



Traffic Survey Report May 2022

Priory School, Mountfield Road, Lewes

Aim of survey.

Priory School has become increasingly concerned with the dangerous and unhealthy numbers of cars driving down Mountfield Road to the school entrance at school drop off and pick up times. For the very large number of students trying to walk or cycle this route, not to mention residents, it means 20 to 30 minutes of increased air pollution each morning and afternoon. Pollution levels on this street are very high, as verified on the national *Address Pollution* website.

<https://www.addresspollution.org/results/33ce5d20-39df-420e-83ea-5b58d5f5d7ea>



Building on a first trial earlier this year, Priory School got together last week (3-6 May) with Lewes Living Streets, Cycle Lewes, Lewes District Council (LDC) and local councillors to try and do something about it. The aim was to encourage parents with children to drop off and pick up in the Lewes District Council (LDC) car park next to Lewes Football Club at the beginning of Mountfield Road, rather than outside the school.

The exercise lasted 30 minutes in the morning (8-8.30am) and 30 minutes in the afternoon (3.15-3.45pm) and lasted for one week.

During th

Number of motorised vehicles dropping off children for school

Day	AM - drop off in Car Park	PM - pick up in Car Park	total - Car Park	AM - drop off at School	PM - pick up at School	Total - School	Total Combined
Tues 3 May	48	18	66	49	47	96	162
Wed s 4 May	60	27	87	66	29	95	182
Thur s 5 May	39	29	68	68	41	109	177
Fri 6 May	44	29	73	51	30	81	154
Total s	191	103	294	234	147	381	675

e week a total of 675 car journeys (average per day 168) took place with parents & guardians bringing their children to school.

An encouraging 294 journeys were made to drop off & pick up children at the car park (average per day 73) although more journeys were taken to & from the school (average per day 95). It was notable that drivers who were late for school would drive right to the school entrance.

During the four days of the project, 294 fewer journeys took place down to the school, contributing to less traffic congestion & pollution.

Other related issues

- 1) There were noticeably fewer pick ups (afternoon) than drop offs (morning) taking place. This may be that students were staying for after school activities, or made their own way back home in the afternoon but needed a lift in the morning.
- 2) Do students come by car because public transport a) doesn't exist b) is not convenient/ at the right time or place, c) is too expensive (most likely)?
- 3) One parent told us that after the February trial, she started using the LDC car park as a pick up spot for her child. However, she was told by a parking warden that she would have to pay for the ten minutes she was waiting. We would recommend a 10 minute picking up "*grace*" period. This should be sorted out by the school & LDC.

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Cycle Lewes