

LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL (HERRICK, RUSHEY MEAD, LEICESTER)
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING AND WAITING RESTRICTIONS) TRAFFIC
REGULATION ORDER 2024 (TME 2960)

Concerns about the free flow of traffic and safety implications, on residential streets were raised by the local community and the local councillors. Leicester City Council investigated the issues raised and concluded that there are grounds to simplify traffic movements. It was proposed that through traffic travelling on Lockerbie Avenue (between Gleneagles Avenue and Dalkeith Road) should be eliminated at the start and end of the school day.

The Authority made an Experimental Traffic Order (ETO), to ensure the safe and efficient movement of traffic including pedestrians and cyclists, whilst having due regard for the drivers of motor vehicles who will continue to be able to access all properties within the area. The Order is necessary for avoidance of danger to person(s) or other traffic and for improving the air quality and amenities of the area. It became effective on street on 3rd January 2023.

The Authority introduced a new School Street restriction on Lockerbie Avenue between Gleneagles Avenue and Dalkeith Road. This prohibition of driving restriction will apply from 8-9am and 2.30-4pm on Monday to Fridays inclusive except for permit holders. These restrictions are to reduce through traffic and inconsiderate parking near to the school whilst allowing pedestrian and cycle access. Residents of properties with frontages on the restricted section of Lockerbie Avenue are permitted motor vehicle access.

For emergency vehicles in extreme cases, there may be a wish to use their own discretion to contravene the school street. However, they must carry this out with all due care and attention, in order to access the area to attend an emergency incident. Previously with these roads having lots of through traffic and vehicles being parked inconsiderately, accessibility was poor, especially for the larger emergency vehicles.

Residents' vehicles with permits can enter and vehicles can exit this section of Lockerbie Avenue during the restricted times. There has been a reduction in the quantity of traffic and its associated noise and pollution. Drivers can access properties in surrounding roads but may need to take a different route to get there. The reduced traffic flow in the area has helped drivers accessing properties in this section of Lockerbie Avenue to pull into and out of parking spaces. It is considered, that by reducing the numbers of vehicles in the area more people have been encouraged to make short trips on foot, wheelchair, with pushchairs or by pedal cycle.

The opportunity was taken to incorporate the existing School Keep Clear (SKC) markings on Arran Road and Lockerbie Avenue into the Order making them mandatory restrictions. The hours of operation of the SKC markings are 8am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

The traffic restrictions are shown on the plan 001-HP-ETO-001

As these School Street restrictions were new to Leicester, the City Council introduced the restrictions under an Experimental Order for a maximum period of 18 months. The first 6 months of the experiment was the formal period where objections could be raised against the experiment being made into a permanent Traffic Regulation Order. No objections were received, and many residents and those from the school community have expressed favourable opinions of the experimental restrictions. The Council has monitored the effects of the experimental order and decided it is effective in improving the environment in the area. The school street and parking restrictions can be enforced by the Police an approved device or the City Council CEO's.