

Road Safety around Schools - Mersey Vale Primary School

Report of the Director of Place Management

1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. To report the findings of a consultation exercise for the Road Safety around Schools scheme for Mersey Vale Primary School and to seek approval for the introduction of Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) and associated signage; implementation of dropped kerbs with tactile paving and pencil bollards; Access protection markings and associated road-markings for restrictions.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The Council's overall strategic transport ambition is to increase the number of children walking or cycling to school. In order for this to be achieved, it is important that there are safe route options for children and their families.
- 2.2. To support this ambition, Traffic Services have been working to tackle key concerns which have been raised by schools, resident and local Members. Site investigations have been undertaken to review the operation outside the school and the surrounding roads.

3. PROPOSALS

- 3.1. To improve the road safety of children and all road users in the area around Mersey Vale Primary School it is proposed to introduce the following measures:
 - Introduction of School Keep Clear Markings on Valley Road on approach to the school entrance (Monday to Friday 8.00am - 5.00pm). east side only.
 - Introduction of No Loading to the existing No Waiting at Times Shown restrictions (Single Yellow Lines) (to apply Monday to Friday 8.30am - 9.30am and 2.30pm - 3.30pm), on Valley Road between Ravenswood Avenue and Sherwood Avenue, and continuing along the western side of Valley Road past Ravenswood Avenue. These restrictions are proposed to keep these stretches of carriageway clear of parked vehicles at school drop-off and pick-up times, improving safety for pedestrians who currently have to navigate cars parked on the pavement, and at times being forced to walk into the carriageway due to inconsiderate parking.
 - Introduction of No Waiting at Any time restrictions (Double Yellow Lines) with No loading (Monday to Friday 8.30 – 9.30am and 2.30pm - 3.30pm), at the junction of The Glade, Ravenswood Avenue, Sherwood Avenue and Larwood Avenue to keep the junctions clear of parked vehicles, protecting intervisibility between pedestrians and motorists whilst also ensuring vehicles can negotiate the junctions safely.
 - Provision of uncontrolled crossing points on Valley Road both within in the School Keep Clear markings opposite the junctions of Ravenswood Avenue and to the right of Sherwood Avenue together with pencil bollards to aid pedestrians.
 - Provision of an uncontrolled crossing point over Ravenswood Avenue junction together with pencil bollards to aid pedestrians.
 - Provision of the two new School Warning Signs; one on Larwood Avenue and one on Furness Grove to the East.

- Introduction of Access Protection Markings (H-bars) for a number of properties along Valley Road and Furness Grove.

3.2 The above proposals are shown on the Proposals **Drawing No. 0305 / 69 / MV / 001 Rev A.** in **Appendix B** to this report.

4. LEGAL POSITION/IMPLICATIONS

4.1. The Traffic Management Orders would be made under Section 1 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The Council is required by the Local Authorities Traffic Order (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 to give notice of its intention to make a Traffic Order (by publishing a draft traffic order). These regulations also require the Council to consider any representations received as a result of publishing the draft Order.

5. CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS

5.1. The Road Safety around Schools programme has a limited budget which focuses on the implementation of small-scale measures and would not be able to accommodate larger schemes. It was therefore agreed to move forwards with this option.

6. CONSULTATION

6.1. The Local Ward Councillors, GMP and school have been consulted and no adverse comments were received.

6.2. A total of 65 letters were delivered and 9 on-street notices were placed on available street furniture in proximity to the proposed works. The letter and on-street notices provided a link to the 'have your say' webpage (www.stockport.gov.uk/haveyoursay) where information was posted about the proposed scheme along with a copy of the proposal drawings to enable residents to provide feedback online. Additional hard copies of the survey could have been requested by contacting SchoolRoadSafety@stockport.gov.uk but no such requests were received.

6.3. As part of the consultation, we received 12 online responses.

6.4. 9 (82%) were in favour,
2 (18%) were against the proposals and
Of these,
9 residents strongly agreed, and
1 resident strongly disagreed with the proposals

6.5. Whilst the proposals were supported by most of the residents who responded, one respondent strongly disagreed with the proposals. The feedback provided did not relate specifically to the scheme proposed but rather focused on wider issues unrelated to this scheme.

No changes have been made to the proposals as a result of this feedback.

6.6. Nine residents who strongly supported the proposals of these 4 residents also provided comments on the scheme. The responses received are discussed below.

- 6.7. One resident who agreed with the proposals would like the restrictions to go further in key areas around the school whilst another resident thought the speeds of traffic is unbelievable and dangerous and another that it has been dangerous for a long time.

The traffic team have considered these comments and would not be proposing any further restrictions and speed surveys within the area will be carried out via a different funding stream.

- 6.8. Whilst one resident strongly agreed to the proposals that junctions should be kept clear and will improve safety and should encourage drivers to park away from the school and therefore no engines running. One resident disagreed with the proposals and was concerned about parking being removed from an already bad situation for people who live on the junctions.

The proposed double yellow lines are proposed to reinforce Rule 243 of the Highway Code which states that vehicles should not be parked within 10 metres of a junction to ensure visibility is maintained. This protects clear visibility between pedestrians and vehicles approaching junctions creating a safer environment in which to cross the roads. It is therefore recommended that these proposals remain.

- 6.9. Five who strongly agreed with the proposals left no comments.

- 6.10. In response to the feedback received, it is recommended that the proposals remain the same as shown on Drawing No. 0305 / 69 / MV / 001 Rev B

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. The scheme will mainly be funded from the Road Safety around Schools programme budget allocation.

8. TIMESCALES

- 8.1. Should the proposals be approved, the scheme should be ready for implementation in Winter 2023/Spring 2024.

9. EQUALITIES/COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 9.1. Equal Opportunities

To provide a suitable and safer environment for pedestrians and other road users. The scheme contributes to the Council's vision statement "Promote equal life outcomes for all by tackling known inequalities across the borough of Stockport".

- 9.2. Sustainable Environment

To develop and sustain a healthy, safe and attractive local environment which contributes to Stockport. Stockport Council understands the responsibility it has to lead by example and help the broader community make a positive contribution to the local environment.

10. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1. To consider and approve the proposals and recommend that the Area Committee approves the legal advertising of the Traffic Regulation Order set out in Appendix A and shown on Drawing No. 0305 / 69 / MV / 002, and subject to no objections being received within 21 days from the advertisement date, the orders can be made.

Background Papers

There are no background papers to this report.

Anyone wishing further information please contact Gillian Kidd on telephone number Tel: 0161 474 4848 or by email on gillian.kidd@stockport.gov.uk