

Durham County Council

Policy for the Provision of School Crossing Patrols



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Introduction

This policy is based upon the national standard produced by Road Safety GB entitled 'School Crossing Patrol Guidelines: June 2012'. It is endorsed and supported by the Royal Society for the prevention of Accidents (RoSPA). The policy details where the Council will provide a School Crossing Patrol Service (SCP).

School Crossing Patrol – Service Provision

The Council recognises the need to provide a SCP service for schools across the County and it has a power to provide a service, but the service is not a statutory duty.

SCPs provide a safer crossing facility in certain locations where a risk assessment has identified a need, and the Council has adopted the national guidance for justification and establishment of sites but with the adjustment of the PV² value from 4 million PV² to 2 million PV².

The Criteria is as follows:

Criteria for Establishment/Disestablishment of Sites

The criteria for the establishment of a school crossing patrol site uses a formula known as the 'PV²'

The PV² is the formula for measuring whether or not a SCP site is justified where

- P = pedestrians
- V = vehicles

By counting the number of pedestrians and vehicles over a period of time, the PV² formula can be applied to determine if it meets the criteria, or not.

The PV² is actually applied to the busiest half hour period of the survey. Further multiplying factors are applied such as road and footpath width, vehicle speed, visibility, and accident history.

Should the final figure be at or above 2 million, the site is justified.

Disestablishment - Sites below 2 Million PV²

Under the same criteria, sites below the 2 million PV² threshold are dis-established over a period of time, when they become vacant through natural wastage, early retirement, or voluntary redundancy.

Light Controlled and Zebra Crossings

Providing a SCP at light controlled crossings such as Pelicans, Puffins, and Traffic Lights and at zebra crossings is an unnecessary doubling of resource. At these sites, pedestrians themselves can halt traffic by simply standing at the kerb at a zebra crossing or by pressing a button to stop traffic at light controlled crossings.

Sites are disestablished over a period of time when they become vacant through natural wastage, early retirement or voluntary redundancy.

Lunchtime Provision

The Council will not provide SCP cover at lunchtimes as generally school children do not leave school at lunchtime. However, a small number of schools where children are known to be allowed to leave school at lunchtime will be covered.

Parental Responsibility

The national guidelines are clear regarding the responsibility for the safety of children on the journey to and from school. Even where a SCP is provided, parents or guardians remain responsible for ensuring their children's safety, just as they do when a zebra crossing or pelican crossing is provided. Parents should not assume that the Council has the responsibility for the safety of their children on the journey to and from school.

Parents have a vital role to play in a child's road safety education and can improve a child's understanding greatly by walking with them to school and by setting the right example. The Council's Road Safety Team can give further guidance on how parents can become more involved in their child's road safety education.

What are we doing to maintain safety for children and other members of the public?

Road Safety is a vital area of the work for the Council and work will continue to provide support for schools, parents and children. This will include:

Externally Funded Sites:

SCP sites, which do not meet the above criteria, may be retained or provided if funding for the site can be found by a school or another funding source.

Volunteer SCPs:

Volunteers may be an option that gives parents and other members of the community an opportunity to support their local school in a positive way. Where requested, the Council may train volunteers to operate as SCPs which will help schools to keep a SCP facility.

Road Safety Education and Training and Publicity:

The Council's Road Safety Officers take a proactive approach to road safety through education, training and publicity.

The team trains over 6,000 children each year in pedestrian and cycling skills and these activities have helped to raise road safety awareness and skills in young children across the County. For example, training is provided to children on how to use light controlled and zebra crossings safely using real crossings where they are close by or use scale down working models.

Road safety education is provided through schemes such as the Junior Road Safety Officer Scheme and general road safety education in the school curriculum helps improve road safety awareness. This important work develops the skills needed in young people to be safer independent road users.

Advice and Information to Parents/Guardians:

The Council will support parents and guardians with advice and information. Training and equipment may be offered that will enable and encourage them to develop safer journeys to school. This includes written and verbal advice, loan equipment, and development of 'Walking Buses' and the training of volunteer trainers.

For further information contact the Road Safety Team on telephone number 03000 268167/8 or e-mail address road.safety@durham.gov.uk