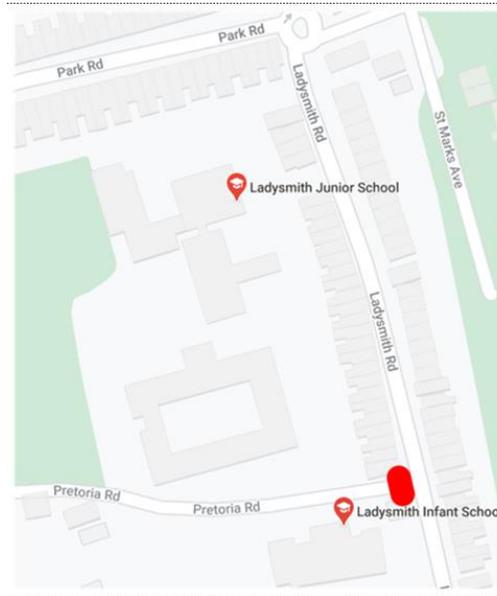


Dear Resident,

## Re: Ladysmith Federation, School Street Closure

I am writing on behalf of **Ladysmith Federation** to inform you of the School Streets initiative that the school will be taking part after the Easter holiday.

Now that all pupils have returned to school we have a responsibility to keep our pupils, their families, our staff and the local community safe as they travel to and from school. One way we plan to do this is to trial a timed road closure on **Pretoria Road from the junction with Ladysmith Road (see map).**



We are currently working with Devon County Council and Sustrans on a plan to deliver this and we hope that we can count on your support?

A School Street is where a road outside a school is temporarily closed to traffic for a short period in the morning and afternoon. This opens the street up to families on foot, bicycle or scooter, giving them the space that they need to get to school safely and to maintain physical distancing.

Our School Street will start on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021** where Pretoria Road will be closed to motorised traffic at the junction with Ladysmith Road between **8:30 -9:10am** and **3:00 – 3:40pm** Monday to Friday during term time.

During the trial we will actively collect feedback from local residents, families and staff in order to inform future decisions and if successful, we hope to introduce this as a permanent feature.

I would like to reassure you that as a resident, you will still have car access to your home. The road closure points will be operated by school staff and volunteers. School traffic will be stopped, but any residents wanting to enter or exit the street will be asked to drive in and out at walking speed.

Whilst you will have car access to your home, we hope you will support this initiative by trying to avoid driving your vehicle through the road closure during these key times if possible so we can maintain a car free environment.

If you do have any specific access needs that you'd like us to be aware of, or have any concerns or queries that you would like to discuss, please do get in contact with either myself, or the Sustainable Transport Team at Devon County Council (details below) as soon as possible.

I have also attached some frequently asked questions which may help to answer some of your queries.

Best wishes

Mark Wilkinson

01392 255554

Sustainable Transport Team

Tel: 0345 155 1004

Email: [transportplanning@devon.gov.uk](mailto:transportplanning@devon.gov.uk)

## **School Streets Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Is this legal?**

Yes. Local authorities can implement Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) to control traffic in their area. These are legal powers and can be temporary or permanent. Local residents must be informed about proposals. The Department for Transport has issued statutory guidance to all local authorities in England to help them adapt their streets quickly and cheaply to provide safe space for walking and cycling and to enable social distancing. This is part of the UK government's response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

### **Why haven't we been consulted?**

The School Streets are being implemented as emergency measures to enable social distancing and help families travel to school safely. Depending on the type of TRO, and because the UK government has relaxed TRO regulations as part of its Covid-19 response, local authorities are able to implement road closures quickly and flexibly. This does not mean consultation will not take place. Children, parents, residents and local businesses will have their say as to how the scheme might develop, what might be changed and whether it becomes permanent.

### **Could this create congestion on surrounding streets?**

Our school will be working with Sustrans and the local community to identify and promote locations away from the school where parents can park safely without obstructing residents on neighbouring streets. Any displaced traffic will be dispersed over a much wider area than at present meaning the impact on individual streets will be minimal. During previous School Streets trials in 2019, a study revealed that 58% of parents, carers and residents at 40 participating schools thought the surrounding streets were in fact less congested. This is because active travel rates (walking, scooting and cycling) during the closures increased from 59% to 66% and car trips decreased from 26% to 13%. Longer term studies of School Streets have consistently shown an overall reduction in traffic volumes in the surrounding area.

### **Haven't parents and carers been told they need to drive their children to school and to avoid public transport during the Covid-19 pandemic?**

This is not the case. The UK government has advised schools that they should be "encouraging parents and children and young people to walk or cycle to their education setting where possible." Parents may be concerned about letting their children on public or school buses. So, if walking or cycling is not possible because of distance, Park & Stride locations should be used as an alternative.

### **Who is paying for this?**

The UK government has provided local authorities with funding for short-term measures that can quickly be implemented to allow for social distancing and encourage walking and cycling. Subsequent rounds of funding will be made available where consultation reveals a desire for a more permanent scheme.