19?

The School Streets schemes have been promoted by the Transport for London Streetspace plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The aims of the plan is to create more space for people to social distance around schools and create a safer and quieter environment.

You can find out more about the Streetspace plan online at:

<https://tfl.gov.uk/travel-information/improvements-and-projects/streetspace-for-london?cid=streetspace>

How will air pollution be improved via the scheme?

The government recently published a [Review of Interventions to Improve Outdoor Air Quality and Public Health](#). The report confirms that children's long term health is at risk. As vulnerable receptors, their lungs development is particularly at risk with damages that will stay with them for the rest of their lives. Pollution also worsens asthma, and increases risks of allergies; it impacts on the brain by reducing attentiveness and memory. It has been linked to depression, anxiety and attention deficit disorder as well as raising the risk of heart disease later in life.

How will this affect traffic volumes?

School run related traffic accounts for a quarter of cars on the road and adds 254,000 vehicles a day in London alone. This results in increased risks of collisions with vulnerable road users and other motorists, unlawful parking, traffic jams, road rage. People on foot and cycling are left with the feeling that roads are no place for them, this has long implications for everyone especially children.

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All of the schools consulted for the School Street trials reported high volumes of traffic congregating at the school gate during pick up and drop off times. Implementation of School Streets will result in reduced traffic volumes and congestion within the prohibition zone, improve safety and encourage more children to walk and cycle.

How will children's health be improved by the scheme?

Active travel champion Dr Adrian Davies from Bristol University likes to remind people that children should be free from disease. The report from the [International Journal of Behavioural Nutrition & Physical Activity](#), is a stark reminder that physical activity amongst 5-18 year olds has reduced drastically in the past 30 years, with walking trips to school falling by 31% since 1995-97. In addition, evidence shows time and again that cycling and walking reduce mortality by 10% in adults. Going to school is the most regular and consistent trip children do, making it the ideal opportunity to make it an active one.

The latest [Chief Medical Official Report](#), shows that "*children in England are among the most overweight in Europe: 24% of children start primary school overweight or obese, rising to 33% by the time they leave primary school.*" Exercising vigorously at least once a day is key to a long lasting good health and this could be so easily achieved by having an active journey to school. Active travel also has the potential to transcend poor health inequality as the distribution of obesity in children is strongly linked to levels of deprivation.

Physical activity leads to chemical changes in the brain that trigger a positive mood and a feel good mind-set. Combining this with an activity children generally enjoy, like cycling or scooting, with their mates or chatting away on the way to school would result in pupils having a great start of the day, already focused and ready to learn.

Cycling to school also increases self-confidence as children would have to put in practice a skill they have learnt as well as exercising self-control.