

Camden Cycling Campaign

14th February 2021

To Healthy.School.Streets@camden.gov.uk; Michelle Jamieson; Kasia McBride

Six Healthy School Streets consultations Feb 2021

1. Brookfield School on Croftdown Road
2. Kentish Town Church of England Primary School on Islip Street
3. Christopher Hatton Primary School on Mount Pleasant
4. Argyle Primary School on Tonbridge Street.
5. St Mary and St Pancras School on Polygon Road
6. Ecole Jeanine Manuel on the south side of Bedford Square

This response to the consultation on the above proposals from Camden Council is from Camden Cycling Campaign, the local borough group of London Cycling Campaign. We represent the interests of cyclists living or working in Camden and aim to expand the opportunities for all to cycle safely in the borough. We have discussed this consultation by email and online (using Cyclescape).

In principle we support all proposals to restrict motor traffic on streets outside schools during drop-off and pick-up times, making the roads safer, improving air quality and encouraging people to walk, cycle or scoot.

We are concerned that the suggested times may not be long enough. People could arrive by car before 3 pm for example and then wait for children to emerge and it is not clear that this would be prevented by the ban on motor vehicles.

Further, we oppose the use of exemptions as the presence of any motor traffic means that children and parents can't use the road to meet and socialise; very important when schools go back but social distancing is still important.

1. Brookfield School on Croftdown Road we support:

The timed vehicle restriction on Croftdown Road, from the Chester Road junction to the triangular junction only (but see comment on timing and exemptions above).

And the permanent installation of 4 planters at the triangular junction to block the slip road on to St Albans Road.

2. Kentish Town Church of England Primary School on Islip Street we support:

The timed vehicle restriction on Islip Street, between the junctions of Frideswide Place and Hammond Street (but see comment on timing and exemptions above).

The footway widening outside Kentish Town School.

And the proposal to create a permanent closure on Hammond Street using planters and bollards (as shown on the drawings).

3. Christopher Hatton Primary School on Mount Pleasant

We support the timed vehicle restriction on Mount Pleasant from the junction with Elm Street (but see comment on timing and exemptions above).

We agree strongly with making the cycle scheme on Laystall Street permanent; the provision of two-way cycling on both sections of Laystall Street provides a useful cycle route between the west of Gray's Inn Road and Hatton Garden.

4. Argyle Primary School on Tonbridge Street

We support the timed vehicle restriction on Tonbridge Street, Bidborough Street and Hastings Street (but see comment on timing and exemptions above).

We agree strongly with the proposal to allow two-way cycling in Bidborough Street, Hastings Street and Tonbridge Street which will be a useful permeability gain for people cycling through this area.

5. St Mary and St Pancras School on Polygon Road

We support the timed vehicle restriction on Polygon Road, between the junctions of Chalton Street and Werrington Street (but see comment on timing and exemptions above).

6. Ecole Jeanine Manuel on the south side of Bedford Square

We understand that this school generates a lot of motor traffic. We therefore believe that simply restricting motor vehicles from the south side of Bedford Square will displace it into surrounding streets. So we are unable to support this proposal without further measures to prevent traffic displacement.

We support the provision of a contraflow cycle lane to the southern side of Bedford Square to provide a link from Tottenham Court Road to the new cycling facilities on Bloomsbury Street and Gower Street.

Please acknowledge receipt of this response. We would be very happy to discuss any aspect of our comments; contact details are below.

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