

Partnering with Sustrans on

School streets

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Roads outside schools are often busy and unsafe, with high levels of air pollution. Sustrans works with local authorities around the UK to change this, designing and delivering School Streets with restricted access for motorised traffic. These projects bring proven benefits to communities including:

- » Reducing traffic and congestion by up to 64%, making the neighbourhood around school safer for children and other residents.
- » More opportunities for social interaction and play before and after school.
- » Lowering harmful emissions and associated health risks.
- » Making it possible, and more appealing, for children and families to choose active, healthier journeys to school.



If you'd like to find out more about working with Sustrans on School Streets, please contact businessdevelopment@sustrans.org.uk or phone 0117 926 8893

Why choose Sustrans as your School Streets partner?

We're experts in all phases of School Street delivery

We're the leading delivery partner for School Streets in the UK. Active Travel England names us as the only expert in School Street delivery in its latest guidance.

We've been trusted by local authorities and schools across the UK to develop more than 750 School Street projects. This breadth of experience demonstrates our ability to make School Streets work in a wide range of different settings and scenarios.

Our team of engineers, urban designers and community engagement specialists has the technical skills and knowledge to deliver School Street schemes from start to finish. We can offer expert consultancy and project management at every stage, from planning and site selection to running School Street trials to the creation of permanent School Street Zones.

We work with some local authorities to deliver a single School Street or manage a specific part of the process. Others commission us to plan multi-year programmes implementing multiple School Street schemes. Taking a long-term, collaborative approach is cost-effective and time efficient. Creating a pipeline of School Streets maintains momentum and allows flexible, overlapping delivery of each scheme. It also allows multidisciplinary teams to move seamlessly between projects, retaining vital skills and experience.



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Why choose Sustrans as your School Streets partner?

Tried and tested solutions

Strong public support is pivotal to the success of a School Street. Our established and effective approach starts with a School Street trial and community engagement, taking the time to understand local needs and concerns. We use walkabouts, workshops, surveys and low-cost temporary interventions to meaningfully engage with the whole school community, including children.

We work with local authorities to set up School Street Trials using experimental or temporary traffic regulation orders. Trials are a valuable opportunity to engage with the whole school community, to allow families to experience safer walking, wheeling and cycling on the school run and to shape any permanent scheme. During the trial, we monitor and evaluate the impact of the School Street and support the community to feed into a formal consultation process.

Community insights shape our plans. We use the co-design approach to develop School Street designs shaped by community insights. Input from the people who will use it improves ownership and increases the chance of long-term success.



Did you know?

Our team used Minecraft to involve children in the design of the Westminster School Street in London.

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The services we offer



Sustrans can support local authorities by:

Delivering behaviour change engagement to enable more people to build active travel habits.

Leading School Street Trials to develop community-backed proposals for permanent School Streets.

Project managing, and advising on, the setting up of School Streets schemes, sharing our programme management tools and expertise on school selection criteria, traffic order regulations and traffic filters.

Sharing our expertise on recruiting, engaging and training volunteers/stewards.

Monitoring the impact of a School Street scheme, through our school travel behaviour surveys, active travel perception surveys and traffic monitoring.

Reporting on the School Street's impact, providing evidence for next steps and future interventions.

Drawing up proposals for public realm improvement measures beyond timed restrictions such as greening, play space and seating.

Submitting proposals for wider neighbourhood measures to complement School Streets.

Co-designing concept or detailed designs for permanent infrastructure changes.

Project managing and supervising the design and construction of permanent works.

The services we offer

How we'll work with you

Building positive, lasting partnerships with local authorities is the bedrock of our approach. We bring insight, experience and a solution-focused, collaborative way of working to every School Street project, establishing a clear plan, responsibilities and expectations from the outset.

We'll work with you to assess the individual circumstances of each school and the feasibility of different options for traffic restriction. We can advise on local strengths and opportunities. And help you to identify and overcome challenges you may face, from local opposition to limited funding.

We have experience of delivering School Street trials using a range of temporary traffic filters. Some use moveable barriers stewarded by volunteers. Others test interventions such as bollards, planters and swing gates or introduce automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) technology.



What we need from you

We want your School Street Trial to succeed, creating a safer neighbourhood around the school and changing the way people travel.

To achieve this, we ask you to identify a committed lead within your local authority to work with us. Funding will need to be in place. We'll also need to know whether there is potential for trial schemes to become permanent or lead to further funding.

Evidence of an appetite for School Streets at the schools involved, and time and resources dedicated to community engagement throughout the project are also essential.

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Examples of our work



We're working with Frome Town Council in Somerset on an ambitious School Streets Trial covering four schools and a nursery.

We began by carrying out in-depth community engagement, including in-person events, online workshops and surveys of adults and young people. Our team of urban designers and engineers used this feedback to produce co-designed proposals for change across the areas. These included infrastructure changes, such as connecting cycling and walking routes, improving crossings, parking and traffic restrictions and enforcement.

We also worked with local groups to encourage and enable more people to walk, wheel and cycle to help the scheme have the biggest impact. The 18-month School Street trial began in 2024 and may become permanent depending on data and feedback.

"This will make the streets better, for everyone to enjoy."

Parent and local resident

"The [Sustrans] schemes successfully integrate playful features and greenery to radically transform the feel of arterial roads where our sites are located, from traffic dominated spaces to places that are people-centred."

Islington School Streets team

"The School Street has created a much calmer, happier start and end to the school day for everyone. Now the anxiety about how to keep my children safe is completely gone. It has totally changed our days. When Sustrans got involved, they knew what they were talking about, they knew how it could work."

Parent, Robert Kett Primary School (Norfolk County Council)

Contact us

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About us

We work for and with communities, helping them come to life by walking, wheeling and cycling to create healthier places and happier lives for everyone.

Across the UK we involve communities in shaping our towns and cities. Together we campaign for and create spaces where everyone can move around safely and give people the tools and confidence to get out of their cars.

We inspire people to change the way we all travel every day, forging closer connections with our neighbours and reducing traffic to create a better environment and more sustainable society for everyone.

Join us on our journey.

www.sustrans.org.uk

Photos: Jon Bewley, Mark Radford, Frank Dwyer Photography, Paul Tanner, Denis Oates, Paul Mitchell, Stephen Latimer.

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