

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

Response from Spokes South Edinburgh, 26th January 2021

*This response considers the proposals shared by the Spaces for People Team on 19th January 2021*

## 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 Oxbgangs ( assuming typo in original) Green at the location indicated*  
*Introduce new waiting and loading restrictions on Pentland Drive*

*Exemptions are for residents, pedestrians, cyclists, blue badge holders, emergency services, waste vehicles, school deliveries and access to car park for school staff.*

**We are pleased by the proposals put forward but we have some concerns. There are no measures on Oxbgangs Bank where parking is sometimes dangerous and also we have concerns about through traffic which runs past the main entrance to the school and affects the routes to school for most pupils, and we urge the council to review our detailed comments carefully.**

## Detailed comment

Pentland Primary School sits between three neighbourhoods Oxgangs South, Comiston and Caiystane. The main vehicle-free access to the school is via footpaths from Oxgangs Bank and Pentland Drive (opposite the Fairmilehead Park exit). Most children usually walk/scoot/cycle but some are dropped off by car resulting in parking problems/parking. One such area is Oxgangs Bank where parking extends up the hill (off map) and another is a small cul de sac off Pentland Drive. Children from the rest of Oxgangs may arrive by the busy Oxgangs Green which has road access to the school car park but is also part of a ratrun to avoid Greenbank Crossroads.

We agree the designed closure on Oxgangs Green will allow pupils and parents some space for social distancing on the remaining section of the road. We'd like to draw attention to our points about through traffic from Oxgangs Green which does compromise safety around the school.

The waiting and loading restrictions on Pentland Drive are quite limited and we have doubts that they will be enforced. Within the cul de sac there are some spaces intended for drop off /pick up but there is sometimes troublesome parking around the green roundabout. Again we doubt that restrictions there would be observed without enforcement.

There is a long-standing problem with school drop-off parking in Oxgangs Bank extending up the hill off the map. This is sometimes very dangerous to children walking and in a street with many pensioner houses could have consequences for other residents. We believe steps should be taken to prevent dangerous parking there and this should be part of the SfP measures for Pentland PS. There is a parking area close to the Oxgangs Broadway that could be used rather than Oxgangs bank and only a short walk from the path to school.

### Traffic on the routes to school

There have been long term safety issues caused by the well-used ratrun that starts at Oxgangs Green and allows traffic to bypass the Greenbank Crossroads and arrive on A702 especially via Pentland View but also Comiston View. Impatient drivers don't pay proper attention to the young pedestrians, scooters and cyclist making their way to school especially from SwanSpring Avenue along Oxgangs Hill, along Oxgangs Green and at the entrance of Pentland View from Buckstone Terrace (A702).

We would like to see more attention paid, soon if not now, to preventing through traffic with a well designed model filter. Not only with this make the school routes safer, but this in turn might increase the number of pupils who arrive on foot/ scooter/cycle perhaps unaccompanied by parents

