

Moulton Site visit 19/01/2022 Iain Watson

Moulton CEVCP School is within a “20’s Plenty” zone, signed on all the roads to and from the school.

The school is well provisioned with parking, there being a school car park opposite the school across School Road. It is one of the few schools within Suffolk that have its own car park for parents. The school uses a “drop and go” / “pick up and go” system via the staff parking area on Moulton/Kennet Road.



Figure 1 looking south, the western side footway is on the right

There is a direct route for pedestrians walking north towards the school: the footway on the west of the B1085 (Chippenham Road) leads up through the car park and then there is an indicated crossing point (band of lighter tarmac) across to the school.



Figure 2 looking north at the route through the car park



Figure 3 Looking south along School Road, showing the crossing location from the car park to the school

On the East Side of the B1085 (Chippenham Road) there is a dropped kerb location near the school, on a slight bend in the road.



Figure 4 overview of junction



Figure 5 Drop kerb route across road



Figure 6 route to pupil entrance along school road





Along school Road there are plenty of bollards with reflectors on them.

The parish council and school are concerned about the speed of vehicles on Moulton Road both whilst entering and exiting the village. On my visit to the school it did appear that the 30mph (and the "20's Plenty" signs) were not having much effect on traffic speeds, with drivers only getting to a more appropriate speed as they reached the junction.

As this would impact upon the pupils crossing from the east side of the footway, and is also the stretch of road outside the staff car park. Drop and Go location, it might be appropriate to get a speed check at the location.

When heading away from the school, due to the layout of the bend providing a better view, there is less risk for pedestrians crossing the road.

To the south of the school there is a straight section of road that is ideal for crossing. My recommendation is that parents be asked to use this section to cross when they are heading towards that school. This would put them on the side of the road that leads them through the school car park.

School Road speeds are of concern to the school, but I saw nothing on my visit that I felt was inappropriate, speed wise. There were, however, issues with larger vehicles (4x4 and agricultural vehicles) entering the village from the north along the road. There is a lay-by almost adjacent to the car park entrance, and vehicles parked in that were causing a narrowing of the road. With the car park provision taking cars off the highway, this lay-by seems to be a backward step. The more parking provision that is provided, the more drivers want to park. Maybe this lay-by needs to be removed?

Driver behaviour by the parents was generally good, although there were a lot of cars that were parked with their engines running.

Whilst there are issues with specific locations on the B1085 (Chippenham Road), there is plenty of opportunity to cross the road within the village, with a good route to the school. Any pupils living within the village should be expected to walk to school, and those who live outside the village should be encouraged to use the drop and go facilities, those who choose to park should be encouraged to turn their engines off.

Actions

1. I will engage Road Safety Officers to work with the the school, and with the Junior Road Safety Officers. The aim will be to share information about safe pedestrian behaviour, and to get messages to the parents and wider community. These messages will include ensuring appropriate driving speeds around the school, and an anti-idling campaign.
2. I will forward this report to those involved with Speed Activated Signage (SID) to see if there is anything that can be added to the village entrance that would assist with speed reduction, as well as looking at the possibility of a speed survey.