

**Street Scene and Communities Overview and Scrutiny
Committee**

16 September 2025

School Gate Parking Working Group – Recommendation Monitoring update

Wards: All

Portfolio: Councillor A. Hicken – Enforcement and Safe Communities
Councillor S. Samra – Street Scene

1. Aim

1.1. To provide a highway network that is safe for all users, facilitate active travel choices and enables access to education.

2. Recommendations

2.1. The committee is asked to note the progress that has been made in respect to school gate parking.

3. Report detail – know

3.1. At many locations across the borough, roads around schools experience a surge of traffic concentrated at school drop off and pick up times. This results in an increased risk of collisions with vulnerable road users and other motorists, unlawful parking, congestion and consequential impacts on air quality.

3.2. Statistics from the Department of Transport reveal that 11% of children **Killed or Seriously Injured** (KSI) on Great Britain's roads in the 3 year period 2021 to 2023 were harmed during the morning school run between 7am and 9am and 20% after school between 3pm and 5pm. In Walsall, during the same time period, these figures were 8% and 34% respectively. It is worth noting that there were no school aged children killed in Walsall across the 3 years at 'school times' compared to 29 fatalities nationally.

3.3. Between April 2022 and January 2023, a Scrutiny Overview Committee working group considered the multi-faceted approach that the council takes to manage school gate parking. They considered the following themes:

- a) Engineering
- b) Partnerships
- c) Education
- d) Enforcement

3.4. The working group made 16 recommendations. Progress against those recommendations is detailed in Appendix A of this report

- 3.5. The most significant progress since the submission of the working group report is:
- Obtaining moving traffic contravention enforcement powers
 - Implementation and camera enforcement of school streets
 - Camera enforcement of school keep clear restrictions
 - Ongoing delivery of the A*STARS programme
- 3.6. With over 100 school locations, all facing degrees of inappropriate and illegal parking activity, challenges remain with the frequency of deployment of civil enforcement officers to the school gate. The number of available civil enforcement officers on shift at any one time, coupled with the need to enforce all borough wide parking restrictions installed to maintain road safety and highway efficiency, means school gate deployment at each school is less frequent than it otherwise could be.
- 3.7. Extensive use of the council's 2 mobile CCTV enforcement vehicles greatly assists with maximising deployment to as many school gate locations as possible. However, legislative restrictions still prevent their use for enforcement of normal double and single yellow line parking restrictions.
- 3.8. The use of automated CCTV enforcement for school streets and school keep clear restrictions will continue to be expanded. This approach provides that constant enforcement presence and visual reminder of the need to comply with the restrictions.
- 3.9. Further opportunities to address the problems created at the school gate by inappropriate and illegal parking activity will be explored through the enforcement board set up as part of the Enforcement and Safe Communities portfolio.

4. Financial information

- 4.1. Measures to improve road safety during peak school times, including the implementation of school streets enforcement, have been funded from surplus parking and bus lane income. This income can only be used for funding costs of enforcement, costs of operating public transport and highways improvements.

5. Reducing Inequalities

- 5.1. Enhancing road safety around school entrances plays a pivotal role in diminishing inequalities by creating a secure environment that benefits all students.
- 5.2. In economically disadvantaged areas, where families may rely on walking or public transport, safer routes to school ensure that children can travel to education providers without facing disproportionate risks. Additionally, opportunities to make active travel choices can help to address health inequalities, offering a sustainable and inclusive approach to enhance overall well-being and reduce disparities in health outcomes.

6. Decide

- 6.1. The committee is asked to note the work being carried out in respect to school gate parking.

7. Respond

- 7.1. Work to progress the recommendations of the 2023 report is ongoing.

8. Review

- 8.1. The annual road safety programme of road safety intervention measures is considered by cabinet in February each year. This report assesses and ranks all requests for road safety interventions to be delivered in the financial year.

