

# School Streets: Frequently Asked Questions

## BRUTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

### **What are School Streets?**

School Streets temporarily restrict motor vehicle access into streets near school entrances during school opening and closing times. They help to encourage families to walk, scoot or cycle to school, making the area immediately outside the school safer for all.

### **What is the main aim of a School Street?**

The main aim of a School Street is to reduce the amount of traffic on streets around a school. There are many benefits for everyone, including:

- Reducing congestion
- Improved road safety and perceptions of 'feeling' safe
- Reduced air pollution
- Better access and parking for residents and businesses

### **How does a School Street work?**

A specific street or a section of the street around a participating school will temporarily restrict non-essential motor vehicle access at set times in the morning and afternoon. Vehicles will not be allowed to enter the street during the operating times unless they are exempt (see below).

Signs and barriers at the entrances to the scheme will inform drivers of the restriction. Advanced warning signs will be installed where necessary. Stewards at the barriers may ask drivers to provide proof they are permitted to enter the street and will only allow authorised vehicles to enter e.g. residents, business owners etc.

### **How long will the School Street trial be in place?**

The trial is due to take place from the 13 January 2025, excluding the school holidays. The scheme can continue to run for up to 18 months under the ETRO.

After an initial 6-month trial phase, the scheme will undergo a full review. We will monitor the impact of the measures and listen to feedback from residents, parents, businesses, and the school. If successful, over the longer term, the School Street may become permanent.

### **What is the legal position of closing the road?**

The restrictions are operated in partnership with Bruton Primary School, SASP and Somerset Council. An Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) will be put in place, which allows the road to be temporarily closed by law. As a legal document, ETRO's help to manage the highway network for all road users, improving safety and access.

### **What times will restrictions usually apply?**

A School Street scheme will operate on weekdays during term-time only.

The operating times will depend on the participating school and timed to align with pupils arriving and leaving school. In practice, restrictions are likely to be in place for up to one hour in the morning and up to one hour in the afternoon.

Bruton School Operating Times: 08:30-09:15 and 15:00-15:45.

### **Where are the restrictions:**

On the map below, the restricted areas of Bruton School Street are shown by the yellow highlighted areas, and the red barriers across the roads demonstrate the road closures.



### **School Streets for residents**

#### **Can I drive in and out of my street during operating times?**

Residents living within the School Street closure will be permitted to enter and / or leave the designated School Street during operating times. As there will be children and families in the road, drivers are required to drive through the restricted area to limit their speed to walking pace (approx. 5mph).

#### **What about carers visiting a resident for care purposes?**

Carers can enter and leave the scheme at any time to carry out their caring duties.

#### **What about deliveries?**

We would ask residents to try to schedule deliveries, so they arrive outside the restricted times or park outside of the School Street and walk the remaining distance. If this is not possible, delivery drivers would be permitted to enter the zone.

#### **What about tradespeople needing to come to my house to carry out work?**

Access for visitors, tradespeople, and deliveries will still be allowed, although we would ask residents to try to schedule tradespeople to arrive outside the restricted times if possible.

**What about visitors?**

Visitors are required to time their arrivals and departures outside of the closure times. However, if they enter the restricted area before the restriction start time, they can leave the street at any time.

**School Streets for businesses, tradespeople and customers****Can I drive in and out of the School Street during closure times?**

Vehicles of people working at business premises on the street are permitted to enter and leave the designated School Street during operating times. As there will be children and families on the road, drivers will need to drive through the restricted area at a walking pace (approx. 5mph).

**What about deliveries to my business premises?**

We would ask businesses to try to schedule deliveries, so they arrive outside the restricted times, if possible. If this is not possible, delivery drivers would be permitted to enter the zone.

**What about customers coming to my business premises?**

Customers will be permitted access to business premises on the street. Drivers are required to drive at a walking pace (approx. 5mph) if they need to drive through the street during the restricted times.

**School Streets for Others****As a Blue Badge holder, can I enter the School Street?**

Yes. Blue Badge holders are permitted to enter and leave the School Street. Blue Badge holders are requested to ensure that their Blue Badge is clearly visible on the dashboard.

**Will school staff be allowed to enter the School Street?**

If the school has on-premises parking, school staff would be permitted to enter the School Street during the timed restrictions to access the parking. We ask staff to avoid doing this if possible, and to arrive and leave outside the times the restrictions are in place.

**As a parent/carer, can I drive into the School Street?**

No. During the restricted times, parents or carers will not be allowed to enter the School Street in their vehicles, unless you or your child are a Blue Badge holder or another exemption. You will still be able to walk, cycle, scoot or use a mobility aid to school.

**For drivers who do not live or work on the School Street****What if I am already parked inside the scheme when it comes into operation?**

Other drivers who want to access the School Street must arrive outside the hours of operation, or they can temporarily park outside the zone and then move their vehicle once the timed restrictions end.

Vehicles already parked within the School Street area before the restrictions will not be able to leave until the School Street ends, unless they have an exemption.

**What other motor vehicles are allowed in the scheme?**

Emergency services and contracted school transport, either dropping off or picking up pupils from the school or their home address if it is within a School Street scheme will be permitted.

**Who is exempt from the restrictions?**

- Blue Badge holders
- Emergency services
- Businesses with premises on the street
- Businesses making deliveries
- Carers or doctors
- Residents
- School staff accessing on-site parking only
- School transport providers

**Other Information**

**To help better understand the scheme, we have identified some further information that may be useful for you:**

- [School Streets Initiative - All the information you need](#)
- [Sustrans – the walking and cycling charity and leader in delivering School Streets](#)
- [Somerset Activity & Sports Partnership - School Streets \(sasp.co.uk\)](#)
- [Active travel](#)

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