

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is Moving Traffic Enforcement?

Moving Traffic Enforcement allows local authorities to enforce certain traffic restrictions using camera technology where approved by the Department for Transport. These restrictions can include School Streets, banned turns, No Entry restrictions, pedestrian zones and yellow box junctions.

2. Why is St Helens Borough Council considering these powers?

The Council is exploring Moving Traffic Enforcement powers to improve compliance with existing traffic restrictions, enhance road safety, reduce congestion, improve air quality and support more reliable journeys across the borough.

3. Are any new traffic restrictions being introduced?

No. The proposed powers would not create any new traffic restrictions. Moving Traffic Enforcement would only apply to restrictions that are already in place and legally established through a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO).

4. Why are School Streets being considered first?

The Council has selected three existing School Street locations as the initial focus of this engagement exercise because they are designed to create safer environments for children and families during school arrival and departure times.

Enforcement could help improve compliance with the restrictions already in place and support the objectives of the schemes.

5. What is a School Street?

A School Street is a road outside, or close to, a school where vehicle access is restricted at specific times, typically during the start and end of the school day.

The aim is to:

- Improve safety for children and families
- Reduce traffic congestion around schools
- Improve air quality
- Encourage walking, wheeling and cycling

6. Which locations are being considered?

The Council is seeking views on enforcement at the following existing School Street locations:

- Barton Close, St Mary's & St Thomas' CE Primary School
- Dunedin Street, Thatto Heath Primary School
- Foundry Street and Patterson Street, The District CE Primary School

Location plans are available on the engagement webpage.

7. Why has the Council selected only three locations?

The Council considers these locations to be appropriate sites for assessing the potential benefits of Moving Traffic Enforcement due to the existing School Street restrictions already in operation. Any future proposals at other locations would be

considered separately and would be subject to the appropriate consultation and decision-making processes.

8. How would enforcement work?

If approved, enforcement would be carried out using Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras. These cameras automatically read and record the registration numbers of vehicles entering the restricted area during the times the restriction is in operation. The recorded information can then be reviewed to identify vehicles that may have contravened the restriction, providing evidence to support any enforcement action.

9. Will cameras record drivers or passengers?

The primary purpose of the cameras is to capture vehicle registration numbers and provide evidence of potential traffic contraventions.

Any personal data collected would be processed in accordance with data protection legislation and used solely for traffic enforcement purposes. All cameras will operate in compliance with the 12 guiding principles set out in the [Home Office Surveillance Camera Code of Practice 2013](#).

10. What happens if a driver ignores the restriction?

Vehicles that enter a restricted area during the operational hours without a valid exemption may be liable to receive a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN).

Details of any applicable charges, exemptions and appeals processes would be published before enforcement is introduced.

11. Are there any exemptions?

Existing exemptions would continue to apply where appropriate and are set out in the relevant Traffic Regulation Orders. Details of the exemptions applicable to each School Street location can be found on the Council's website at:

www.sthelens.gov.uk/article/15540/School-Streets

12. Will residents still be able to access their properties?

Where resident exemptions currently exist within a School Street scheme, these arrangements would continue to operate in accordance with the relevant Traffic Regulation Order.

Specific arrangements vary between locations and would remain unchanged by the introduction of camera enforcement.

13. Will this replace police enforcement?

No.

The police would retain their existing enforcement powers. Moving Traffic Enforcement would provide the Council with an additional tool to help enforce traffic restrictions and improve compliance.

14. Why can't the police continue to enforce these restrictions?

The police have a wide range of operational responsibilities and competing demands on their resources.

Moving Traffic Enforcement enables councils to support compliance with traffic restrictions locally while allowing police resources to remain focused on wider policing priorities.

15. Will the Council generate income from fines?

The purpose of Moving Traffic Enforcement is to improve compliance with traffic restrictions and promote safer roads.

Any income received from Penalty Charge Notices must be used in accordance with legislation and can only be applied towards the costs of operating enforcement and other eligible transport and highway-related activities.

16. How will my feedback be used?

All responses received during the engagement period will be reviewed and carefully considered before any decision is made.

The feedback will help inform whether the Council proceeds with an application to the Department for Transport and whether enforcement is introduced at the proposed locations.

17. Does this engagement mean a decision has already been made?

No.

No decision has been made at this stage. The purpose of this engagement is to gather feedback from residents, businesses, schools and other stakeholders before any decision is taken.

18. What happens next?

Following the engagement period:

1. Responses will be analysed and reviewed.
2. The Council will consider the findings.
3. A decision will be made on whether to progress an application to the Department for Transport.
4. If approved by the Department for Transport, further information about implementation and enforcement arrangements will be published.

19. How can I provide my views?

You can submit your comments by emailing:

traffic@sthelens.gov.uk

Please include "Moving Traffic Enforcement Engagement" in the subject line.

Closing date for responses: 1 December 2026.

