

MOVEMENT AND PLACE THE SIGNATURE TEAM FOR SCHOOL STREETS

SYSTRA

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Promoting safe, enjoyable, active and sustainable travel choices, SYSTRA is a market leader in travel behavioural change particularly focused on school travel.



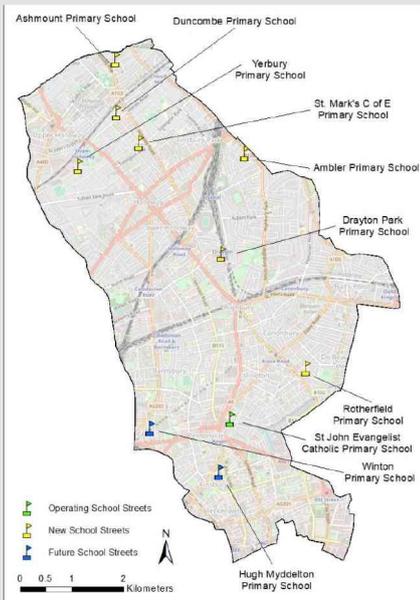
CONFIDENCE MOVES THE WORLD

SCHOOL STREETS IMPLEMENTATION

We can help you through the process of rolling out School Streets across your local area, from scoping out which school locations are most suitable, to developing consultation materials and running engagement programmes with local stakeholders, to the implementation and engineering and the subsequent monitoring and evaluation.

STAGE 1

IDENTIFY SCHOOLS



We can support with the selection of target schools to implement School Streets. It is important to work to a framework of criteria where possible to ensure a fair and consistent approach. We can help you develop this set of criteria, which might be based around a school's location, in terms of road safety, air quality and road layout as well as how engaged a school is with the Council. SYSTRA also has the modelling capabilities to test potential displacement of traffic to neighbouring streets prior to school selection.

This not only benefits the Council but provides schools with an understanding of what the Council is looking for in potential schools.

STAGE 2

DESIGN

SYSTRA has been assisting with School Street design in the London Borough of Hounslow since 2018.

A School Street can create a significant amount of traffic displacement and reduce parking availability during the road closure times. SYSTRA has the capability to design schemes considering the strategic nature of the roads from which the school is accessed, with consideration to residential properties and businesses.

Possible wider mitigations to parking and traffic displacement include parking control schemes, Pedestrian and Cycle Zones implementation and identification of "Park and Stride" locations.

During the design stage, SYSTRA can also help the Council to review the potential for "School Street Zones", where road closures are implemented in a cluster of schools in the same area, as opposed to a single School Street. This comes with additional challenges associated with the management of a wider area.

STAGE 3

CONSULTATION



Although not mandatory, many local authorities are going to public consultation with their proposed School Street schemes prior to implementation. These typically run for 3 weeks, providing opportunity for local residents, businesses, staff and parents to share their views on the proposed scheme. Also pupils are engaged with dedicated activities at schools.

SYSTRA can provide support for the preparation of the consultation material after the design stage, from liaising with the school to providing pictures for the consultation documents, to the design of informative materials, consultation forms and scheme maps.



WHAT IS A SCHOOL STREET?

A School Street is a road outside a school with a temporary closure for 45 minutes to 1 hour to motorised traffic typically for 45 minutes to 1 hour at school drop-off and pick-up times, during term time. The restriction applies to school traffic and through traffic, although local residents on the street affected are generally given an exemption. Currently, School Streets are largely being carried out as pilot schemes over a period of up to 18 months under an Experimental Traffic Management Order. A small number have been rolled out permanently from the start.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

A safer, healthier and pleasant environment for everyone. The aim of School Street schemes is to improve local air quality and road safety outside schools through a reduction in vehicle numbers, thereby encouraging parents and children to travel to and from school by sustainable and active travel modes, contributing to overall better health.

“I think that [the timed closure] is a wonderful idea. No cars to endanger the children. Now we feel safe coming to school.”

“Street closure is excellent. We have [previously] found crossing the road difficult and dangerous at pick up and drop off due to traffic and parents in cars.”

“When not closed the pavement is congested and it is easy to lose younger siblings in a sea of legs and they can then run into the road. The closure makes this much safer.”

STAGE 4

IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT

SYSTRA has supported the implementation of several School Street Schemes for the London Borough of Islington since 2018.

The public engagement campaign during the consultation and in the pre-implementation phase is critical for a smooth delivery of the scheme. In addition to consultation forms being sent to the school participating, SYSTRA has a team of engagement specialists who can deliver the following activities to raise awareness of the School Street to parents, staff, children and local residents:

- Assemblies;
- Coffee mornings;
- Playground sessions speaking with parents;
- Whiteboard display;
- Poster competition and quiz for children; and
- Local community engagement events.

Activities are tailored to the school needs in order to deliver the most effective campaign in each context.

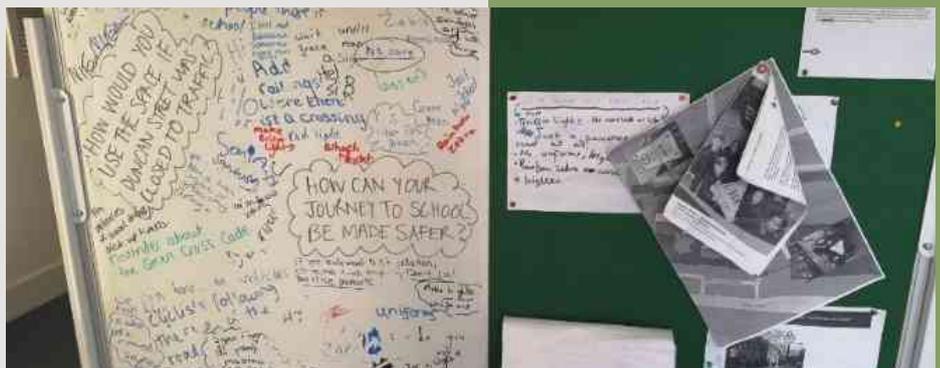
In addition to the engagement campaign SYSTRA can act as a main point of contact between the schools and Councils to confirm timeframes, correct signage, to ensure that communications from the Council to the schools is passed down to pupils, parents and staff, and to coordinate activities for the schools' travel planning programmes, including Modeshift STARS and TfL STARS travel plans.

STAGE 5

MONITORING & EVALUATION

Before and after the implementation, SYSTRA can assist with the data collection exercise needed to monitor and evaluate the effect the School Street scheme has on traffic volumes and speed, modal share, air quality, as well as the overall quality of the environment as perceived by users. We can collect and analyse data using different methodologies, including ATCs, tailored interviews with local street users (parents/carers and residents), pupil's hands-up surveys, video surveys of specific 'hotspot areas' to identify poor parking practises, and air quality data. As part of the scheme monitoring & evaluation, SYSTRA can also undertake the analysis of consultation responses and provide summary reports to be shared with the public.

SYSTRA has been commissioned by the London Borough of Southwark to provide “before” and “after” monitoring of their School Street closures. Monitoring at six schools has been completed since 2018, with further schools in the pipeline.



SYSTRA Consultation material

CASE STUDIES

ISLINGTON SCHOOL STREETS

SYSTRA has undertaken a supportive role across all the stages of School Street delivery in the London Borough of Islington since 2018: carrying out initial engagement of schools, public consultation and pre-implementation engagement with the first batch of 13 schools. The results of the public consultations carried out at these schools was positive, typically with a support rate of 70%+. Islington has gone on to roll out School Streets across the borough as part of their People Friendly Streets programme.

SOUTHWARK SCHOOL STREETS

SYSTRA has been commissioned by Southwark Council to carry out 'before' and 'after' monitoring of six School Street closures. The data collection undertaken included ATC counts and roadside interviews, and the results found that positive outcomes had been achieved, with a 29% reduction in traffic volume, a 9% decrease in speed, and a 39% increase of cyclists.

The majority of those interviewed supported the permanent introduction of the scheme and reported an overall increase in the level of satisfaction with the local street environment.

The reports generated by SYSTRA were presented to cabinet members to inform the decision-making process of making the scheme permanent.



HOUNSLOW SCHOOL STREETS

SYSTRA assisted the London Borough of Hounslow with the implementation of a School Street scheme at the Nishkam School, West London in Isleworth. SYSTRA designed an extensive 'Red Route' scheme which sought to control indiscriminate and inconsiderate parking activity in the area surrounding the school at the beginning and end of the school day, with enforcement by mobile cameras. SYSTRA staff then provided design support for the next batches of School Street schemes.

FINGAL SCHOOL STREETS

SYSTRA has supported Fingals County Council in organising an extensive engagement campaign to inform the implementation of the first School Street scheme in Ireland. The consultation was carried out through a variety of methods, including public meetings and school gate engagement activities, and supported via a strong awareness campaign. The campaign resulted in 442 responses to the consultation, showing an overall high support of the proposal.

SYSTRA also assisted the Council in the selection of supporting measures to the scheme implementation, including the identification of park and stride zones, drop-off zones and walking buses.



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