

Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

21 September 2022

Briefing Note on School Keep Clear Enforcement Zone

Summary

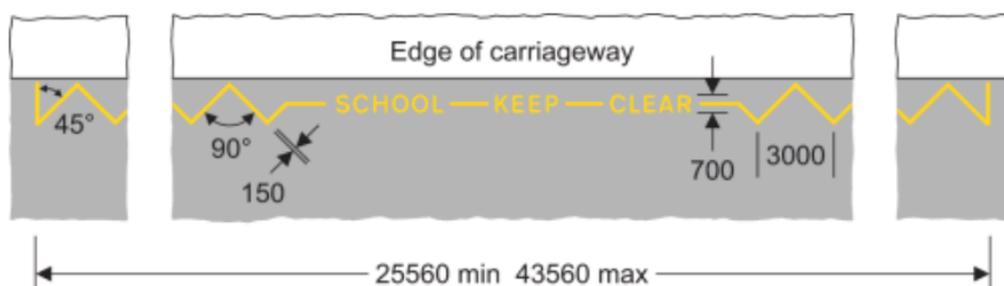
The objective is to increase parking compliance, to enable safer entry and exit from school sites and to promote and encourage Safe and Active Travel School commutes throughout the County. This will be achieved by taking the following actions.

- Commissioning the remarking of Warwickshire's Primary School keep clear zones and installation of the required accompanying time plates to comply with regulations.
- Implement a Countywide Traffic Regulation Order to enable effective enforcement.
- Lease of a mobile enforcement vehicle to patrol scheduled school clusters to issue Regulation 10 Penalty Charge Notices to vehicles in contravention using specialist secure software.
- Instigating the relaunch of Cars and Kids don't mix school safety campaign to promote road safety as part of the Safe and Active Travel Schools Programme.

1. School Keep Clear Enforcement

1.1 School keep clear zones prevent any vehicle from parking outside school entrance points and obstructing the visibility for pedestrians during the prescribed restricted hours. Child safety and vehicle obstruction around schools are the topic of hundreds of enforcement requests for the Parking Management Team annually from head teachers, parents, residents, the police and elected members. These requests for better enforcement are unachievable at present in Warwickshire due to signs and markings not fully complying with regulations, a lack of Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) in place to enable enforcement, and lack of available resource to undertake enforcement.

1.2 The Traffic Management 2004 defines the parameters by which enforcement of vehicles waiting on a school keep clear can be undertaken. To enable this, the lines and signs must comply with the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (TSRGD) 2016.



Less than ten zones currently comply with these regulations

- 1.3 94% of Warwickshire's Primary Schools have no time plates supporting their school Keep Clear Zones. The TSRGD requires that a sign detailing restricted hours are placed within each zone informing drivers of the details and hours of the restriction. It is proposed to implement a standard restriction of 8am to 5pm Monday to Friday, to be applied to all primary schools in Warwickshire. The focus of the school keep clear zones is to facilitate visibility for pedestrians to-and-from the school premises at the times of the day when school entrances are at their busiest. The proposed restricted hours are already in place in 10 Of the 13 schools with existing signage. This will incorporate most daily school activities, while maintaining the balance with other road users' needs outside that restricted time.



- 1.4 All schools have been identified and their existing school keep clear zones have been photographed, surveyed and mapped. The schools identified for year one of the scheme amount to just under 200 individual school keep clear zones, as many schools have more than one entrance. A third of these existing zigzag lines simply require refreshing and are the correct length. The remaining zones will require either reducing, dividing or extending to be compliant with TSRGD requirements. Where possible, and appropriate, the accompanying time plates will be affixed to existing street furniture.
- 1.5 The project will focus on approximately 70 priority schools in year one using the following criteria.
- Liaison with the Safer Routes to School Team regarding headteacher concerns and incidents recorded by schools and school patrols
 - 5 years of collision data within 300 metres of the school entrance
 - Repeated expressions of concern to the civil enforcement email inbox raised by Councillors, schools, and members of the public.
 - The Parking Survey 2021 data
- 1.6 After this, the approach will be rolled out to the remaining schools over the following two years.
- 1.7 Enforcement of the zone will be undertaken via an enforcement vehicle. The benefit of an enforcement vehicle is in its ability to patrol several schools in an area during their busiest hours before and after school, covering more area and adding a visible presence. Area clusters will be created enabling enforcement of all schools in an area on a rotational schedule. All areas will receive balanced levels of enforcement after the required 2 weeks of warning notices being issued.
- 1.8 Experience from other Councils operating mobile camera enforcement has demonstrated that visibility of enforcement to the public can lead to an improvement in compliance with the regulations and a reduction in congestion around schools. The Police are in support of tackling non-compliance using this mode of enforcement.
- 1.9 The costs of undertaking the remedial works to enable enforcement is c. £60,000 per year for three years, and will be covered through internal budgets.

2. Active Travel and Schools

2.1 A County-wide Primary School parking survey was conducted in summer 2021, and over 4000 local parents, head teachers and residents responded. Key findings were:

86% of parents always drive to school. Parents are aware of the safety concerns from dangerous or illegal parking, but parents stated they had no other option if they park inconsiderately.

- 69% of Head Teachers who responded reported incidents or near misses outside their schools. Increased enforcement was the preferred measure to tackle this, along with the park and stride initiative and better education for parents.
- Residents reported high levels of driveway obstruction by drivers to the school and inconsiderate parking in the area. The most popular response in terms of how to deal with inconsiderate or illegal parking was to increase enforcement, alongside encouraging more children to use greener modes of transport.

2.2 Once schools are enforceable, the Road Safety Education Team will relaunch the 'Cars and Kids Don't Mix' campaign, providing information and targeted engagement with schools. Schools will be invited to display the cars and kids don't mix banner at their school entrance.

2.3 The Safe and Active Travel Schools Programme combines a mix of in-person and digital educational interventions for every year group, priority booking for Bikeability cycle training through our provider Outspoken, a free and bespoke school travel plan, and our Active Travel Award. Schools nominate a member of their teaching and learning team to become a Safe and Active Travel Champion to progress the scheme forward. Every year we have around 80 places available which are spread across the county. We are currently working at full capacity for staffing and resource levels. As well as promoting road safety to children across Warwickshire, the Safe and Active Travel Schools Programme aims to inspire a love of active travel in young people.

2.4 2021/22 academic year achievements include

- 23560 children received digital or in person road safety educational sessions.
- 81 School signed up to the Safe and Active Award
- 31 schools received an award
- 106 bikes were security marked at events across Warwickshire
- 18376 children accessed Road Safety Week in November 2021
- 909 children in nurseries
- 67 children in Libraries
- 24 completed Travel plans
- 27 school took part in the cars idling campaign

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