



## Parking problems around schools

Possible solutions and recommendations compiled by T/PS 0946 Paul Jeffs

### Initially, identify the problem.

#### ***What is the root cause of the parking issues?***

i.e. is this due to the location of the school; resident parking; restrictions on the road; no alternative parking facility etc..

#### ***Can you influence this root cause?***

Consider the options given and if they seem appropriate, implement one or more.

#### ***Monitor the issues.***

Ask for feedback from parents/residents/interested parties.

### It is advisable to work through these options in order, reviewing after each stage:

(1) Parking Charter.

***These are aimed at managing the parking that is around the school site. Parents sign a charter promising to park in a defined way or place for the safety and benefit of the school community. Although this may not reduce the numbers of vehicles, it should put the onus on parents to behave in a particular way. The charter could include:***

- ***Identifying safe and preferred locations and behaviour.***
- ***Putting this in written form***
- ***All those that drive their children to and from school should be encouraged to sign up to the charter.***
- ***Where possible some form of sticker for the car window should be given to all those that sign. Parents are more likely to adhere to the charter if they have some visible indication that they have signed.***
- ***Encourage involvement of new parents at induction events.***

(2) Educating parents and pupils.

***You can educate parents about their children's using alternative transportation modes to and from school, as well as the dangers and legal consequences of traffic violations, and ways that parents play a role in reducing congestion and increasing student safety by following the rules of the road. You can provide such information in the PTA newsletter or distribute it in fliers handed to parents while they are waiting in school drop-off and pick-up zones. If your school uses text messages to contact parents, include the safe drop-off and pick up policy. If your school has an internal intranet system or parents and pupils only access, consider using these sites to promote the safer parking message. Have a regular update, so that parents and pupils are aware that this is a priority for the school. Consider the use of social media to raise awareness and influence***

**behaviour towards parking. Twitter and Facebook can be used to carry visual messages, which can have more impact than just blocks of text. They also give the opportunity for “live” feedback.**

(3) Newsletter.

**Request for parents to be vigilant and report bad parking.**

(4) Publicity Campaigns.

**These can be produced in school as part of a project or in conjunction with the Road Safety Team. The campaign should:**

- **Identify the issue you need to address and the target group.**
- **Keep the message simple and brief – be focused**
- **Don’t try to include lots of different ideas/messages at the same time.**
- **Decide on the form you want your publicity to take e.g. poster/leaflet/newsletter/drama etc.**

(5) Mapping out safe pedestrian routes.

**This is achieved by mapping out the safest ways (e.g., those that avoid busy roads and use pavements) that children can travel by bike or walk to and from school, adding crossings and crossing wardens and encouraging parents to have their children walk or bike to school.**

(6) Staff from school being outside at end of school to monitor the situation and be involved in the parking operations.

(7)Funding for a banner competition.

**In conjunction with Police link officer, consider an application for funding, which will be used to produce banners that can be put on the school gates. The design of the banner can be done by the pupils.**

(8)Road safety Input.

**A Kerbcraft course can be arranged through Birmingham City Council – Paul Dasilva (email Paul.Dasilva@birmingham.gov.uk)**

(9) Walk to School Campaigns.

**Regional campaigns are currently run by the local authority Road Safety Team each autumn; however local top-up campaigns by individual schools are a good way of maintaining momentum.**

(10) Walking Bus.

**These are escorted walking groups using parent volunteers to supervise the children along a particular route. This will require the school to:**

- **Recruit volunteers – enough to cover the routes you want to use, for absence/illness and for a safe ratio of adults to children. Carry out the appropriate checks on those volunteers.**
- **Plan the routes and times of the walking buses**
- **Purchase high visibility clothing and appropriate trolley for carrying bags (your Road Safety Officer should be able to help with suppliers)**

- **Ensure you have parents consent for their children to use the walking bus and obtain any necessary insurance.**
- **Volunteers should be trained – again the Road Safety Officer should be able to advise.**
- **Consider a reward system for those taking part.**

(11) Car Sharing Schemes.

**Consideration should be given to:**

- **Making sure parents and children are aware of what you are trying to achieve and why.**
- **Creating communication between those that drive their children to school and pass on appropriate contact details to interested parents that live close to each other.**
- **You should leave actual arrangements and decisions to the families.**
- **Encouraging involvement of new parents at induction events.**

(12) Fake parking tickets issued by children with high-vis jackets, accompanied by teachers/parents/governors.

**This method will ensure that the school, pupils and parents all have ownership of the problem. Police have access to fake advisory parking tickets, but there could be an opportunity for the pupils to design their own tickets with a specific message.**

(13) Camera car.

**Used to enforce parking offences. Can be requested via Birmingham City Council – Karl Randall. (Email K.Randall@birmingham.gov.uk)**

(14) Joint headed letter to parents with a traffic light system - warning for first offence, a visit on second offence and prosecution for a third offence.

**Consider who should be part of this alliance – police/fire/council etc. This will be led by the police, as it will require the owners/drivers of the vehicles to be identified through police systems. Careful consideration has to be given to what constitutes an offence; again, advice from Police officers will guide this process.**

(15) Enforcement Solution.

- **Where parking restrictions are being ignored and there is obstruction of the highway it is the Police that are able to issue tickets or report offenders.**
- **Putting in parking restrictions will not in itself solve a parking problem as any restrictions do need to be enforced. The co-operation of your local council is the first step in finding an enforcement solution to any parking problem. The local Neighbourhood Policing Team may be able to support, depending on local priorities.**

(16) Engineering Solutions.

**•Traffic Regulation Orders – in other words parking restrictions. These may prevent parking or waiting between certain hours of the day or at all times. The needs of the local community as a whole will be taken into account before any order is made. As they are legally enforceable the process that is required to make these orders takes around 6 months to complete and costs a considerable sum of public money. Putting parking restrictions in near a school will only be effective if the Police are willing to enforce them, and even then a problem may just move to a different location rather than solving it.**

**• Traffic Calming – a variety of methods aimed at slowing traffic. It may involve signs, lines on the road, reduction of the speed limit, speed humps or tables, islands, chicanes, pinch points or a number of other methods. These will only be applied; where appropriate as they affect traffic 24 hours a day; within a priority system; subject to available funding and enforcement agreement from the Police. You should also bear in mind that a certain level of parking around a school at the start and end of the day can act as a temporary traffic calming measure. If you feel the area around your school may need new parking restrictions or other measures you should contact Karl Randall at Birmingham City Council.**

Some websites to consider:

think.direct.gov.uk

[www.rospa.com/road-safety](http://www.rospa.com/road-safety)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/road-safety>

[www.capt.org.uk/resources/road-safety](http://www.capt.org.uk/resources/road-safety)