

Road safety chief reveals the 16 Staffordshire schools set to launch 20mph zones

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Staffordshire's road safety chief has today revealed the first 16 locations that will launch an ambitious project to get car speeds down to 20mph outside schools.

The scheme builds on the massive success and popularity of a trial project which took place at eight schools across the county during last autumn and winter.

County Councillor Mike Maryon, Cabinet member for Highways and Road Safety, has announced the new list of 16 schools today.

He said: "Road safety is a top priority for Staffordshire and this ambitious scheme clearly reflects that view.

"Ideally, I would like to roll this system out across the entire county straight away but we have more than 400 schools and are facing incredibly challenging financial times. We are carefully balancing and prioritising the resources that we have to get maximum results for our communities.

"Motorists also have a responsibility to reduce their speed when driving past schools. Residents have told us that they want action on this issue and we have listened."

The electronic speed indication devices will be in use outside the first wave of schools between September and Christmas.

In January, they will be moved on to another 16 schools which will be announced later in the year.

The part time 20mph zones will operate during school run times to protect pupils, but ensure that traffic flows are unaffected when children are in class, and during school holidays.

The schools that will launch the scheme include:

- The Croft Primary School, Rugeley Road, Armitage
- Little Aston Primary School, Forge Lane, Little Aston
- Henry Prince First School, Ashbourne Road, Mayfield
- Oldfields Hall Middle School, Stone Road, Uttoxeter
- Wilnecote High School, Tinkers Green Road, Tamworth
- Glascote Heath Primary School, Silver Link Road, Tamworth
- St. Luke's Primary School, New Penkridge Road, Cannock
- Churchfields Primary School, Sandy Lane, Rugeley
- Corbett Primary School, Six Ashes Road, Bobbington
- Cheslyn Hay High and Cheslyn Hay Primary, Saredon Road, Cheslyn Hay
- St Peter's Primary School, Church Lane, Hixon
- Leasowes Primary School, Porlock Avenue, Baswich
- Hutchinson Memorial First School, Uttoxeter Road, Checkley

- St Michael's First School, Rudyard, Leek
- Ravensmead County Primary School, Old Road, Bignall End
- Madeley High School, Newcastle Road, Madeley

Staffordshire is already number one in the UK for child road safety. It's a position achieved through innovative road safety action, including the Walking Bus and Safer Routes to School programmes and a host of education and training projects. The 20mph zone initiative is a continuation of a winning formula.

County Councillor Lee Bates, whose division includes Wilnecote High School, said: "This is a first class safety scheme and I am sure it will receive full support from the community.

"The aim of the project is to drastically change driver behaviour. We don't want motorists putting children at risk by speeding past schools when the pupils are being dropped off or picked up. The impact of the 20mph zones could potentially be lifesaving."

County Councillor Brian Beale, who represents the area that Glascoate Heath Primary School falls into, added: "These signs give motorists a clear warning – slow down around schools. Hit a child at 20mph and they have a chance of surviving - but this drops dramatically by 30mph.

"I am looking forward to other schools in and around Tamworth benefitting from this part time 20mph zone during the coming year."