

From Oxfordshire County Council
Re: School Streets Experimental Traffic Regulation Order update

Dear All,

Thank you for your feedback via either the preliminary or statutory consultations to our Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders (ETROs) that introduced timed road closures at nine primary schools within Oxfordshire:

Oxford	1. East Oxford Primary School, 2. Larkrise Primary School, 3. St Christopher's Church of England Primary School, 4. St Ebbe's Church of England Primary School, 5. Windmill Primary School
Abingdon	6. St Nicolas Church of England Primary School
Bicester	7. Bure Park Primary School 8. St Edburg's CE (VA) Primary School
Witney	9. Tower Hill Community Primary School

These ETROs are concluding and we are therefore now holding a public consultation from 13th July until 26th August 2022:

https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/abingdonoxford_schoolstreets2022

A consultation to propose introducing restrictions to make schemes permanent at four of these schools from September 2022:

- St Ebbe's Church of England Primary School – Whitehouse Road, Oxford,
- Larkrise Primary School – Boundary Brook Road, Oxford,
- Windmill Primary School – Margaret Road, Oxford,
- St Nicolas Church of England Primary School – Boxhill Walk, Abingdon.

These schools have continued the School Streets trial through the last school year, with positive results in respect of: fewer vehicles around the school gates at school start and finish times; more members of the school communities reporting they are walking / cycling / scooting to school; and feedback from students and their parents / carers reporting they feel safer entering and leaving the schools.

Although the experimental School Streets were enforced by volunteers, this is not a long-term sustainable option, and from September, should the scheme be approved to be made permanent, we intend to enforce the temporary closures with signs at the entry points to the School Streets zones and either an ANPR equipped car, or fixed ANPR camera which will be positioned at access points to the School Streets. Drivers entering the School Streets zone during closure times that are not exempt would then be issued a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN).

The proposals aim to continue the work introduced via the School Streets ETROs to encourage a safe, welcoming and attractive environment where children, parents

and teachers can walk, cycle, scoot, or park and walk to school with lower air pollution and traffic congestion, by creating a car-free environment outside the school gates. School Streets aim to create places where children can thrive, be healthier and happier because they are: being more active, enjoying improved air quality, getting a boost to confidence from active travel, and getting more chances to be sociable.

The Travel to School policy, including our work on School Streets, was approved at a Cabinet meeting on the 21 June as part of our countywide Local Transport & Connectivity Plan. This policy contributes to our vision to make “*walking, cycling, public and shared transport the natural first choice.*”

Further details of the School Streets proposals including more information on operational times, exemptions, and the ongoing School Streets programme across Oxfordshire, is being added to our website:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport/active-travel/school-streets>

Many thanks & kind regards,

christian

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