

Your reference -  
Our reference  
Date: Wednesday, 14 December 2022



## City of **Stoke-on-Trent**

### **Housing, Development and Growth**

Civic Centre

Glebe Street

Stoke-on-Trent

ST4 1HH

Dear Resident,

### **STOKE-ON-TRENT CITY COUNCIL SCHOOL STREETS CONSULTATION**

#### **GROVE ACADEMY– TURNER STREET ST1 2NL**

Stoke-on-Trent City Council is launching a programme of School Streets which aims to create an active, safe and healthy environment near schools. The Council is proposing to implement School Streets at Grove Academy. This will protect children from traffic at the school gate, ensure that children breathe cleaner air, and encourage more children, parents and carers to travel actively and walk, scoot and cycle to school. School Streets also help to reduce congestion and pollution on the roads surrounding schools. We're reaching out to residents living on or near the proposed School Streets scheme to provide you with some information and to let you know how you can have your say.

#### **WHAT IS A SCHOOL STREET?**

School Streets is where non-residential motor vehicles from outside the School Streets zone are restricted from entering the designated zone and travelling past school entrances during the schools' start and finish times. School Streets operate during term time only. Traffic signs at the entrance to the School Streets zone will inform drivers of the time that the restrictions will operate. Grove Academy will be the first School Streets scheme in Stoke-on-Trent and the school has been selected due to ongoing issues facing parents and residents with school traffic. Similar schemes are in place across the country and they are popular with residents, parents, children and schools.

#### **WHY IS THIS SCHEME BEING PROPOSED?**

School Streets aim to:

- Improve air quality near schools which has positive health benefits for children. Exposure to poor air quality is now acknowledged as being a cause of serious concern for children.
- Reduce congestion and the risk of accidents to make streets safer

- Reduce traffic on the road and improve traffic flows at school drop off and pick-up times
- Make it safer for school children to cross the road with fewer cars parked or waiting and obstructing visibility
- Create a healthier street environment
- Make it easier for local residents who drive to enter and exit their street

We will always carry out evaluation and monitoring of the School Streets schemes and impacts to assess if any changes are needed to improve the operation of the zone.

## THE PROPOSAL

It is proposed that during term time only, non-residential vehicular traffic - cars, vans and lorries, which do not belong to residents living in the School Streets zone or businesses located in the zone will be restricted from driving along certain roads in the vicinity of the school at school start and finish times. Residents and businesses with vehicles registered to an address within the restriction area will be able to apply for a free exemption from the restriction by notifying the Council of their vehicle details. The roads that are proposed for inclusion in the School Streets scheme are:

- Turner Street (between Keelings Road and Avoca Street)
- Dover Street

These roads are shown on the below map (highlighted in blue) and have been chosen as the entrances/exits to the school are located on these, or adjacent roads.

The proposed times of the restriction are between:

- **Morning: 08.00 – 09:00**
- **Afternoon: 14.00 – 16:00**

These times have been proposed after discussions with the school.

The restriction will be indicated by advanced signage, and signage at the relevant junctions. It will be enforced by traffic enforcement cameras. A Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) will be issued to the owner of any vehicle that breaks the restriction.

## WHAT OTHER SUPPORTING MEASURES ARE THE COUNCIL TAKING?

The Council's School Travel and Road Safety team will work with the school to further develop their School Travel Plan and to increase the numbers of children walking and cycling to school. The Council will work with the school to implement behaviour change initiatives. Measures considered include:

- Improving footways and pedestrian crossings
- Placing drop kerbs at desirable crossing locations
- Improving cycle routes and cycle facilities
- Setting up a 'walking bus' programme where local children walk together to school, accompanied by a responsible adult.
- Promotion of the Park & Stride scheme operable from Central Forest Park

## STATUTORY CONSULTATION

School Streets zones are legally enforceable. The Council will implement School Streets by making a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) which is the statutory basis for restricting motor vehicles from entering the School Street zone.

Any objections and other representations to the proposed Order must be made in writing stating the grounds on which they are made and sent by email to: [movingtraffic@stoke.gov.uk](mailto:movingtraffic@stoke.gov.uk) by 23:59 on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

### WHAT ROAD USERS ARE PERMITTED TO ACCESS THE SCHOOL STREET?

Exemptions will be available for the following:

- Residents living within the zone
- Businesses located within the zone
- Emergency Vehicles
- Taxis (not private hire vehicles)
- Council Refuse Collection Vehicles
- School buses (Passenger Transport buses operated by the Council)
- Carers
- Other exemptions may be granted on a case by case basis

### WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

We'd like to hear your views on the proposed School Streets scheme for Grove Academy. You can get involved and have your say, highlight any issues or raise any suggestions by emailing us at [movingtraffic@stoke.gov.uk](mailto:movingtraffic@stoke.gov.uk). All responses should be received by 23:59 on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023. You do not need to apply for an exemption at this point.

***Please check the above School Streets website for further details.***

### WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

We welcome your feedback during this public consultation. All comments will be analysed and considered carefully before a final decision is made on implementing a School Streets zone. The decision will then be publicised, and the Council will write to all respondees advising them of the decision. The Council will also write to the residents and businesses located within the School Streets zone to inform them of how they can obtain their free vehicle exemption.

Yours Sincerely,



Strategic Manager – Regulatory Services

