School Streets
Why School Streets?

- They reduce traffic, and therefore pollution. (25% of rush hour traffic in London is cars doing the school run).
- They create a safer environment for everyone near and outside a school.
- They encourage active travel, which improves health and learning outcomes for children.
- They raise awareness of air pollution and the need to reduce traffic.
Why Emergency School Streets?

- Covid-19 provides us with major challenges in how we get around. There is reduced public transport/narrow pavements/lack of safe cycle routes.
- Greater London Authority polling has shown that 41% of Londoners intend to drive more once they can resume travelling again*
- A School Street can prevent crowding at school gates - people can walk in the road instead to enable safe social distancing.
- Early research suggests links between air pollution and Covid-19**.

How do School Streets work?

- Temporary road closures around schools at drop-off and pick-up times. Term-time only.
- Only pedestrians and cyclists allowed to use the roads at drop-off and pick-up times (there are exemptions though - see below).
- Signs put up to inform drivers of the road closure.
- Barriers or cameras used to enforce (although outside London, this is currently more difficult).
- Residents, local businesses, blue badge holders able to apply for exemptions.
How to campaign for an Emergency School Street

- Use our template letter (on our website) to write a letter to your school, councillors and council.
- Join forces with other parents - gather as much support as you can.
- Get your headteacher on board and ask them to approach the Council.

Councils look more favourably on schools with a good track record of action on active travel, eg through TfL STARS/Modeshift schemes, and those with safety issues.

- Please contact us for help or support - mumsforlungs@gmail.com.
Resources

Hackney’s toolkit

Our website has our emergency template letter and our School Streets flyers on it

Join our Facebook group (called Mums for Lungs School Streets)

Sustrans website

School Streets Initiative website

Living Streets: Walk to School campaign

Car Free Day London Ask For It tool