

Statement of Reasons

School Streets: May Park Primary School – Proposed prohibition of driving and one-way movement except cycles

Bristol City Council (BCC) is delivering a ‘School Streets’ project which aims to tackle the issues caused by school traffic at peak times (the start/end of the school day). This traffic causes congestion which compromises air quality outside schools and presents a problem in terms of road safety, as well as obstructing access for residents and the emergency services.

Removing non-essential vehicular traffic from roads in the vicinity of school entrances will help to make children’s journeys to school safer and aims to make active travel (walking, cycling, scooting and wheeling) to and from school more appealing. With a number of School Streets currently operating across the city, BCC is now looking to extend this to more schools in 2026. Schools have been selected based on a range of criteria, including the school’s pro-active engagement with existing schemes aimed at improving their pupils travel arrangements.

Prohibition of Driving

It is proposed that vehicular traffic on Coombe Road and East Park should be regulated by means of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO). The prohibition of driving would be in effect between **08:25 – 09:10** in the morning and again between **15:05 – 15:55** in the afternoon, from Monday to Friday during term-time only.

There will be exceptions to the prohibition of driving for access for permit holders and Blue Badge holders. The Council will determine the number and nature of permits to be issued, which may change from time to time. There will also be exemptions for various bodies such as emergency services, statutory undertakers, highway maintenance vehicles and wedding and funeral vehicles.

During the scheme’s prohibition of driving times, motorists already parked within the zone will be permitted to exit the roads but only emergency service vehicles, Blue Badge holders and permit holders will be allowed to freely enter the road.

One-Way movement except cycles

This proposal includes an extension to the current one-way system on East Park that will operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week (24/7).

The one-way proposal is intended to reduce the levels of extraneous through traffic using East Park, making this route safer and quieter for residents and pedestrians.

The one-way will also support the operation of the school street when staff need to put a temporary closure in place. Having a permanent one-way system means staff only need to manage traffic from one direction. This makes the process much safer and more straightforward than trying to control two entry points, reducing the risk of conflict between

vehicles and staff. It also helps ensure that closures can be implemented quickly and effectively without putting staff at unnecessary risk.

It appears to the Council that it is expedient to make the permanent order:

- for avoiding danger to persons or other traffic using the road or any other road or for preventing the likelihood of any such danger arising;
- for facilitating the passage on the road or any other road of any class of traffic (including pedestrians);
- For assessment and management of the quality of air pursuant to paragraphs (a) to (c) of sub section (1) of Section 87 of the Environmental Act 1995 (air quality).