

School Parking

Guidance for schools and parents/carers and
volunteers



Note

This document has been produced by the Sustainable Travel Team at Shropshire Council as part of our new Active Travel Toolkits for schools. The information provided should be treated as guidance and can be used by schools and parents/carers.

Contact

For questions about this guidance please contact us by email:
sustainabletravelplanning@shropshire.gov.uk.

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Sustainable Travel Team

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Introduction

Inconsiderate parking outside of schools is a concern for many of our Shropshire schools. School Keep Clear and Zig-Zags markings are to help prevent parking in front of school entrances, keeping children safe journeying to and from school.

Remember that each initiative / engagement that you undertake is one step closer to your Modeshift STARS accreditation. We are here to help you with your Modeshift progress, every step of the way. So keep our team informed of everything you do.

School Keep Clear and Zig-Zag Markings

It is an offence to stop or wait in your vehicle outside a school where the road is marked with yellow zig-zag lines during restricted times.

The Highway Code states - 'Keep entrance clear of stationary vehicles. You MUST NOT wait or park on school entrance markings, even if picking up or setting down children.'

Shropshire Council are currently reviewing all the road markings outside our schools, some will need repainting, some will need alterations to the length or position of the markings – to make them all compliant and legal – Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) will be implemented on the markings to allow enforcement.

Air Quality

Good quality air is essential for good health. People should expect that the air they breathe won't harm them. The UK has an air quality regime to ensure that all Local Authorities and partners work towards improvements in air quality where necessary.

Air pollution occurs when air becomes contaminated with substances not normally associated with the natural composition of the air for that particular area. The main source of air pollution comes from road vehicles.

Encourage parents to switch off their car engines whilst waiting outside school (no idling), and to park further away from the school to dissipate the numbers of cars in one area.

Include 'no idling' in your parent parking pledge and have signs and banners to promote this.



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School Streets

A School Street is a road outside a school, with a temporary restriction on motorised traffic at school drop-off and pick-up times. The restriction applies to school traffic and through traffic. The result is a safe, healthier and pleasant environment for everyone.

Supporting these changes as a community in and around the school will reduce road danger, create a cleaner environment, encourage more active travel so improving mental and physical health.

Shropshire Council have received grant funding for 5 School Streets

- Woodside Primary School Oswestry
- Gobowen Primary School
- Whitchurch CofE Junior Academy
- Mereside CofE Primary Academy
- Market Drayton Junior School

Cameras monitor traffic at designated times of the school day, in and out of the School Street Zone. Residents who live within the zone or work at the school receive free permits allowing access.

Parents and children will be encouraged to walk or wheel to school or either the entire journey or from outside of the School Street Zone.

The School Streets website, provides additional information and resources for schools that are considering the suitability of their school as a School Street. [School Streets Initiative - All the information you need](#)

If you think that your school meets the criteria and would benefit from being a School Street please contact us.

Active Travel Ideas

For Active Travel ideas and initiatives please look at other Tool Kits for

- Setting up a Walking Bus
- Encouraging Active Travel



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What you can do...

1 – Newsletter Article

Newsletter content (annual or termly reminder)

As we start a new term / year, we politely ask all parents who need to drive to school, to remember to park legally, considerately and safely at school drop off and pick up times. This will ease congestion around the school and help make the area around our school a safer place for our children.

Alternatively, when possible, please walk to school or park further away this will help to keep our school street a safer place as well as having health benefits.

We all want our children to be safe and by respecting the space outside school we can do this together.

Newsletter content (when there is a particular issue)

We politely ask all parents who need to drive to school, to remember to park legally, considerately and safely at school drop off and pick up times. To ease congestion around the school and to help make the area around our school a safer place for our children.

Where possible please walk to school or park further away this will help keep our school street a safer place, will have health benefits and maintain good relationships with our neighbours.

This behaviour reiterates the lessons around road safety and encouraging active travel, that the children learn throughout their time at our school.

We all want our children to be safe and by respecting the space outside school we can do this together.

2 – School Council Road Safety Campaign

School Council members record what they see on a particular date at a pick-up or drop of time, for example – numbers of:

- cars irresponsibly or illegally parked, (on zig zags outside school)
- cars parked or pulling up in bus stops,
- cars not stopping at zebra crossings,
- cars going too fast,
- children stepping into the road,
- children not crossing safely.

Their findings can then form a letter to all parents, from the School Council and signed by all School Council members for additional impact. This letter could also be sent to Shropshire Council, Shropshire Councillors, Town / Parish Council, the Police etc.

You may want to start a school Eco Committee – who take on Active Travel and Sustainable Travel issues at your school.



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3 – Parent Parking Pledge

Asking parents to consider signing up to a School Parent Parking Pledge.

This can be a letter sent home and signed by the parent and returned to school or can be made into a MS Forms document to ease collection of data.

Amend the following wording to reflect your school's circumstances, adding the school's logo and safety slogan if you have one.

Parents Parking Pledge for XXXXX School

Dear Parents

Join us by signing up to our School Parent's Parking Pledge – helping to make the environment outside our school safer for our pupils.

Please sign our pledge if you drive your children to and from school so that together we can make important differences.

By signing the pledge, you are agreeing to:

- *Only drive to school when necessary and encourage some of the journey to be on foot by parking away from school entrances and road to ease congestion.*
- *Respect the parking restrictions by not parking, dropping off or collecting children on the zig-zags, School Keep Clear markings and double yellow lines outside the school entrance and at junctions and in bus stops.*
- *Keep within the low speed limit outside school.*
- *Allow pupils to cross safely at crossings.*
- *Be respectful to residents – by not blocking driveways or parking on the pavement.*
- *Switch off the engine whilst the car is parked*

Thank you

Head Teacher

Parking Pledge

Pupils Name

Pupils Class

Parents Name

Car Registration Number(s)

I agree that I will adhere to the School Parking Pledge.

I agree to my information being stored for this purpose (GDPR)

Signed

Date



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4 – Create a School Road Safety Slogan

Include it on all school correspondence and publicity.

Examples from other schools and organisations include:

‘Let’s all stay safe together’.

‘School safety is a shared responsibility’.

‘Stop, Think, Act’

This could be run as a competition within the school, or by family to help engage with parents.

Consider updating or changing this slogan every 2 years to re-engage children and parents.

5 – Engage with National Awareness Campaigns

Every year there are several national campaigns that schools can participate in, to encourage more walking or wheeling to and from school.

Our web page has the full list of upcoming national events and links to find out more.

You can build further awareness and fun into these campaigns to suit your school – for example – National Bike to School Week – why not add ‘bling your bike’ day and judge the best dressed up bike? or have a biker’s breakfast one day?

These national campaigns are only the start – introduce any activity that is suitable and will benefit the pupils at your school.

6 – Create a low pollution map

To enable the children to understand further about pollution, whilst considering their journey to school, classes could create their own low pollution map.

A low pollution map is a map of the local area around your school. It shows routes to school that use side roads, pathways and parks more, and are therefore less polluted, so protecting our health – especially our lungs, brains and hearts.

Using a map of the area highlight the main roads as the most polluted, each mark their current way to school and then look at the options to get to school but keeping off these highlighted routes.



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7 - Invest in resources

Either create your own bespoke banner or buy a standard one and display it by your school entrance – ideally in prime position for inconsiderate parking.

Example wording –

Slow down! Kill your speed

Keep Clear – parking on the Zig-Zags is dangerous and selfish

Look out – kids about

Children crossing – Slow Down!

No Idling Zone – turn off your engine, breathe fresh air!



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