

Streetscene
Hackney Council
Hackney Service Centre
1 Hillman Street
London
E8 1DY

For the attention of St Matthias Church
of England Primary School

sta@hackney.gov.uk

4 September 2020

Dear Ms Blewett,

A School Street is coming to Cowper Road and Bennett Road with a launch date of **Monday 7 September 2020**. This letter provides detailed information about what the scheme is, how it will operate and answers to frequently asked questions. Please circulate this information to parents/carers, pupils and staff.

What is a School Street?

A School Street is a scheme where the road(s) outside a school is closed to most vehicles during school opening and closing times, helping children walk or cycle to school safely.

St Matthias Church of England Primary School will be getting a School Street in September as part of our effort to rebuild a greener Hackney post-lockdown. This will help promote cleaner air, reduce congestion and increase levels of active travel, creating a more pleasant environment for local communities.

The School Street will also help to provide immediate protection against road danger and difficulties with social distancing around school opening and closing times, addressing the dangers of vulnerable road users being forced out into the carriageway to avoid crowding around school gates.

How will the scheme work and what are the operating times?

Cowper Road, from the junction with Mathias Road, including Bennett Road, will be made a Pedestrian and Cycle Zone for one hour in the morning and afternoon, from 8:30-9:30am and 3:00-4:00pm. The scheme will not operate on weekends or during school holidays. Pedestrian and Cycle Zone signage will be installed at all entrances into the zone, informing drivers of the restrictions (see map below).

Vehicles will be banned from entering the street between these times unless they have been granted an exemption. Access for residents will be maintained for vehicles registered for an exemption. This will enable residents who live within the zone to still get to and from their homes by motor vehicle.

Public notices advising the changes will be displayed in the streets prior to implementation.

How will the scheme be enforced?

The School Streets zone will be indicated by Pedestrian and Cycle Zone signs at each entry point (see map below). It is a traffic offence for non-exempt vehicles to enter the School Streets zone during the operational times, and infractions can carry a penalty charge issued by an Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) camera. School Streets will be spot enforced across the borough and the enforcement regime will be monitored and reviewed. Additionally, some sites may incorporate barriers, marshalled by school staff and volunteers, to remind drivers that the School Street is a Pedestrian and Cycle Zone that prioritises the safety of children.

Penalty Charge Notices will not be issued for one month after the School Street is introduced.

How long will the scheme last?

This School Streets scheme is being introduced using an experimental traffic order for a maximum period of 18 months. The trial scheme will be reviewed 9 months after it has been implemented and, if it is deemed successful, can be made permanent by the introduction of a permanent Traffic Management Order (TMO).

Which vehicles are exempt from the scheme?

Vehicles that are registered to a residential or business address within a School Streets zone are eligible for exemption from that School Street zone, and will automatically be exempted. Special exemptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis. This includes Blue Badge holders and carers who need vehicle access to a property inside the School Streets zone, including the school.

Which vehicles are not exempt from the scheme?

Vehicles driven by residents living outside of a School Streets zone, parents/carers dropping off/collecting children at the school, school staff, friends, tradespeople, delivery vehicles, and any other non-exempt vehicle will not be permitted to enter the street during the School Streets operational times.

What about deliveries, or if school staff need to access the staff car park?

If school staff need to access the school's car park, they must arrive before or after the School Streets operational times (8:30-9:30am and 3:00-4:00pm). This also applies to delivery vehicles, which should be retimed if necessary.

What if I'm already parked inside the School Streets zone when it comes into operation?

All vehicles already parked in a School Street zone before the times of operation will be able to leave.

Have local residents and businesses been informed of the restrictions?

The Council has written to local residents and businesses within the School Streets immediate area to inform them of the upcoming restrictions.

What happens next?

The School Streets scheme will become operational from Monday 7 September 2020.

What does the school need to do?

We suggest the school circulate this information to pupils, parents/carers and staff via letters, newsletters, social media and the school website to raise awareness amongst the school community of the upcoming restrictions. Similarly, you can make them aware that this information can be found on the Council's School Streets web page: www.hackney.gov.uk/school-streets.

Please contact the Council, at the contact details below, if you wish to formally request a barrier(s) for your school to aid in alerting drivers of the restrictions. The barrier would be supplied by the Council, and would need to be marshalled by school staff and/or volunteers from the school community. The school would need to organise a rota of marshals to cover barrier duties twice a day during the school week. If the school formally requests a barrier, the Council will provide a School Streets Memorandum of Understanding to the school, as well as guidance for marshals.

If you would like any further information or have any queries regarding the scheme, please email sta@hackney.gov.uk. School Streets information, answers to frequently asked questions and the online exemption application form is also available at www.hackney.gov.uk/school-streets.

If you would like to provide feedback on any of the new School Streets, please visit: <https://rebuildingagreenerhackney.commonplace.is/schemes/proposals/hackney-school-streets/details>.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Oskys

Sustainable Transport Planner

Streetscene, Health and Community Services Directorate

Map of St Matthias Church of England Primary School Street (also includes Map of Princess May Primary School Street)

