

## School Streets - FAQs

### 1. What is a School Street?

A School Street is a timed road closure which reduces vehicular traffic into the restricted area, supporting active travel, reducing vehicle movement and creating a safer and more pleasant start and end to the day.

School Streets operate Monday to Friday during term-time using signs to denote their presence. The proposed operational times for this School Street are from **Monday to Friday 8.15am to 9.00am and 3.00pm to 3.30pm term time only**.

### 2. Why do we want to trial a School Street at Barnes Primary School?

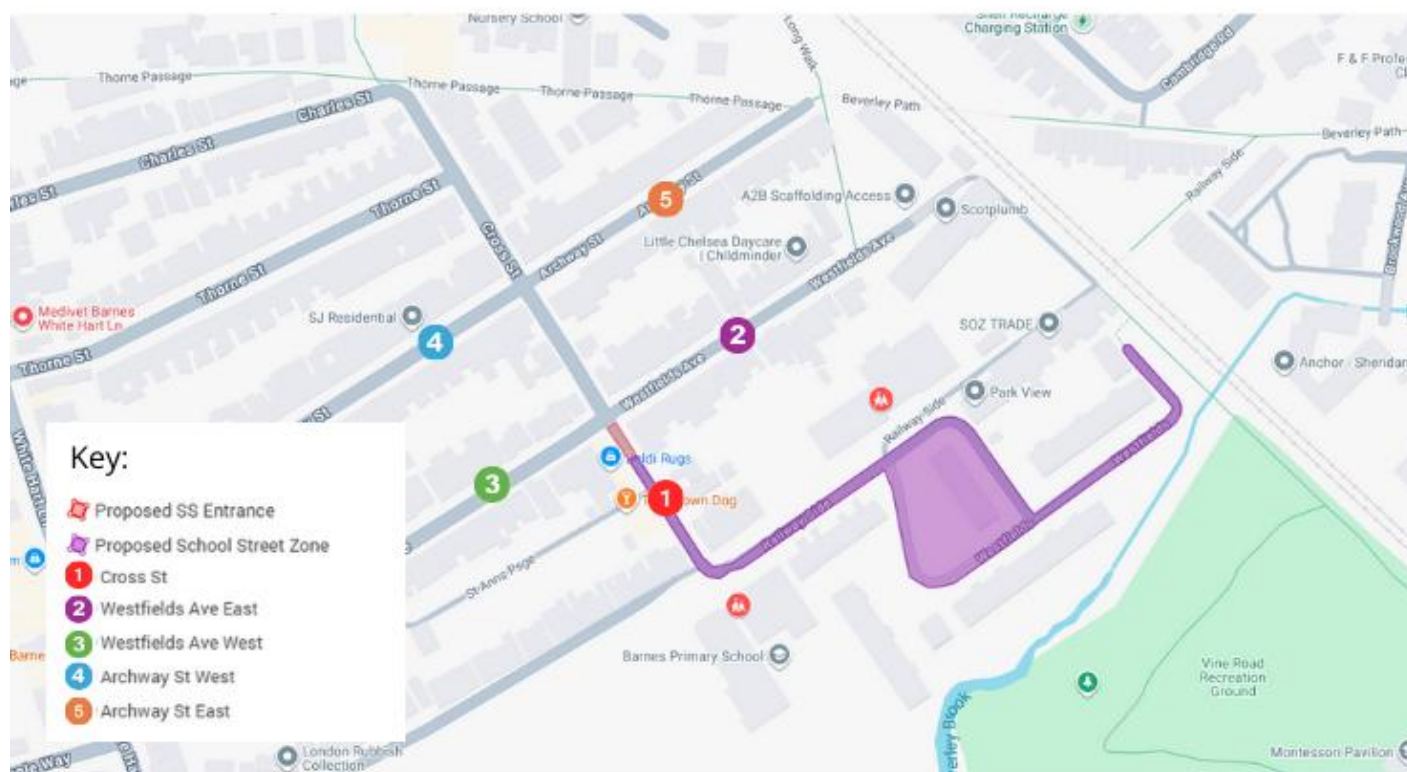
Site visits revealed that many children walk to school, but due to narrow footways they are having to walk in the carriageway. A School Street reduces vehicular traffic within the restricted area, which will improve safety and reduce conflict between cars and pedestrians during School Street operational hours. A higher ratio of pedestrians to cars creates a safer space for these vulnerable road users as well as for other pedestrians using the footpaths to the station and for cyclists.

