

STATEMENT OF REASONS

The Council in the Traffic Management Sub-Committee meeting on 15/06/2022 approved Thameside Primary School experimental order to become a permanent Traffic Regulation Order.

The Permanent Traffic Order Regulation will allow the School Street scheme to continue the full length closure of Harley Road from 8.30am to 9.15am and 2.50pm to 3.30pm, Monday to Friday term time only. Access will still be made available for permitted vehicles as set out in the Guidance and Application Pack.

During the period of the Experimental Order one objection was received due to an increase in traffic congestion on Wolsey Road. Officers will continue monitoring the situation and increase the enforcement in the area when necessary.

This School Street will directly support the Councils vision for a Healthy Environment, and will have a positive impact for students, school staff, parents and residents, providing a safer environment during school drop off / collection.

School Streets supports long term behaviour changes towards more sustainable modes of travel. Transport is integral to the functioning of business and the economy and monitoring of the Experimental School Street scheme suggests that this measure has had a positive impact in promoting active travel.

The Council recognises there are many benefits from having a permanent School Streets Scheme. School Streets reduces the volume of traffic using roads past school gates, both school-run and through traffic; improves air quality in and around school gates; increases number of pupils walking and cycling to school; and reduces the number of pupils arriving at the school gate by car.

There are also many benefits when children use more active modes, some of which result from increased physical activity while others come from a decrease in traffic around schools.

Healthier Children

- Active school travel helps school-aged children meet the recommendation to accumulate at least 60 minutes per day of moderate to vigorous physical activity, which is linked with improved physical health.
- Active school travel is associated with mental health benefits including reduced stress, depression and anxiety; as well as increased happiness.
- Reduces childhood obesity

Less Traffic and Pollution

- Reducing the number of children being driven to school reduces particulate air pollution around the school; this improves air quality and reduces associated risks of lung and cardiovascular diseases.

Healthier and Safer Communities

- Reducing traffic volumes creates safer school zones. Improving walking and cycling routes to school also enhances the safety, connectivity and quality of life for the community as a whole.

Better Academic Performance

- The increased physical activity specifically associated with the school journey has been found to increase alertness and attention during the school day.

- Physical activity supports healthy brain development, which can lead to improved learning and academic outcomes.

The scheme has created a 'pedestrian and cycle' zone under the Traffic Regulation Order for Thameside Primary School. Relevant signing and temporary barriers/cones have been placed in the highway at the closure point to the School Street zone, which is always attended by trained marshals, to ensure that the scheme is achieved as intended. Page 3 The Council will continue to review, monitor and assess the scheme so that the Council can quickly react if circumstances change. The Council will continue to encourage the School to actively participate and consider complementary measures such as Modeshift STARS, Bikeability cycle training, cycle/scooter parking, park and stride, walking buses and the Living Streets WOW scheme.