

STATEMENT OF THE COUNCIL'S REASONS FOR PROPOSING TO MAKE THE MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL (SCHOOL STREETS) (PROHIBITION OF MOTOR VEHICLES) (VARIATION NO 1) ORDER 2021 - TO/R5.3.28

Midlothian Council is constantly seeking to improve road safety for children as they travel to and from school. In some locations there is a concern that children walking, cycling or scooting to school are at particular risk from the numbers of cars delivering or collecting children in the close vicinity of the school premises, sometimes compounded by inconsiderate parking.

The Council has therefore created 'School Streets' zones around certain schools. Within these zones most vehicles are prohibited from driving at times when children travel to and from school.

The Council now proposes that similar restrictions should apply to Beechgrove Road in Mayfield, adjacent to Mayfield and St Luke's Primary Schools. Most vehicles will be prohibited from driving on the restricted section during term times between the hours of 8:15 am to 9:00 am and 3:10 pm to 3:50 pm on Mondays to Thursdays, and 8:15 am to 9:00 am and 12:10 pm to 12:50 pm on Fridays.

There will be exemptions for:

- the emergency services;
- vehicles of residents living within the restricted area which display a Midlothian Council permit: such permits will be issued without charge;
- vehicles displaying a Blue Badge;
- vehicles under contract to Midlothian Council to take children to or from school;
- goods deliveries and collections which cannot be scheduled outwith the restricted times;
- essential movements by utilities staff needing urgent access to their plant;
- tradespeople such as gasfitters or plumbers needing access to properties in an emergency,
- other exceptional requirements, such as funeral undertakings, which the Council may agree.

This Variation Order also clarifies that vehicles attending properties for healthcare reasons may only access any School Street during the prohibited periods when there is a medical emergency.

This proposal has already been the subject of initial consultations with parents, school staff and residents.

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