

Hermitage Park Primary School

Spokes welcomes the measures being proposed to create safe space around the school gates of Hermitage Park Primary School for parents and children.

The Space for People proposal is for the guard-rail in front of the school to be removed and for the footway to be extended between an existing built-out section at the western edge of the school site to a speed hump along the road towards it's eastern edge.

Hermitage Park Primary has had a historic problem with dangerous traffic levels, inconsiderate parking and associated air pollution which the School Association have gone to great lengths to try and resolve over the past decade.

We understand that the School Association submitted applications for the School Streets initiative on two occasions (2014 & 2017), with support from the local community, which were rejected on both occasions. The extent of these issues is illustrated in the image below which was captured by a parent as part of the latest application.

We believe the proposed changes to the pavement will significantly improve the conditions directly outside the school at it's main entrance, and for that reason, we **strongly support** them.

However, we foresee the historic issues on the rest of the street to continue and to this end, would urge the council to consider closing Hermitage Park (the road), preferably 24/7 or, at least, at key times of the school day, whilst maintaining access for residents.

In addition to this we propose the following amendments to the proposal:

1. Extending the length of footway build-out to the north-eastern corner of the school site to include the space in front of the large double-gate. This is the main access to the playground for pupils and parents travelling to and from the school from this direction. The gate allows for vehicular access to the playground and, as such, there is a dropped, cobbled surface which breaks the pavement. This creates a pinch-point as people park over the entrance and on the cobbles – just at the point where children are making their way into the playground. Any measures to incorporate improvements at this end of the school frontage would be welcomed.
2. Increasing the capacity of bike and scooter storage in the playground to enable and encourage the option of active travel for pupils, parents and teachers. At present, there are only 5 Sheffield stands for a school / nursery population of approximately 400.



(Image captured by a parent as part of the latest School Streets application)

Gordon Carmichael
Spokes Planning Group
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