

Appendix A

Draft School Streets Permit and Exemptions Policy

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Introduction

A school street is a scheme where restrictions on roads outside of a school prohibit most vehicles from entering during school drop off and pick up times. This is achieved by making the roads a pedestrian and cycle zone and by installing the appropriate traffic signs. The scheme aims to create a safer environment for those travelling to and from school as well as helping to tackle air pollution and promote active travel.

School Streets link integrally to Barnet's Long Term Transport Strategy 2020 to 2041 which had a proposal for Healthier Routes to Schools (Proposal W1) which included school streets and play streets. Furthermore, the draft Air Quality Action Plan 2023-2028 states that we will look to reduce the impact of road transport in Barnet on air pollution, emissions, and health by developing and implementing school streets among other initiatives.

Based on statutory guidance enforcement authorities should design their parking policies with particular regard to:

- managing the traffic network to ensure expeditious movement of traffic, (including pedestrians and cyclists), as required under [section 16 of the TMA, Network Management Duty](#) and section 122 Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984
- improving road safety
- improving the local environment
- improving the quality and accessibility of public transport
- meeting the needs of people with disabilities, some of whom will be unable to use public transport and depend entirely on the use of a car
- managing and reconciling the competing demands for kerb space

This policy has been written with these points in mind.

Aim

The document sets out where exemptions to school street restrictions apply, and the criteria for assigning permits to vehicles which allow them to enter a pedestrian and cycle zone during its operational hours. This policy applies to all school streets being delivered across the London Borough of Barnet.

Permits and Exemptions

Statutory Exemptions

- Vehicle entered with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
- Any vehicle being used for fire brigade, ambulance, or police service purposes in an emergency.

General Exemptions

- Vehicle authorised by the Council when used in the service of a local authority in pursuance of statutory powers or duties, provided that in all circumstances it is reasonably necessary in the exercise of such duties for the vehicle to enter the pedestrian and cycle zone.
- Vehicle authorised by the Council to enter the restricted area for the purpose of collecting waste from the pedestrian and cycle zone or any land only accessible by entering.
- Vehicles used by services such a Dial a Ride which provide transport for disabled people and older people who are unable or virtually unable to use public transport.
- Vehicles used for school transport (minibuses/coaches)
- Vehicle used by Royal Mail
- Vehicle used by Medical Practitioners
- Recognised vehicles used for funeral processions (hearses/chief mourners' vehicle).

Permits

Residents and Businesses

Permits allowing vehicles to enter each pedestrian and cycle zone are available to residents and employees of businesses and organisations at premises located within or accessible only from that pedestrian and cycle zone, and to residents of properties with off street parking spaces located in that pedestrian and cycle zone.

Carers of residents who live in a school street

Registered carers, including NHS key workers, of residents living within the School Street can access the zone where necessary to facilitate the caring work. So that a permit can be assigned, the individual or a representative of the organisation they represent should contact the Council (Parking Client Team) with the registration of the vehicle(s) being used.

Permits are also assigned to informal carers enabling them to continue to care for a resident as they normally would. When applying, we ask that a carers permit form ([Microsoft Word - Carers Permit v3.2 June 2012.doc \(barnet.gov.uk\)](#)) complete with the name and address of the resident who requires care and stamped by their GP is submitted to the Council by the individual acting as an informal carer. The form should also be accompanied by proof of resident's address, we accept the following as proof of address:

- Council tax demand for the last 12 month period
- Rent agreement for the last 12 month period
- Two utility bills from different suppliers dated and showing the residents name and address. These must be from within the last 12 months and should not be mobile phone bills

Once the completed form and proof of address has been verified, we will assign a permit to the nominated vehicle

Vehicles used to transport pupils with Special Education Needs, Disabilities or Limited mobility

Each school has its own permit account. Permits are assigned to vehicles used for the above purpose, after the school has approved the request.

This applies to vehicles used by parents/carers and coaches, or minibuses used for pupil transport e.g., vehicles nominated by our Transport Brokering team.

In circumstances where a pupil is transported to and from school by a private hire vehicle, we will initially need to ascertain whether the fare is carried out by the same driver or multiple drivers prior to determining if permit(s) can be issued.

Parents/Carers related to Pupils who hold a Blue Badge

Permits are assigned to badge holders once the required proof has been verified and we have notification of the school's approval.

Schools

The School is able to apply for permanent school staff to obtain permits to access the school street during restricted hours. These can only be permanent employees of the school (for example, on the schools payroll). If a school requests more permits, they are required to supply a business case for each individual request thereafter. In those circumstances a school representative should contact the Parking Client Team (parking.clientteam@barnet.gov.uk) outlining the reasoning and supplying proof where possible. The school is required to notify the Parking Client Team when staff leave the organisation.

This is separate from the Schools Permit scheme, which does not afford access to the zone during controlled hours.

Other

User of designated disabled bay located in the pedestrian and cycle zone.

Temporary Permits

- Permit holder using temporary vehicle e.g., resident whose permanent vehicle is in for repair.
- Blue Badge holders with a valid reason to enter that pedestrian and cycle zone, by application to the Council (proof of Blue Badge, proof of vehicle ownership and proof of residents' or businesses' address are required)

Outcomes and Priorities

The scheme aims to:

- Improve safety around the school,
- Reduce congestion around the school,
- Improve air quality around the school and
- Encourage more people to walk and cycle.

Corporate Knowledge

While this policy is specific to permits and exemptions, we believe the overall impact of school street schemes will be positive and align with the corporate promises mentioned below. Hackney Council has introduced a significant amount of school streets. The number of children cycling to school increased by up to 51%, walking to school rates increased by up to 30% and there was an average decrease of traffic levels outside schools by 68%. In addition research from a school street showed that vehicle emission of Nitrogen Oxides, PM10 and PM2.5 dropped by 74%.¹

Reducing congestion in the vicinity of schools will help to create a more family friendly environment by improving safety for those travelling to and from school as well as nearby residents. Additionally, a reduction in vehicles being used for school drop off and pick up is beneficial in terms of our aim to become net zero carbon in Barnet by 2042

Corporate Promises	Levels of Impact			
	High	Medium	Low	None
Caring for People		X		
Caring for our Places		X		
Caring for the Planet		X		
Being an engaged and effective Council		X		

Appendices

Draft Equalities Impact Assessment, June 2023

¹ Hackney School Streets Toolkit for Professionals, 2021