

New bylaw to make limits 30km/h for periods outside Wicklow schools

Speed laws adopted on Monday to come into force in August



The 30k speed limit outside schools starts on August 1.

Myles Buchanan

Wicklow People

Consent 2023 at 02:00



byelaw for County Wicklow, including the introduction of periodic 30km/h speed limits outside all schools.

The new speed bylaws for schools comes into place on August 1.

Cllr Shay Cullen felt it was imperative to tackle excessive speeds outside of schools, especially in rural areas.

He said: "I'm thinking of places like Moneystown in our own district, where you are up to 50k and 80k an hour passing the school gate.

"It's something that certainly needs to be addressed. We need to do everything we can in terms of keeping the children safe through school times, whether it's a drop-off from the morning or a pick-up in the evening.

"I think we'd be sending out a very, very clear message that safety is paramount when it comes to the safety of our children."

Cllr Vincent Blake stated: "We did discuss the schools in Carnew, where we have two national schools and a secondary schools over a long distance along the actual Main Street. It may become a problem in terms of how to deal with that aspect of it."

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Cllr Lourda Scott said the issue of safety and speeding around schools was a massive issue in the Greystones District.

"I have witnessed myself very, very near fatal accidents occurring outside of one particular group of schools in our area, which my children attend. It's been a huge concern which I have raised before the speed limit review started.

"A motion to reduce the speeds in our district to 30km was passed unanimously by all of my colleagues on the district council back at the end of 2021.

"I'm actually delighted to see that the 30km are going through for all schools across the county.

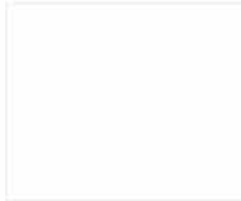
"I believe we will probably be the first local authority possibly to introduce this.

"Out of the 257 public submissions I have to note that almost two of those were from the Greystones district and almost half of those submissions all related to bringing in 30km zones around schools.

"That's just a massive indicator of the level of support there is for that level of change for the speeds limits."

Cllr Erika Doyle said: "We're such a car centric society and cars come first when really they shouldn't.

"People should come first, particularly young people.



"We all know that if you're hit by a car at 30km, it averages out of that maybe one in ten people will be killed. If you are hit by a car at 50, it goes up to five in ten.

"So really, the 30km zone around schools is a no brainer and I'm delighted that we're doing it on a whole county basis."

An amendment from Cllr Rory Connor was also accepted and there will also be a periodic speed-limit in place at Kilmacanogue National School.

The distance of the periodic speed limits varies from school to school and will take place on a site-by-site basis, depending on the road geometry.

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