

THE CITY OF SOUTHAMPTON (ST MONICA SAFER ROUTES TO SCHOOL) SPEED LIMIT ORDER 2025

Statement of Reasons

This Order is being proposed for the following reasons:

- For avoiding danger to persons or other traffic using the road or any other road or for preventing the likelihood of any such danger arising.
- For facilitating the passage on the road or any other road of any class of traffic (including pedestrians).
- For preserving or improving the amenities of the area through which the road runs.

In authorising the advertisement of these proposals the Council has given consideration to its duty under s122 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians) and the provision of suitable and adequate parking facilities on and off the highway (while having regard to the matters specified in s122 (2) of that Act).

Through our Safer Routes to School Programme, we have been improving transport infrastructure near to school sites around the city to enable people to make smarter, healthier and more environmentally friendly ways to travel. The area around St Monica Primary School was identified as a site with significant road safety issues associated with parking issues, congestion, speed and lack of safe crossing points. This has created an environment that is unwelcome for people walking, cycling and wheeling to school, to the shops and other local amenities. Over the past year, we have been developing proposals to address the identified issues. Using a wide range of data sources and feedback from the local community, the proposals detailed below have been developed and we are formally consulting on these through the Traffic Regulation Order process.

This order is required to introduce a 20mph speed limit in the area.

Southampton City Council is committed to ensuring the city's streets are safe for everyone who uses them. The Corporate Plan and Connected Southampton 2040 Local Transport Plan set out the Council's objectives to make Southampton a place where people can easily and safely get around; and continue to reduce casualties from transport collisions towards zero, focusing on the safety of children and people walking and cycling.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA) has put together a 20mph factsheet, explaining the need for lower speeds to bring down casualty rates, and the evidence behind 20mph zones/limits in reducing vehicle speeds. Safety and environmental improvements for all road users can be achieved by reducing vehicle speeds.

Studies have also shown that the use of 20mph speed limits will specifically assist other vulnerable road user groups, including people with disabilities and elderly pedestrians. This is of vital importance in reducing the risk of severe injury and helping to maintain independent mobility.