Background Papers

Appendix A: Scrutiny Overview Working Group Recommendations - Progress Tracker

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Scrutiny Overview Working Group Recommendations – Progress Tracker

Action	Detail	Status	Comments
Engineering			
1	That the Council continue to support the roll out of the School Streets Programme through the continuation of investment into school enforcement static cameras.		<p>10 school street camera enforcement locations already operational. 3 more locations proposed to be implemented this financial year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St John’s School, Brook Lane from the junction with Brookland Road to the junction with Laburnam Road. • Pelsall Village School, School Lane from the junction with Wolverhampton Road to the junction with Old Town Lane & Old Town Lane from the junction with School Lane to the junction with Shortlands Lane. • Bluecoat Infant Hanch Place from the junction with Birmingham Road to the junction with Lysways Street. <p>23 school keep clear static camera enforcement locations already operational. 2 more locations to be implemented this financial year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blackwood School, Blackwood Road • Greenfield Primary, Coalheath Lane
2	The Head of Highways, Transport & Operations investigate, in consultation with the Head of Planning, the use of Section 106 contributions to improve the safety of roads surrounding schools.		Section106 Board was established in October 2022 and is ongoing with regular highways and transport officer representation.

3	That Head of Highways, Transport & Operations investigates the potential benefit of creating 20mph zones around schools as part of 'We Are Walsall 2040'.		Assessed as part of the annual road safety programme reported to cabinet.
4	That the Head of Highways, Transport & Operations investigate the creation of standard non-statutory signage for use on school premises outside schools in Walsall to encourage responsible driver behaviour with respect to parking and idling. The signage should include a warning that CEOs operate in the area.		Railing banners with appropriate/considerate parking messages and anti-idling are available for schools to loan through the A*STARS programme. Additional permanent signage detailing restrictions is installed outside schools as standard.
Partnership			
5	That Officers of the Council work in partnership with West Midlands Police to combat problem areas for the school gate parking. The Working Group support the establishment of a liaison group (to discuss enforcement activity) between the Council and the Police.		Liaison with the police has been ongoing for many years but has increased following the council gaining moving traffic contravention enforcement powers. Joint enforcement activity with West Midlands Police takes place throughout the school term when police resource allows. Work is ongoing to further strengthen the local liaison with West Midlands Police, building on the excellent regional based partnership working taking place through the West Midlands road safety group.

6 Continue to encourage parents/carers and pupils to use alternative methods of travel to and from school

This is promoted through the council's A*STARS programme.

	Schools	A*STARS Schools	%
Aldridge Central and South	6	6	100%
Aldridge North & Walsall Wood	4	4	100%
Bentley and Darlaston North	4	4	100%
Birchills Leamore	4	3	75%
Blakenall	8	7	88%
Bloxwich East	6	5	83%
Bloxwich West	5	5	100%
Brownhills	7	5	71%
Darlaston South	8	8	100%
Paddock	4	3	75%
Palfrey	7	7	100%
Pelsall	3	3	100%
Pheasey Park Farm	3	2	67%
Pleck	6	6	100%
Rushall-Shelfield	5	5	100%
Short Heath	8	7	88%
St Matthew's	9	4	44%
Streetly	5	5	100%
Willenhall North	3	3	100%
Willenhall South	4	4	100%
	109	96	88%

7	<p>That the Council produce a new education campaign before the start of the new school year on the issue of road safety and school gate parking</p> <p>(a) To invite schools as part of this campaign to design new road signage and contribute to a road safety video aimed at parents and pupils.</p>		<p>Resources are sent to guardians of new school starters promoting active travel methods and the associated benefits and explaining the parking restrictions and reasons to adhere to these.</p> <p>Transition training to pupils moving from primary to secondary school also promotes the use of active travel, coupled with Bikeability training to educate pupils on using active modes of travel safely.</p> <p>All road signage is regulated by the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016. This prevents the design and use of bespoke signage on the public highway.</p>
8	<p>To request that the Council's two representatives currently sitting on the Transport for West Midlands Transport Delivery Committee raise the relevant recommendations of this working group at a strategic level.</p>		<p>The working group recommendations have already been raised at the strategic level by officers who attend the West Midlands Regional Road Safety Group and the West Midlands Traffic Managers Group.</p> <p>A briefing note will be prepared for Councillor Amo Hussain and Councillor Poonam Gill to consider raising the working group recommendations, at the strategic level, at an appropriate meeting of the West Midlands Transport Delivery Committee.</p>
9	<p>Request that the Portfolio Holder for Education and the Executive Director of Children's Services write to all head teachers in the Borough to highlight best practice, and provide guidance (including the A*Stars programme) in relation to safety of children on roads near their schools.</p>		<p>A briefing note will be prepared for the Executive Director Children's Services and the Deputy Leader - Children, Families & Lifelong Learning to consider writing to all head teachers.</p>

