

Case Study

School Street

Ysgol Bryn Collen

Llangollen, Denbighshire

Primary School



Figure 1: Roundabout area outside school closed to non-essential traffic during School Street. ©Sustrans

Background

Ysgol Bryn Collen is a primary school in rural southern Denbighshire, which shares its site with another primary school. The surrounding infrastructure, designed for a single school with fewer pupils, leads to congestion at school peak times. Poor visibility of pupils and parents between cars, along with cars parked on double yellow lines and in disabled and taxi areas, worsen the issue. Despite these challenges, the school community is passionate about active travel.

Key components

In 2023, Denbighshire County Council prioritised the school for a Safe Routes in Communities (SRiC) fund application to enhance student travel safety through the trialling of a School Street, a daily timed street closure during school peak times. Since an active travel school plan is a prerequisite for SRiC funding, ATSP and Active Journeys officers worked closely with the headteacher to create the plan, ensuring the school met the necessary criteria for the application.

Results

The active travel school plan strengthened the fund application, resulting in funding for a School Street trial. The first trial took place in October 2023, followed by another in July 2024.

The trial transformed the area into a safer, traffic-free zone, allowing the school to raise further awareness for active travel, e.g. through fun activities on the day like "bling your bike" sessions and a smoothie bike.

The trials received strong support from the community, who are now advocating for permanent school street closures to non-residents during pick-up and drop-off times.

Despite initial concerns about displaced parking, surveys show that most parents and residents responded positively to the trial.

Consequently, Denbighshire County Council are currently exploring the feasibility of installing ANPR cameras, which will help enforce the closures and encourage long-term community commitment.

Quotes



“Makes me so happy.”

- Ysgol Bryn Collen Headteacher

“This is brilliant, I don’t have to worry about traffic with my pram.”

- Ysgol Bryn Collen Parent

“It’s lovely, we’re free to roam.”

- Ysgol Bryn Collen Parent



Figures 2, 3 and 4: ‘Bling your bike event’ to celebrate the School Street closure. ©Sustrans

