

## **Car-free school gates pilot starts on 19 April**

From Monday 19 April, a vehicle exclusion zone will be in place in certain streets around our school as we aim to create a safer, healthier school environment for our pupils.

### [So, what's happening?](#)

At the start and end of the school day, some of the surrounding streets of our school will not be able to be used by cars – unless they have an exemption.

Between 8.30am-9.15am and 2.30pm-3.15pm, you will only be able to access Rowan Street and part of Thrushcraigs Crescent on foot, scooter or bike as we bid to improve safety for children, parents and carers at our school gates.

The pilot also hopes to solve congestion issues and reduce emissions near the school, making a healthier environment for all our young people to learn in.

So, please walk, wheel or cycle with your child(ren) on your daily commute and if you do need to drive, then please park safely away from the school and walk the final part of your journey.

### [Are there any exemptions?](#)

We recognise that it is necessary for certain vehicles to continue to have access to these streets at all times.

Exemptions will be in place for residents in the restricted streets and school staff through a permit scheme, as well as automatic exemptions for the emergency services, including doctors on call, district nurses, carers and support workers, postal service vehicles, school buses and transport vehicles, school contract taxis and blue badge holders dropping their child off or residing at or visiting a property in the restricted street.

If you feel that you have a reason for exemption that is not currently listed, please contact me to discuss this in confidence.

### [How will this be enforced?](#)

The council have put in place an experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) for the duration of the pilot and Police Scotland will be able to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for anyone found driving in these streets during the restricted times without a valid exemption.

The council's Wardens Service will also support colleagues in the Police whenever possible.

There was significant consultation around this project, with feedback received from elected members, head teachers, school staff, parent councils, parents and carers, community organisations and local residents, when it was due to be implemented in April 2020.

This helped shape its design and the council will be seeking further feedback during the pilot which is set to run until 31 December 2021, so I will be looking for your thoughts at different stages to feed back.

### [How do I find out more or apply for a permit?](#)

You can find out more about the project here – [www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/SaferSchoolsPilot](http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/SaferSchoolsPilot).