

Active Travel - Appendix 3

School Street Trail Sessions - Feedback from School Streets & Media Coverage

School Street Trial Sessions held on Clean Air Days 8th- 9th October

Several schools contacted their respective Neighbourhood Area Team to offer their initial feedback and to share their experience of their School Street Road Closures to mark National Clean Air Day. A selection of these is included below and the Neighbourhood Teams will obtain more from other schools in order to share learning and link schools to each other for peer support.

I. St Margaret Mary's Primary School, Charlestown (Head Teacher)

"Well, today was a raving success! The initiative was really well received by our parent body. Many asked if we can do this on a regular basis."

How would I go about seeing if this can be done more often?"

Thank you to all parents and families who supported the road closure this morning. It was lovely to see the children walking and cycling happily enjoying the clean air @CleanAirGM #CleanAirDay

Image 1 – St Margaret Mary Primary School, Charlestown Ward



iii. Our Ladys Primary School, Whalley Range (@OurLadysPri) Tweeted:

Reception class campaigning very loudly on #cleanair day. "We don't want a nasty cough turn your dirty engines off" @CleanAirGM @ManCityCouncil

You're never too young to make your voice heard at Our Lady's School! #cleanair @CleanAirGM @ManCityCouncil

Image 2 – Our Ladys Primary School, Whalley Range Ward



iii St Augustine's Primary School, Hapurhey (Head Teacher)

"It went really well. The children were so excited to be involved. Thanks for all your support with this."

Photographs from Clean Air Day Oct 8th







Media Coverage – MCC Press Release Oct 8th - National Clean Air Day

Headline “Pupils take to their School Streets to celebrate Clean Air Day”

“Primary schools across Manchester will be holding "School Street" road closures this Thursday (8th October), in celebration of national Clean Air Day

Seven schools, with a total of 2,500 pupils, are working with Manchester City Council to take part in this year’s School Streets scheme.

A School Street is a road outside a school with a temporary restriction on motor traffic at school drop-off and pick-up times. The temporary road closures will allow parents and children to have the freedom to walk or cycle safely in the streets at the beginning and the end of the school day, in a traffic-free environment.

The primary schools taking part are St Augustine’s CE Primary School, Monsall; St Margaret Mary, Charlestown; Cheetham C of E Academy, Cheeham Hill; Chorlton C of E; Our Lady’s, Whalley Range; Manley Park, Whalley Range and St Paul’s, Withington.

Ms Shah Headteacher, St Augustine’s CE Primary School said: "We are delighted to take part in this project that raises awareness of the harm that air pollution causes. Our children are passionate about the environment and they are leading the way in encouraging not only their own families but the whole school community to change ingrained habits to bring about a healthier and greener school environment. We want to encourage as many parents and children to walk or cycle to school and for those that have to drive to school to either park away from the school entrance or to switch off their engines if they are parked near the school."

Year six pupils, Patrick Okosun and Zohaib Khan from two of the school’s Rights Respecting Ambassadors added "We think St Augustine Street should be closed on Thursday’s National Clean Air day so that people from our school use less transport and apply Article 24 – The right to Health and Safety."

Clean Air Day is the UK’s largest air pollution campaign. Every year, air pollution causes up to 36,000 deaths in the UK. The World Health Organisation and the UK Government recognise air pollution as the largest environmental health risk faced today. Poor air quality causes heart and lung diseases and is linked to low birth weight and children’s lung development.

Banners will be displayed outside schools to provide messaging to parents and guardians about the need to switch off their engines to improve air quality in the

vicinity of their children's playgrounds. Eleven more Manchester schools have expressed an interest in organising School Streets events at a future date to enable more effective planning and resident consultation and will work with the council to plan their projects.

Executive Member for the Environment, Planning and Transport, Councillor Angeliki Stogia, said: "The School Streets events taking place this Clean Air Day will highlight the benefits of reducing traffic at the school gates. By creating safer streets, we want to encourage more parents and pupils to actively walk or cycle to school. Less traffic and parked vehicles near the school gates at the beginning and end of the school day increases everyone's ability to keep social distance measures safely.

"We will continue to work with local schools, both to highlight the proven benefits of cycling and walking instead of using the car and to examine whether more regular school streets can be brought forward in the future to promote active travel as the safest way to travel to school, as well as helping to improve air quality and respond to the ongoing issue of climate change."