

INTRODUCTION

As part of the Council's objective to reduce congestion, pollution, collisions, risk and provide a safe environment within the vicinity of schools, the Council has a rolling road safety and accessibility programme. Measures that are often implemented include 'school keep clear' zig-zag road markings to prevent drivers parking close to the school gates and to improve sightlines; localised 20mph speed limits with accompanying traffic calming measures and road safety education. These measures have been very successful in most areas. Although these measures have been successful in ensuring access and safety, the level of congestion, risk and air quality outside the schools remain a concern. The contributing factor is the high localised volume of vehicular traffic within the vicinity of schools often generated by parents / carers of pupils attending the school.

PROPOSAL

To improve safety, active travel and air quality, in recent years, some boroughs have introduced some form of road closures outside schools during term times. Based on other boroughs' findings, we have developed a temporary road closure proposal to trial outside some of our schools. One of the identified school is St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School based in Commonside East. The proposal is to restrict motorised access into Commonside East access road during school term times, Monday to Friday 8.00-9.30am and 2.30-3.30pm. The period of closure has been determined in discussion with the school. During these periods, the road will be predominately 'pedestrian and cycle only' zone. Residents who live in Commonside East (access Rd) will be allowed access as will teachers and those with special needs children who need to be driven to school. Those who may qualify for an exemption must register with the Council; exemptions would be subject to meeting the appropriate criteria. It is appreciated that this may cause some inconvenience to some residents, and where possible the Council will endeavour to accommodate residents; For the scheme to be a success, the Council would require the cooperation of the school, parents and residents. We ask that you support our proposals and rearrange certain activities such as deliveries and receiving visitors outside the identified hours during each school term.

Consultation process

The proposed measure is being introduced under an Experimental Traffic Management Order.

- This allows the Council to implement the restrictions during the consultation period.
- It allows the Council to assess and monitor the restriction and its impact.
- It will enable the residents and other road users to experience the restriction thereby allowing them to make informed comments.

The restriction and the Order will be in place for a maximum of 18 months. Anyone can object and make representations within the first six months (the statutory/formal consultation period) of the Experimental Order coming into force and the implementation of the works. Consultees are encouraged to make their comments at least 3 months after implementation. This will allow residents to experience the restriction thereby allowing an informed decision.

Deadline for representations to the consultation is 1st March 2020.

After this time, the Council will then make a final decision which could include its removal, making some modifications or making it permanent.

All representations must be made in writing directly to the Council via e mail address trafficandhighways@merton.gov.uk

A response **will not** be made until the consultation is concluded and a final decision is made. The Council will monitor the situation and will make the appropriate adjustments if and when necessary.

All updates will be made available on the Council's website www.merton.gov.uk/schoolsafetyzone.

Please quote reference **ES/ St Thomas of Canterbury-Commonside East**

Additional notices will also be erected within the vicinity of the proposals to inform residents and road users of the start of the restrictions and the statutory consultation.

The appropriate signs will be in place to inform all motorists of the hours of closure.

The temporary closure will be enforced by a camera

The surrounding roads will be enforced against obstructive / illegal parking

This measure is introduced to protect cyclists, pedestrians more specifically children and we would appreciate your assistance and support.

ENFORCEMENT

During the periods of limited road closure, enforcement will be carried out using cameras. Exemptions will be given to residents, teachers and special needs children. Residents **MUST** register their vehicle registrations with the Council to qualify for the exemption. Carers visiting residents who live in the road will also be exempt if their registration are logged with the Council. However, we respectfully request that, if possible, visitors including carers rearrange their visits outside the restricted hours.

To apply for exemption

The quickest and easiest way to apply for School Safety Zone exemption is to use our self-service website <https://parkingweb.merton.gov.uk/permits/GroupSelection.asp>

Please select 'Other' in permit group selection page and then School Safety Zone. Once you have completed the online application, please upload the following documents to your application.

- Copy of vehicle registration document
- Proof of residency (2 x utility bills, tenancy agreement or proof of purchase) if you are not listed on the current electoral register. Please note that Council Tax bill will not be accepted.

If more than one vehicle requires exemption, then you will need to make a new application and follow the same procedures. The application process will be available online from **1st August**.

Please note – No permit will be issued; you will receive an email confirmation of the vehicle's exemptions.

The restriction will come into operation on 2nd September 2019



Notes
Do not scale from this drawing

Rev	Revision	Drawn	Sig	Check	Sig	Appr	Sig	Date

Street Scene & Waste
environment & regeneration
TRAFFIC & HIGHWAYS

Project	Phase	Start	End	CR	CR	CR	CR

PROJECT
SCHOOL SAFETY ZONES
ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

TITLE
EXPERIMENTAL TRAFFIC
MANAGEMENT ORDER

merton
Merton Civic Centre
Morden, Surrey
SMA 51X
www.merton.gov.uk

Drawn No
280-74-001

Revision
-

Created
FOR DISCUSSION

Scale
N.T.S.

