

COVID-19 Cycling and Walking Emergency Response Measures - for Schools proposed road closure - Buckstone Primary School

Response from Spokes South Edinburgh, December 2020

This response considers the proposals shared by the Spaces for People Team on 3rd December 2020

General comments

We welcome the Spaces for People proposal to close a small section of the road in the immediate vicinity of the school gate as defined below and in the accompanying map.

Close road to vehicular traffic on Buckstone Loan East at Buckstone Close maintaining access for pedestrians and cyclists

Prohibit vehicles on Buckstone Circus [typo for circle?], maintaining access for pedestrians, cyclists, residents, school deliveries and waste collections.

We are pleased by the proposals put forward, and we urge the council to review our detailed comments carefully.

Detailed comments

Buckstone Primary School sits at the top of the hill around which Buckstone Estate and recently the adjoining Waterfield Estate have been built. They are bounded on the East / North by the entirely green spaces of the Mortonhall Estate and on the South and West, by two major road, Frogston Road and A702. There is no through traffic making it a Low traffic Neighbourhood.

The school has implemented a well ordered routine for the start of the day where a staggered start time for different year groups is combined with socially distanced queueing on pavements on both sides of the school gate. There are 3 members of staff on hand to assist. It seems that those school staff who drive to the school are in the car park before 8.30.

Whilst the vast bulk of children arrive on foot, there are a small number of parents who still drive the children to school, some of them driving along the area proposed for closure. Buckstone Circle is narrowed by resident parking in this short section and the large SUV type vehicles witnessed this week take up a lot of room. One would question the drivers' ability to spot a small child from there. Children and adults with them were all on the pavements even those with a bike, or scooter.

Other drivers drop children at the crossroad of Buckstone Loan East and Buckstone Circle just outside the proposed closure and this may need to be monitored as drivers who have previously used the closed areas will probably use this area instead. There are Zig Zag lines which are not always respected.

The closure would provide residents, school deliveries and waste collection services access at the opposite end of Buckstone Circle to the school gate.



Both Buckstone and Waterfield are studded with lanes between houses which must make it possible for many to walk, wheel, cycle, & scoot to school without seeing much traffic at all. It's ironic that the most dangerous part of the route is at the school gates.

It's noted that in 2013 a School Streets proposal for a much larger area of quietened streets was not implemented.

Design of road closure mechanism

It is not clear what devices are planned which would allow access to '*pedestrians, cyclists, residents, school deliveries and waste collections*' whilst preventing cars dropping off children.

The notices should say clearly that the road remains open to pedestrians and cyclists.