There is also a need for many parents/guardians to collect children from both sites which are across the road from each other. Without a formal crossing facility, a School Street will again reduce the potential conflict between pedestrians crossing and cars passing.

### 3. Has the Council collected any data for the area?

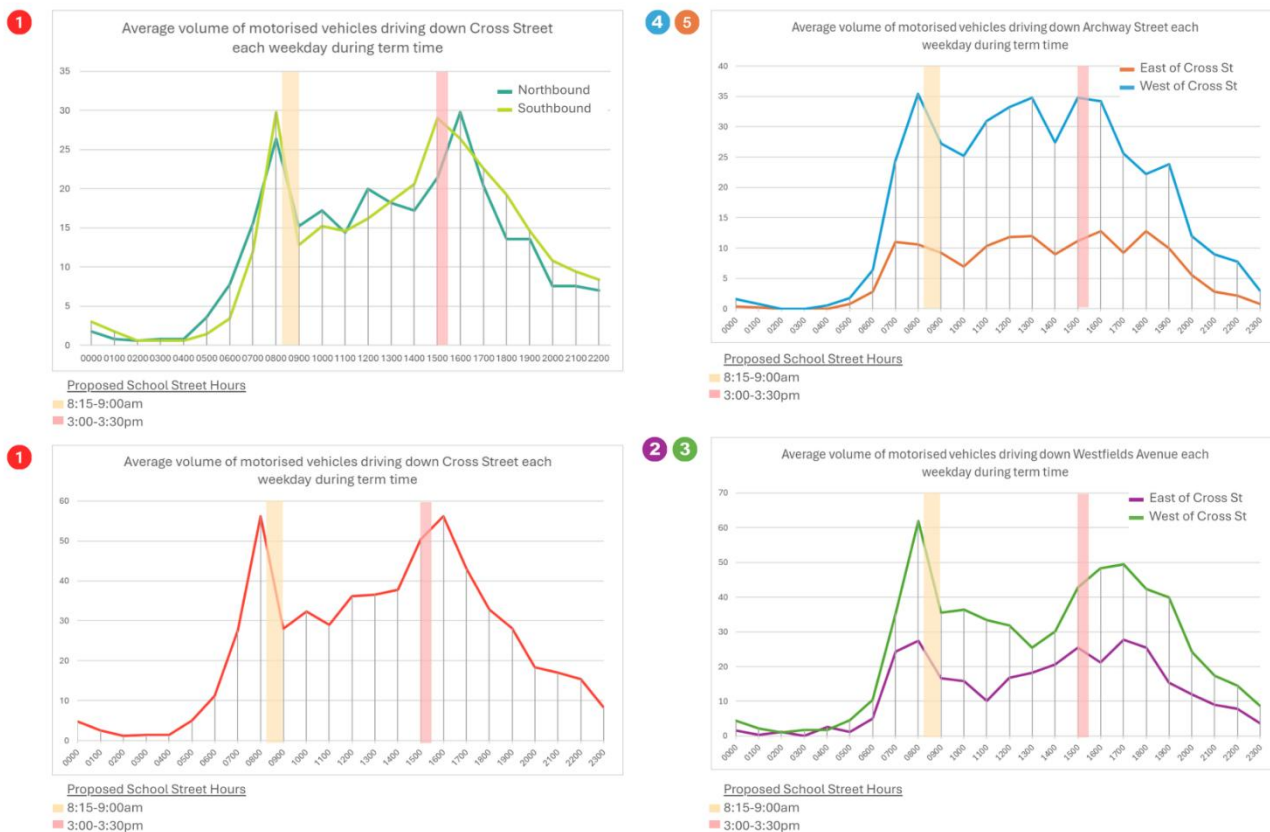
The Council has collected both automatic traffic count data at the locations numbered below.

