

YOUR STREET ORGANISER:

LOCAL AUTHORITY CONTACT:



www.playingout.net

Stewards' Information

Everything you need to know
for safe stewarding of
a formal street closure
for children's play

INFORMATION FOR STEWARDS

Whilst stewarding, I understand that it is my responsibility to:

STAY VISIBLE, ALERT AND SAFE. Always wear your high-viz jacket. Be **in view** of oncoming traffic, the closure area and other stewards.

KEEP CHILDREN WITHIN THE CLOSURE. Remind them to stay on pavements outside the closure. If a child arrives unaccompanied, try to find out if their parent or guardian knows where they are.

DIVERT TRAFFIC. Drivers approaching the street may be curious or confused. Briefly explain what is happening, how long it lasts, suggest an alternative route and politely answer any questions. Have leaflets on hand and enough knowledge of nearby streets to re-direct them.

GUIDE DRIVERS NEEDING ACCESS. Residents or tradespeople may need access or want to leave. Agree with your organiser who will watch out for imminent departures and how this will be managed.

A) Vehicles trying to turn INTO the road.

Explain to drivers what is happening, how long it lasts and, as a legal road closure you are only permitting residents or tradespeople needing access, who must agree to **drive at snails pace behind you.**

If they agree, call out **"CAR COMING!"**, use a whistle and ensure the road is clear of children and objects.

Your co-steward then moves the barrier to allow the vehicle to pass and remains at the closure point. Ensure the barriers are stewarded while vehicles are moving.

Walk **ahead** of the vehicle to its parking place, ensure its engine is off before calling **"SAFE TO PLAY!"** and returning to the barrier.

B) Vehicles trying to LEAVE the road.

Talk to the driver and agree with them which way they will be going. If they are going out through your barrier, continue with the following; if not, let the other stewards know they need to take over.

Explain that **you will walk ahead of them** to ensure the road stays clear.

If they agree, call out **"CAR COMING!"**, use a whistle and ensure the road is clear of children and objects.

Your co-steward remains at the closure point, moves the barrier for the vehicle to pass and repositions it. Then call out **"SAFE TO PLAY!"**

If a driver becomes difficult or challenges your authority, remain calm, courteous yet assertive. This is rare but is a serious area of risk so be prepared. The main thing is to **reassert the closure's legal status and temporary nature**. If a driver becomes confrontational, your co-steward should quietly alert the organiser and/or nearby parents to ensure children's safety. Offer the Council contact (overleaf) if drivers want to talk to an official.

In general, informally talking with adults about their childhood play memories can build common ground and increase co-operation.

ENSURE YOUR REPLACEMENT HAS READ AND UNDERSTOOD this information leaflet, if you are stewarding in shifts.

LOOK AFTER YOURSELF. Dress sensibly and keep hydrated while stewarding.

Any doubts or questions, talk to your Organiser.