

Item 8 – Petitions

PETITION: Support School Streets and other safety measures around Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Primary School

Lead Petitioner: Miriam Wright

Ward: Wheatstone

Number of signatures: 381. 64 signatures were discounted as they were not Barnet residents.

We the undersigned petition the council to implement School Streets, 20mph roads and other permanent measures around the area of Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Primary School to allow children to walk safely and to reduce disruption for local residents.

The streets around the school, some of which are already busy roads, currently attract a dangerous and disruptive amount of traffic at school pick up and drop off times. We would like to highlight that pedestrians at risk include families with very young children, and even children from age 6 walking to school alone.

Among the issues observed to date:

- Drivers park cars on the pavements on Oakleigh Park South, Russell Road, Myddleton Park putting pedestrians at risk. Parents with more than one child often struggle for space on the pavements, many have younger children in pushchairs. They sometimes have to resort to walking on the roads because cars are parked on the pavements.
- Drivers carry out dangerous U-turns on Oakleigh Park South. They often reverse onto the pavements due to traffic and limited space to execute these U
- turns and block the flow of traffic causing arguments between drivers.
- Cars are parked on double yellow lines on the corner of Russell Road and Oakleigh Road North limiting visibility and manoeuvrability for other drivers and pedestrians.
- Drivers leave their engines on causing excessive pollution right next to the school and straight onto children walking by.
- Cars are parked in private driveways. When asked to move, drivers in the wrong verbally abuse local residents (Kendal Close, Russell Road, Simmons Way, etc.).
- Children regularly witness altercations between adults.
- Cars regularly turn right coming out of Russell Road onto Oakleigh Road North, which is strictly forbidden at the given hours.
- Drivers regularly go through red lights at the crossroad of Oakleigh Road North and Myddleton Park/Oakleigh Park South, particularly while turning right from Myddleton Park into Oakleigh Road North.

We ask that the following measures be implemented with the necessary sense of emergency to protect the 420 pupils of Sacred Heart and other local pedestrians:

- Russell Road, Russell Gardens and Simmons' Way are included in the School Streets scheme.
- Oakleigh Road North (stretch between house numbers 72 to 253), Myddleton Park and Oakleigh Park South (entire roads) be limited to 20mph. Woodhouse Road and Summers Lane are good examples of main roads with 20mph stretches to protect school children.
- Paint zigzag lines in front of the school gates on Russell Road. - Extend double yellow lines on Russell Road up to number 12.
- Implement changes to the traffic lights/crossing at the crossroads of Oakleigh Road North and Myddleton Park/Oakleigh Park South to ensure that pedestrians have time to cross the road safely. Finally, we ask for the council to put measures in place to ensure the above will be respected by drivers.

APPENDIX 1: AROUND THE SCHOOL

- Zigzag are only in front of the front entrance. There are no zigzag on Russell Road.
- Signs with time restrictions for the single yellow lines are small on Oakleigh Park South and Russell Road, and totally ignored. Some people even park right in front of the signs. Russell Road: Monday to Friday 7am-10am. Oakleigh Park South: Monday to Friday 8am-6.30pm.
- There is no camera to automatically fine drivers who park illegally.
- The pavements on Russell Road have been severely damaged by the weight of the cars parking there.
- The pavement on Oakleigh Road North is tight and people drive fast along it. It is just a matter of time before a parent loses sight of his child for a second and a severe accident occurs.
- The lights at the crossroad switch too rapidly between drivers and pedestrians. Drivers speed through putting pedestrians at risk, or the most conscious ones who respect pedestrians are often stuck in the middle of the crossroads waiting for pedestrians to cross the road.