

Parking Services P O Box 1462 Croydon CR9 1WX

Tel/Typetalk: 020 8726 6000 Minicom: 020 8760 5797

Contact: Parking Services frede.jensen@croydon.gov.uk Tel: 020 8726 6000, ext 88003

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Dear Parent

School Street scheme at the Fairchildes Primary and Meridian High Schools

The Council are to restrict a section of Fairchildes Avenue and its side roads to use by pedestrians and cyclists, with most motor vehicle traffic prohibited, between the hours of 08:00 to 09:30 and 14:00 to 16:00 on weekdays. The driving restrictions are due to be in place by 30th March 2020 and will be enforced using camera technology. The scheme will operate under an experimental traffic order for the first 6 months, meaning that it is subject to changes during this time.

The School Street is a response to requests for something to be done about air pollution, road safety and obstruction near to the school entrance. Croydon currently has the highest level of childhood (0 to 9 years) hospital admissions for asthma in London and the 3rd highest death rate attributed to air pollution. The level of air pollution inside a car in congested traffic is typically higher and more damaging than on the pavement.

Walking and cycling to school benefit children's health and wellbeing. It is suggested that children who walk or cycle arrive at school more alert, happier and ready to work. The School Streets thereby contribute to both better learning opportunities and health outcomes for the children. This is something that parents and the Council care for. If you must use the car, then it suggests that you should park in a safe and legal place outside the School Street zone and walk the last leg of the school journey.

The Council's road safety and travel team is in contact with the school to arrange safe travel training. The local area around the School Street will be monitored for any displacement effects, with consideration to implementing further road safety and parking controls if necessary.

Vehicles used in the transport of children with special mobility needs, including private vehicles, taxies and minicabs declared for such use, can obtain a permit to drive into the road during the restricted times. Where a parent has a mobility need and the child is unable to walk unaccompanied from a drop-off point just outside the zone, then a permanent or temporary permit to drive into the zone can be granted. Please speak to the school in the first instance.

The Council's contact address regarding the scheme is schoolparking@croydon.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

Frede Jensen Project Manager

