

# GOOD NEWS!

YOU'RE PART OF AN AMAZING MOVEMENT  
THAT PRIORITISES THE HEALTH AND  
HAPPINESS OF THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN.

**600+**  
SCHOOL STREETS IN  
LONDON, AND YOUR SCHOOL  
IS GOING TO JOIN THEM.

"It's not so scary when we cross the road  
so my mum is calmer. There are still bikes,  
but not all the cars and lorries like before."

*Jack, 8 years old*

## WHY ARE PARENTS AROUND THE COUNTRY CAMPAIGNING FOR SCHOOL STREETS?



- School Streets make the journey to school safer, by reducing levels of traffic and congestion<sup>1</sup>.
- School Streets are proven to reduce air pollution around the school - research shows nitrogen dioxide levels reduce by up to 23% where there is a School Street<sup>2</sup>.
- Children love the freedom they give!



- Walking, cycling and scooting to school strengthens bones and muscles, develops coordination and helps children maintain a healthy weight.
- Travelling actively improves mood, behaviour and confidence, increases attention levels and enhances performance<sup>3</sup>. Being driven to school does none of this.

**A SCHOOL STREET RESTRICTS MOTOR VEHICLE ACCESS OUTSIDE A SCHOOL AT DROP-OFF  
AND PICKUP TIME, LETTING CHILDREN WALK, CYCLE OR SCOOT MORE SAFELY TO SCHOOL.**

# WHY IS THE SCHOOL RUN SO BAD FOR CHILDREN'S HEALTH?

## 40%<sup>4</sup> OF PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN ARE DRIVEN TO SCHOOL IN ENGLAND

This causes a surge in traffic and air pollution at the same time and on the same routes that children are using to get to school. This explains why children are exposed to up to five times<sup>5</sup> more air pollution on the school run than at any other time.

**AIR POLLUTION CAUSES HEART AND LUNG DISEASE, ASTHMA AND STUNTED LUNG GROWTH. IT AFFECTS CHILDREN MORE THAN ADULTS, AS THEY BREATHE FASTER AND DEEPER AND ARE CLOSER TO CAR EXHAUSTS.<sup>6</sup>**

# HOW DO SCHOOL STREETS MAKE THINGS BETTER?



School run driving rates are reduced<sup>7</sup>, so there is less motor traffic driving through neighbour-hoods around the school.



Less driving means less fuel is burnt, which means fewer carbon emissions.



As well as reducing air pollution levels at the gate and on the street of the school, pollution levels in playgrounds and classrooms are reduced.<sup>8</sup>



They show us the future! Streets less dominated by cars give children space to breathe, families space to play and communities space to connect.

## 3 THINGS YOU CAN DO:

Your school has or is going to introduce a School Street, what can you do to support it?

**1** Understand how a School Street works - that way you can see the benefits and let other people in your community know about them too. Our website has lots of information.

**2** You're the ears and eyes on the ground. Whether the consultation takes place before, after or during the implementation of the School Street, it's really important to respond to it, to ensure the School Street is as good as it can be.

**3** Join us! We're a community of people concerned about the impact of air pollution on children's health. We can support each other and make the school run better for everyone.

**To find out more, visit [bit.ly/m4lschoolstreets](https://bit.ly/m4lschoolstreets) or scan the QR code**

- 1 Road Safety Trust: School Streets improve road safety around schools
- 2 London City Hall publication: Study shows School Streets improve air quality around schools
- 3 NHS: Healthier families: activities
- 4 Department for Transport: School travel data
- 5 King's College London: Children are exposed to five times more air pollution on the school run
- 6 World Health Organisation: More than 90% of the world's children breathe toxic air every day
- 7 Sustrans: Monitoring the impact of School Streets
- 8 University of Surrey: The impact of cars on air quality in and around schools during drop-off and pick-up times



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