

HEMDEAN HOUSE SCHOOL

CAVERSHAM

Hemdean House School,
Hemdean Road,
Caversham
RG4 7SD

We, the undersigned, petition the Council to place speed humps in front of our school which will slow the traffic down and reduce risks to pedestrians, cyclists, drivers and all other road users.

Hemdean House school is situated on a bend on Hemdean Road, as seen in appendix 1. The bend creates a blind corner, with visibility further restricted by parked cars on both sides. Sometimes cars drive very fast on the bend and this can surprise those that are crossing the road, parents coming out of their parking space and those riding their bikes. During drop off and pick up times, parents and families find it tricky to cross the road with the cars driving so quickly past the school.

We have some pupils who cycle to school. A concerned parent researched the R40 cycle route which has been designated as a strategic cycle link in the Transport Strategy 2040. This is a good action but it is a long time away. At the moment, safety concerns are keeping many people from cycling on Hemdean Road. One pupil's cycling experience is that cars pass quickly and very closely to them, particularly on the bend and sometimes turns in front the cyclist without regard to their rights to the road. Another pupil recounts that he was riding to school during 'Walk to School Week' and had to pull in quickly otherwise he would have been knocked over.

Many, but not all schools, have a reduced speed limit and further restrictions on the road approaching their school. As a private school, we should be given the same consideration as all schools. The speed limit in front of our school is 30mph. This is too fast! Our school, our pupils and our families should have the same measures as all schools.

Hemdean Road is also on the bus route so when a car comes around the bend very fast and meets the bus, it is another risk. One parent did some research and found out that speed humps have been turned down by RBC on Rotherfield Way because of the effect on buses (Appendix 2), however there are speed humps further along the road, outside Caversham Primary school, so this would not be fair as an argument against our petition.

Without traffic calming, it is only a matter of time before someone is seriously injured or worse. We understand that what we are asking for involves money but what is the budget for a child's life?

Please can the local authority take this matter seriously. We have a lot of support locally and you can find this evidence on our change.org page (Appendix 3)

Yours respectfully,

The School Council of Hemdean House School

Appendix 1



Appendix 2

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extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcgclefindmkaj/https://democracy.reading.gov.uk/documents/s26368/Appendix%201%20-%20Survey%20and%20Comments.pdf

Appendix 3

A screenshot of a Change.org petition page. The browser address bar shows 'change.org/u/me'. The page features a circular profile picture of a brick building, the name 'Hemdean House School', and the location 'ENG, United Kingdom'. There is an 'Edit profile' button. Below this, there are two tabs: 'Started (1)' and 'Signed (2)'. The 'Started (1)' tab is active, showing a petition titled 'Implement speed calming measures on Hemdean Road, Caversham, R...'. The petition text reads: 'Update: We, the School Council would like to express our appreciation to the Network Management Team who have guided us on our petition. They have also facilitated a meeting with RBC for us to put forward our petition for traffic calming measures in front of the school. We will now change our request to speed cushions and not digital...'. The petition is from 'Hemdean House School' (ENG, United Kingdom) and has 99 signatures. It was created on 12/10/2023. To the right of the text is a photograph of a brick building, likely the school.