## Barnes Primary School: ATC data collection site locations



These counts are graphically represented below.

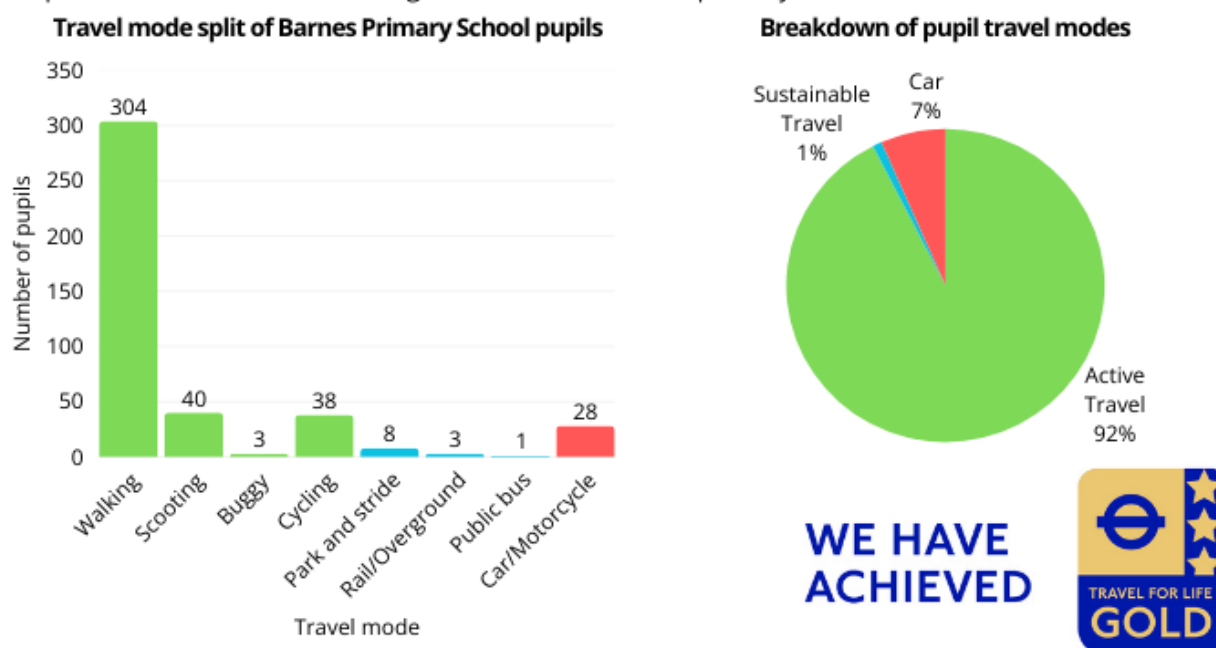
## Barnes Primary School: Local Traffic Data



- Cross Street sees between 10 and 25 vehicle movements in each direction during the proposed School Street AM operational times and between 20-30 in the PM. These are likely to be mostly parents/carers, school staff and residents moving in and out of the area.
- Archway sees far fewer cars travelling to the east of Cross Street into the cul de sac.
- The same can be said of Westfield Avenue and at a site visit a number of delivery vans were noted moving in the area.

## How are pupils travelling to Barnes Primary School?

Pupil travel data was collected through a whole school Hands up Survey in October 2024.



Barnes Primary School have achieved a **Gold Accreditation** for their **School Travel Plan**. This is a document developed by the school with the support of Richmond Council to address travel to school concerns and to encourage active travel and improve road safety for both pupils and staff.

Travel to school hands up surveys showed that less than 30 pupils travel to and from school by car (7%), but it was noted at the site visit that nearly all cars entering were parking illegally or moving at greater speeds than deemed appropriate for the surroundings and number of pupils present. This was not seen to be an ideal situation, and it is believed that by encouraging parents/carers to park further away and walk the remaining distance these cars can be absorbed into other streets further north of the Westfields Avenue and Cross Street junction, where greater parking availability was noted. This would dilute congestion and parking concerns across a wider area instead of the impact being concentrated at the school entrance where the highest concentration of pupils congregate.

