

# **Lambeth School Streets**

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

London Borough Of Lambeth

and

Larkhall Primary School

## **1. Emergency transport response**

The Transport for London Streetscape [Plan Supplementary Guidance on School Streets](#) states that: 'as children and young people return to early years, school and further education settings, government guidance remains in place on social distancing'.

Lambeth Council recognises the need to create environments which reduce road danger and help residents and school communities socially distance safely, remaining at least one meter apart from those outside their household where possible.

Advice on school travel is that parents, carers, children and young people should be encouraged to walk or cycle where possible, only driving if absolutely essential and avoiding public transport.

School Streets are timed road closures around schools which restrict vehicle access during drop off and pick up times, helping to create school environments in which it is possible to socially distance while helping to encourage active travel.

## **2. Background**

Even in a borough with low car ownership such as Lambeth, roads around schools are often clogged with traffic at the beginning and end of the school day. Limited parking around most schools in the borough means drivers often park in the most dangerous places right outside the school gates, or stop in the middle of the road, putting their own and other children arriving at school at risk; local residents are often inconvenienced and annoyed by inconsiderate parking and poor driving practices.

In some parts of the borough, rat running along streets with schools on them increases the safety fears of parents - the resulting environment for those walking, cycling or scooting to school is far from ideal and discourages some families from choosing active means – with a knock-on effect for children's activity levels, as well as potential to create dangerous levels of air pollution in the immediate vicinity of the school.

School Streets will help to reduce road danger, improve air quality and aid social distancing, creating a safer and more pleasant environment outside of your school while helping to facilitate walking, scooting and cycling.

## **3. Purpose**

Your school street is a 90 minute road closure with the aim of aiding social distancing at drop off and pick up times. A member of your school staff will deploy portable 'road closed for social distancing' or similar signs at pre-determined locations, blocking the left-hand side of the road at each end of the restricted area.

The scheme will run on an initial trial period of six months during which Gaskell St and Smedley St will be closed to vehicles during the hours of 7.45am-9.15am and again between 2.15pm-3.45pm.

During the experimental trial of six months we will not be actively enforcing the closure, although civil enforcement officers and police officers may carry out spot checks during this time. We will advise that residents, local businesses and blue badge holders will be able to enter and leave the School Street with extreme caution, only where absolutely necessary. Lambeth council will contact local residents and businesses about the scheme, explaining its benefits and how it will affect them. A dedicated mailbox will be provided to them for any questions and concerns they may have.

This School Street is being launched on an experimental basis and will be monitored throughout to ascertain its effectiveness. If the scheme is deemed successful, Lambeth Council will explore the possibility of extending the intervention and making it permanent going forward. It is likely at this stage that the closure will be enforced by automatic number plate recognition cameras (ANPR). At this point, Lambeth Council will contact residents to create a vehicle exemption list.

*Note: Although this MoU is a statement to implement a School Street, it can be reversed at any time with agreement from both parties. Additionally, in the unlikely event that the trial School Street cannot be implemented at this time, the council will inform the school immediately*

#### **4. Where**

The scheme proposes to restrict access motor vehicles from entering Gaskell St from Union Rd and from entering Smedley St from Larkhall Ln between the hours of 7.45am-9.15am and again between 2.15pm-3.45pm. on weekdays during term time.

The specified closure points to deploy these barriers will be shown in the provided map and guidance document.

#### **5. Dates of trial**

The trial will run for six months from Wednesday 2nd September 2020 with a view to being extended and made permanent if successful

The London Borough of Lambeth holds the right to place the trial on hold or cancel the trial if necessary without any notice. This may be due to large scale complaints from residents, complaints from the school, negative impact on surrounding streets and other unforeseen causes.

#### **6. Responsibilities**

London Borough of Lambeth will:

- Lawfully discharge its powers pursuant to, but not limited to, the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984
- Develop plans for Lambeth School Streets intervention at your school leading to the timed closure of Gaskell St and Smedley St between 7.45am-9.15am and 2.15pm-3.45pm
- Consult with residents and businesses inside the affected area, and with parents at the school prior to implementation
- Provide a dedicated School Street mailbox for any queries raised by residents, businesses and parents
- Provide your school with a guidance document and map which will explain how the scheme will operate, highlighting the specific sites where signs and barriers will need to be deployed
- Provide your school with barriers and road closed signs to facilitate the operation of your school street scheme
- Provide intermittent site officer support during your trial and coordinate with the Safer Neighbourhoods Team to enlist their support
- Provide other initiatives to help promote active travel

The School will:

- Store the road barriers and road closed a-boards
- Take ownership of the scheme by providing a dedicated staff member to deploy and remove the temporary barriers and road closed signs at the specified closed points during the hours of operation. Please see attached map and guidance for details

*Note: signage and the Traffic Management Order put in place by London Borough of Lambeth will restrict access to the road; the temporary barriers are used to consolidate the order and therefore no legal authority need be delegated to the school. Vehicles moving through the closure, even if the gates are not in place, will be breaking the law and will be subject to enforcement action by London Borough of Lambeth. This includes deliveries and access.*

- Promote scheme through website and newsletter to make aware to parents/carers and families to help ensure its success
- Continue to promote active travel at school. This will be monitored through the STARS website and hands up surveys
- Assist London Borough of Lambeth with collection of data for evaluation of the scheme, including conducting a hands-up survey prior to the trial starting and a survey near to the end of the trial
- Report any issues to London Borough of Lambeth that may disrupt the scheme

## **6. Monitoring**

- Lambeth council measure Nitrogen Dioxide levels for Lambeth schools, as well as on the peripheral traffic network. Readings will be used to assess level of air pollution exposure to school at peak times, in conjunction with monitoring using handheld devices
- Monthly updates and frequent communication from your school to assess any ongoing successes and challenges
- Measuring ongoing levels of active travel using hands-up surveys with pupils
- Parents, local residents and other affected stakeholders will be encouraged to express their views through the dedicated School Street mailbox
- Lambeth council will conduct a statutory consultation with residents after the initial six-month trial to explore the success of the scheme


## 7. Partner Contact Information and Signature

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### Partner Signature (Larkhall Primary School)

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