

12 October 2020
KOn/cmj

Dear Parent/Carer

On 9 May 2020 the Department for Transport issued statutory guidance for the reallocation of road space to encourage cycling and walking and enable social distancing. As a nation, we are still required to practise 'social-distancing' and the expectation is that this will continue for the foreseeable future. The Department explained that measures needed to be taken quickly given the urgent need to change travel habits before society returns to on-site working habits. A priority area to meet these statutory requirements was to provide safe access for pupils and families attending schools.

With this in mind, King's Oak Academy supported the School Streets programme which is a national campaign addressing other concerns affecting schools such as reducing traffic congestion, improving air quality, general road safety outside schools, as well as encouraging active travel to school and healthier lifestyles for families.

Thank you for your support during the first term of the School Streets programme. The 'pedestrian and cycle' zone that has been created through an Experimental Traffic Order (ETO) on Brook Road has had a positive impact on child safety, reduced traffic congestion and encouraged a significant rise in the number of children who are walking, cycling or scooting to/from school.

The feedback about the impact of the ETO that has been offered by several parents/residents has been particularly helpful; we have sought clarification from South Gloucestershire Council about who can access Brook Road during the closure periods (8:25 – 8:50am and 3:00 – 3:30pm, Monday to Friday). Please see below for the guidance we received on 12 October:

No person shall cause or permit any motor vehicle to enter on or proceed in the length of road specified as Brook Road - that length of road which extends from its junction with Tennis Court Road for a distance of 272 metres. There are exemptions for the following: Vehicles...

- (i) *in connection with the carrying out on, or on premises situated on that length of road of any of the following operations, namely:-*
- building, industrial or demolition operations;*
 - the removal of any obstruction to traffic;*
 - the maintenance, improvement or reconstruction of the road;*
 - the laying, erection, alteration or repair in, or in land adjacent to the road of any sewer, or of any main, pipe or apparatus for the supply of gas, water or electricity or any electronic communication apparatus as defined in the Communications Act 2003;*
- (ii) *in the service of a local authority, the Environment Agency, a water undertaker or sewerage undertaker in pursuance of statutory powers or duties.*
- (iii) *Any vehicle being used for fire brigade, ambulance or police purposes in exercise of official duties.*

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We have offered your feedback to the Local Authority about access options for blue badge holders and the team are currently in the process of reviewing the ETO to find an appropriate solution to the difficulties that have been raised. If you would like to receive more information on the ETO, blue badge access to Brook Road or share your feedback with the South Gloucestershire School Streets team please complete the following form ([click here](#)).

Blue Badge Access

Whilst the ETO is being reviewed, if your child has a specific disability which affects their ability to arrive/leave the academy site in a safe manner, please contact your child's Head of House (listed below). Although it is likely that at this point we will not be able to grant permission for you to enter/exit Brook Road during the closure period, we will work with you to create an arrival/departure plan that is appropriate and safe for you and your child.

Pegasus (Adele.Rice@clf.uk)

Orpheus (Nicola.Younger@clf.uk)

Olympus (Catherine.Walbridge@clf.uk)

Hercules (Julie.Felski@clf.uk)

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Thank you again for your support and feedback as we work together to create a healthy, safe local community.

Kind regards,



Katherine Ogden
Principal

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