#### 4. What does it look like?

For an experimental School Street trial, not a lot changes on street except that yellow backed school street signs (shown below) are installed and where necessary we also install advance warning signs ahead of the School Street entrance.

If a scheme is trialled and then approved to be made permanent, there is potential for the School Street to be enhanced with our new entry treatment that is currently being rolled out at other permanent School Streets (an example shown below).



## 5. How is it managed?

School Streets can be managed:

- with a barrier/s, such as a retractable barrier operated by volunteers
- CCTV Automatic Number Plate Recognition (CCTV/ANPR) cameras
- smaller schemes use signage only

We envisage a signage only scheme for this School Street given the traffic is mostly local and school or residential related during the hours of operation. For more information on how other schemes are camera enforced please visit the [exemptions page of our website](#).

## 6. Will I be inconvenienced?

The scheme will restrict access to parents/guardians and non-essential road users during peak school times.

The following drivers are exempt from the restrictions:

- Residents and businesses located within the School Street restriction
- Blue badge holders visiting a property within the School Street,
- Taxis serving a property within the School Street,
- Healthcare workers/carers/medical staff visiting a property within the School Street
- Essential deliveries and emergency/urgent statutory undertakers and suppliers visiting properties within the School Street

For CCTV ANPR enforced School Streets, the above drivers can apply for free exemption to enter the restricted area (this is not the same as a CPZ permit). For signage only schemes they are automatically exempt.

Emergency vehicles are also automatically exempt.



All parked vehicles can exit the School Street at any time without contravening the restriction.

### **7. Won't the parents/guardians park in the next available street?**

A new School Street takes a few months for everyone to adjust to the changes, but as parents/carers are having to park further away some may find active travel and park and stride a more convenient option and parking is then dispersed wider and is less concentrated than before. The result is a safer and healthier environment outside the school gate. Schools have always been encouraged to promote park and stride to parents as part of their school travel plans. Barnes Primary currently enjoys the benefits of a gold accredited travel plan.

We also undertake baseline traffic counts around the area and travel to school surveys, which we compare with post implementation data should the School Street be trialled. This gives us an indication of the impacts of the scheme.

### **8. What do you mean by trialling the School Street under an experimental traffic order?**

School Streets are first implemented with an experimental traffic order (ETO) as a trial to start. This allows the council to reopen the consultation and gather views from residents, businesses and parents/carers during the first 6 months of the trial whilst they are experiencing the impacts of the School Street live.

It also allows the council to monitor the impacts and make any necessary amendments to the scheme. After a few months we undertake more traffic counts in the area and ask the school to undertake travel to school surveys and compare these against baseline (pre installation) data to see what impact/s the School Street has had in the area.

Consultation results, along with the monitoring data and safety audits, will help inform the decision to be taken by TAQ, whether to make permanent, amend or remove the School Street.

For more information, please visit our [School Street webpages](#)

### **9. Process, timeline and decision making:**

#### Spring Term 2025 – completed

- Baseline Monitoring data undertaken (traffic counts and travel to school survey)

#### Autumn Term 2025 – current stage

- Online pre-trial consultation on a School Street with public
- Consultation feedback and monitoring data reviewed and reported to local ward councillors and Transport and Air Quality Chair and Vice Chair
- Delegated Decision required before proceeding with ETO/trial

#### Autumn/Spring Term 2025

- If approved, launch ETO school street trial with reopened consultation for 6 months

#### Roughly 6 months after launching ETO/trial

- Undertake post implementation monitoring for comparison with baseline
- Close consultation
- Report consultation feedback and monitoring data to the TAQ committee for a decision on whether to make the school street permanent, amend or remove it

Up to 18 months from the ETO/trial launch

- Action TAQ committee decision possibly with installation of a school street enhanced gateway as shown above