

# St Mary's C.E. Primary School

Rectory Gardens, London N8 7QN Tel: 020 8340 4898 E-mail: office@stmarysn8.co.uk

Headteacher: Jane O'Brien



15<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

## **Our School Street is starting: SS43 St Mary's C of E Primary 8-9am & 2:45-3:30pm**

Haringey Council have confirmed that our School Street scheme will be launching on **15 April 2024**. This decision was authorised by Cabinet in February.

The School Street will improve the air and make the roads safer around our school, by reducing traffic at the start and finish of the day. For most parents, carers and staff this will mean that driving into Rectory Gardens N8 will no longer be possible from **8:00-9:00am** and **2:45-3:30pm** on weekdays, during **term time**.

If you currently drive to school, we ask that you re-plan journey, as cars will not be allowed to enter Rectory Gardens during the operational times. It may be easier to walk, scoot, cycle or take public transport to school. Exemptions are available if you or your child(ren) have a mobility issue or disability – please contact us at school to arrange for your vehicle to be put on the exemption list. This would be based on whether you have a blue badge and are unable to access the zone from outside the school street zone (see map).

### **How will the School Street work?**

- The Council will install signage to make drivers aware of the School Street and its operating hours.
- Automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras will monitor the number plates of vehicles that enter the School Street during its operating hours and issue a penalty charge notice (PCN) if the vehicle is not registered for an exemption.
- Vehicles **without an exemption** will be liable for a fine entering the School Street.
- Any vehicle can leave a School Street at any time.
- Exemptions are limited to residents and businesses of the street(s) (Exemptions via Haringey Website)
- Parents/carers with a disability or child/ren with a disability and eligible staff must apply via School
- Emergency vehicles always have access for emergencies.

### **Why Haringey Council are introducing a School Street for us?**

Many adults and children in Haringey suffer from respiratory conditions that are caused or exacerbated by vehicle pollution. Cars travelling to/from Haringey schools contribute significantly to air pollution in our borough, and many children are exposed to high levels of toxic fumes because of these cars. Reducing the number of vehicles around our school will reduce the pollution that our children breathe in. Fewer cars around our school will also improve road safety and reduce congestion, making it safer and more pleasant for our whole school community.

A School Street is also a chance for us to increase active travel to and from school. Walking, cycling, scooting, and wheeling are all forms of exercise that can help your child(ren) have an active start to the day and arrive at school ready to learn. Please see the map below for more information.

The launch of our scheme means there will now be 34 School Streets in Haringey, joining over 500 School Streets running throughout London. Council research has also found that over 70% of parents support the schemes at their children’s schools. Ultimately, we expect that our new School Street will make our pupils’ journeys safer and less polluted. Other school heads are happy that their scheme makes the environment calmer, and most think the air seems cleaner.

We know there will be a period of adjustment for all of us as the scheme is implemented, and we’ll be working with you to prepare over the next few weeks.

You can also find out more information on the Council’s website:

<https://www.haringey.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-travel/travel/smarter-travel/school-streets>

We ask for support from the whole school community to ensure the success of this scheme, helping to create a safer and more pleasant environment around the school. With the introduction of this School Street, we hope that more children and families will use active travel as a means of getting to school. The Council has lots of tips and free services available to support you to walk or cycle, including free cycle training and cheap bike hire. You can find out more here:

<https://www.haringey.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-travel/travel>

Kind regards,

*Jane O'Brien*

Jane O'Brien  
Head Teacher