Education		
10	That the Council continue to encourage schools currently not participating in the A*STARS programme to become involved.	<p>The A*STARS team continues to engage with schools not participating in the programme as part of targeted engagement activity designed to encourage participation.</p>
11	<p>To encourage, through the A*STARS Programme, parents/carers to access schools via sustainable modes, but if they must drive to park five minutes' walk from the school gate to alleviate congestion and to contribute to public health.</p> <p>(a) Schools are requested to identify local parking provision (where possible) to provide park and walk opportunities.</p>	<p>In the last full academic year (24/25) 30 schools had set up a 5 minute walk zone, 6 schools had a park and stride scheme in place, 4 school hosted a 'let's walk together' event and 2 schools had a Walking Bus.</p> <p>The Walking or Wheeling scheme recorded over 100,000 active journeys in the autumn term.</p>
Enforcement		
12	That the Head of Highways Transport & Operations explores the extension of Traffic Regulation Orders surrounding schools to maximise their use to improve safety.	<p>All school keep clear restrictions now have a legally enforceable traffic regulation order in place allowing routine enforcement by civil enforcement officers, static camera enforcement and mobile vehicle camera enforcement.</p> <p>Currently, 23 school locations have static camera enforcement of school keep clear restrictions.</p> <p>Traffic regulation orders are amended twice yearly. Any further amendments to the restrictions outside schools will be identified in partnership with the schools via our A*STARS engagement and delivered via this process.</p>

13	To request that the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration write to the Secretary of State for Transport to ask that the Government support the rollout of powers to Councils to enforce via CCTV Traffic Regulation Orders and that loopholes in the existing legislation be closed, including supporting the granting of powers to Councils to enforce obstructions of highways offenses.		<p>A consultation on enforcement of public highway obstructions already undertaken by the Department for Transport 3 years ago – the consultation has now closed, and the outcome is awaited. Department for Transport (DfT) has recently been approached for an update on the timeframe for an outcome to the consultation. DfT has confirmed this is expected to be published soon.</p> <p>The implementation of moving traffic enforcement powers has significantly increased the scope of enforcement that local highway authorities can undertake via CCTV.</p>
14	That the Council uses the Moving Traffic Offences powers once granted.		<p>The council was granted moving traffic enforcement powers at specific locations, including all ten school streets, in July 2023.</p> <p>Moving traffic enforcement powers are used every day of the school term through automatic CCTV enforcement of school street restrictions. For the period 01/09/2024 – 31/08/2025, moving traffic contravention enforcement powers have been used to issue 5660 penalty charge notices at school street locations.</p>

15	That the Head of Highways Transport & Operations work with APCOA to explore changing the uniform of Civil Enforcement Officers to make them more visible to the public and act as a deterrent.		<p>A review of Civil Enforcement Officer uniforms has been undertaken in conjunction with APCOA. This concluded that the uniform is already highly visible and supports the clear identification of civil enforcement officers by the general public.</p> <p>Statutory guidance for local authorities in England on civil enforcement of parking contraventions details uniform requirements.</p> <p>The uniform should clearly show:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that the wearer is engaged in parking enforcement • the name of the local authority/authorities of whose behalf they are acting • a personal identity number <p>It is recommended that CEOs carry a photo identity card, showing their identification number and the name of their employer. However, to protect the safety of staff, it is strongly recommended that the photo identity card does not include the enforcement officer's name on it.</p>
16	That the level of enforcement around schools is increased.		<p>The implementation of camera enforcement in respect to school streets and school keep clear markings has significantly increased enforcement activity.</p> <p>Static CCTV enforcement cameras and associated signage provides a permanent enforcement presence during the times of the restriction and a permanent visual reminder to motorists of the need to comply with the restrictions.</p>