

## Frequently Asked Questions

In addition to the information on our Project Page: [www.sustrans.org.uk/liverpool-school-neighbourhoods](http://www.sustrans.org.uk/liverpool-school-neighbourhoods)

### What is the Liverpool Schools Neighbourhood Project?

We've worked with pupils from eight West Derby schools to re-design the street outside their school, making it safer for children, their parents and local residents.

Four of these schools are receiving funding from the Freshfield Foundation to implement these designs.

One of the proposed designs is to create a 'School Street', restricting motor traffic for short periods at the start and end of the school day.

There are four stages to this project:

1. **Design stage with children**
2. **Survey the residents and school community on the proposed designs**
3. **Implement an initial trial of the designs**
4. **Look at all the feedback from residents, parents and children, adjust the designs with this in mind and implement a semi-permanent trial for 6 months with funding from the Freshfield Foundation**

### Why are you trialling the designs now?

As schools reopen to more pupils after lockdown, managing the space outside the school gates to allow children and parents to socially distance is especially important.

Simon O'Brian, the city's cycling and walking commissioner, explains why in [this short video](#)

We have been working closely with Liverpool City Council to trial two School Streets in West Derby, to allow more children to get to school safely. By gathering feedback on the designs before the summer, we'll help the school and council to make preparations for September when all pupils will be returning to school.

### Why are South Parkside Drive and Elmtree Close not included in the closure?

Whilst our list of possible design options does include closure of these roads at drop off and pick up times, there is currently no school crossing patrol person in place on Town Row. Restricting access to this area would increase the number of children having to cross Town Row without the support of a crossing patrol person. This issue is being looked into.

A wider closure area also requires parents and pupils to park further away and walk. This needs to be supported with walking buses and further behaviour change activities which can't take place prior to the school holidays. If the final designs include closure of South Parkside Drive and Elmtree Close, Sustrans will support the schools in ensuring these journeys take place safely.

It has been understood that some non-school traffic travelling between Melwood Drive and Town Row attempts to use South Parkside Drive as a cut through to avoid the traffic lights at the end of Melwood Drive. In addition to this there have been reports of dangerous turning manoeuvres outside the school. A one-way system in this location makes the rat-run less desirable and discourages drivers from turning in the road.

If you have views on the potential to restrict traffic further along South Parkside Drive and Elmtree Close in the future, including any staffing support from residents, parents or teachers please share them here <https://new.maptionnaire.com/p/426pck63tr8v>

### **How have parents and residents been consulted on the designs outside the four winning schools?**

Our surveys have been online since 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020. An information postcard went out to all residents directing them to the [online survey](#) and it was advertised in the Liverpool Echo.

The planned face-to-face workshops with residents in March unfortunately had to be cancelled due to covid-19 lockdown.

Sustrans staff will be available on the day of the trial to answer any questions and listen to the views of local people. Please come and talk to us if you are able to do so. We will be following social distancing guidelines and ask people to maintain a safe 2m distance.

The online survey will remain open after the trial.

### **Can I give my opinion now?**

Yes our survey will remain open for comments on each of the four schools [www.sustrans.org.uk/liverpool-school-neighbourhoods](http://www.sustrans.org.uk/liverpool-school-neighbourhoods).

You can also come and speak to Sustrans staff on the day of the trial. We will be recording all feedback on the designs and passing this on to Liverpool City Council.

### **What is being trialled?**

We're trialling one of the design options proposed by the pupils and school community. A School Street is a timed road closure on the road outside the school, relieving congestion at drop off and pick up times.

## **How will the trial be enforced?**

Liverpool City Council will introduce a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order restricting access for motor vehicles at drop off and pick up times. This will be enforced by a traffic management company and signs will be in place warning motorists of the closure.

## **How will residents access their properties?**

Residents within the closure area will be provided with permits and will still be able to access their properties by car during the trial. We ask residents, where possible, to plan journeys outside the times of the road closure to minimise vehicle movements. Anyone travelling through the street will be reminded that there may be children in the road, so will be advised to travel at walking pace.

## **Will the “Kids in Bloom” minibus be able to access St Paul’s and St Paul and St Timothy’s schools?**

The minibus will have a permit to enter the school street during the closure.

## **What about parents who normally drive their children to school?**

For those parents and carers who need to use a car for the school journey, we have identified ‘park and stride’ facilities where they can park in a safe, designated area away from the school gates. The schools will be sending a letter encouraging parents to use these facilities and to consider walking the whole way where possible.

With much less traffic outside the school, it will be quieter and safer for people to walk their children to school.

## **What other designs have been proposed?**

- Wider footways
- Planters to prevent cars from parking on the pavement
- Planters to narrow the road so that cars slow down
- Improved road crossings for people to access school
- Better signs to show there is a school there so people take more care if they are in a car

## **Won’t there be gridlock on surrounding roads if you block Meadow Lane?**

There will be signs warning people that there is a timed road closure and giving them plenty of warning to divert to Muirhead Avenue instead of relying on adjacent residential streets.

## **What about weekend and the summer?**

This initial trial is for one day during term time to assist with social distancing. If successful, the schools would like to trial this idea further in September.