



Department
for Transport

Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
House of Commons
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From the Secretary of State
The Rt. Hon. Grant Shapps

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Our Ref: MC/348594
Your Ref: MG14986

18 June 2021

Dear Michael,

Thank you for your email of 11 June, about traffic safety measures outside schools.

I am very sorry to hear of the incident in which a Year 7 pupil was hit by a car outside a school in your constituency. I can understand how shocking it must have been not only for her family and friends but the wider community.

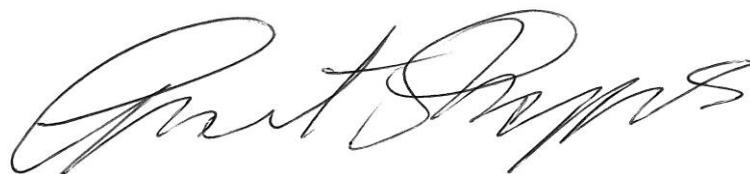
The provision of crossings is a matter for local highway authorities, and it is for them to prioritise sites according to local need and available funding. The Department is responsible for the legislation that prescribes pedestrian crossings and we have issued guidance for local authorities on the assessment of these crossings in Chapter 6 of the Traffic Signs Manual. This is available to download [here](#).

Local authorities are also responsible for setting speed limits on local roads. They have the flexibility to set local speed limits that are appropriate for the individual road, reflecting local needs and taking account of local considerations. They have the power to set enforceable 20mph limits. The [Department's guidance](#) suggests that 20mph limits are suitable for streets that are primarily residential and in other town or city streets where pedestrian and cyclist movements are high, such as around schools, shops, markets, playgrounds and other areas, where motor vehicle movement is not the primary function.

Schools are sometimes located on roads that are not suitable for a full-time 20mph limit, for example on major through routes, and traffic authorities also have powers to introduce enforceable 20 mph speed limits that apply only at certain times of day. The guidance is not mandatory, and the final decision is for the traffic authority, working with the police who would carry out any enforcement.

I would be very happy to meet with you about this important issue.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Grant Shapps', written in a cursive style.

Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT