# School Streets in Paris : the “Rue aux écoles” scheme

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Respire
Association nationale pour l’amélioration de la qualité de l’air

# Background

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Association nationale pour l'amélioration de la qualité de l'air

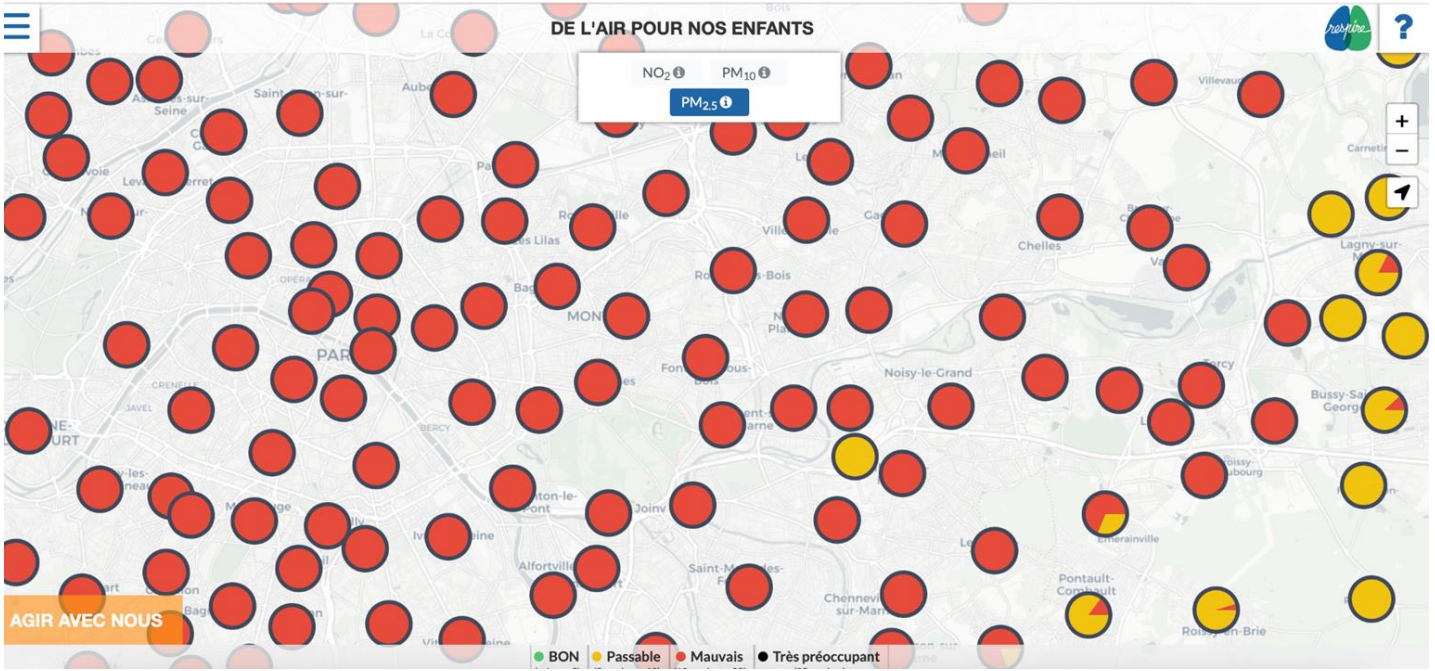
A national NGO founded in 2011 dedicated to improve air quality

A **specific focus on children** for 2 reasons :

- More vulnerable to air pollution
- A strategic approach to fight road traffic pollution near schools

# Background

1) **2019** : publicizing the problem with Respire's map of polluted schools in Ile-de-France : https://carte-des-ecoles.respire-asso.org



# Background

2) **2019-2020** : different actions led by Respire and a coalition of local NGOs (“La Rue est à Nous”) to influence political agendas during the municipal campaign of 2020

## Victory !

A specific scheme named “Rues aux écoles” (= Parisian school streets) to be implemented from 2020 to 2026

# Our monitoring tools

**City Council objectives :**

**300** school streets (all models included) until 2026

→ Including **100** fully redesigned closed schools streets

**School streets Observatory** : first published in 2022 and re-edition in 2023, a quantitative and qualitative assessment tool

https://larueestanous.fr/observatoire-des-rues-aux-ecoles/

# 3 different approaches of permanent pedestrianization

**Model 1 : Closed and fully redesigned school streets :**

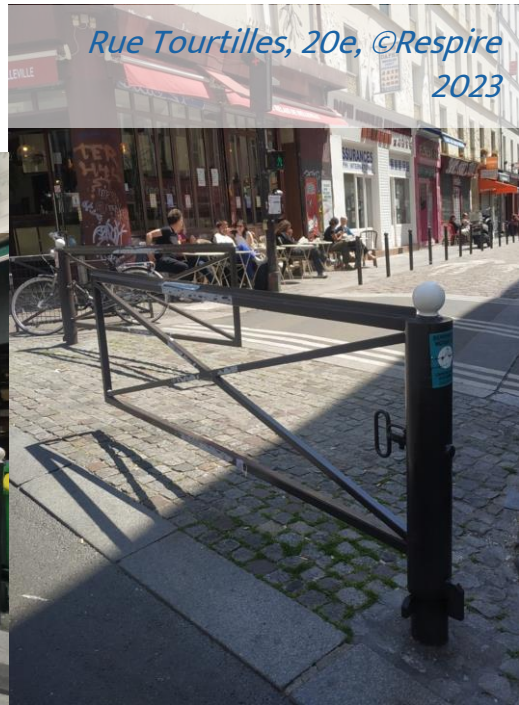
- Closed by barriers/gates but accessible for emergency, city services and deliveries for businesses located there
- The road isn't there anymore, there is a white floor covering
- Planted streets wherever possible
- Play equipments, pedestrian friendly layouts (benches, fountains…)

  ⇒ Very expensive, need of several months to implement but highly accepted by the population

**Cost :** ●●●●
**Feasibility :** ●○○○

*Rue Sommerard, 5e, ©Respire 2023*

*Rue Milton, 9e, ©Respire 2023*


*Rue Tourtilles, 20e, ©Respire 2023*

*Rue de la Cour des Noues, Paris 20e ©Respire 2025*

*Rue du Surmelin, Paris 20e ©Respire 2025*

*Rue de la Cour des Noues, Paris 20e, ©Respire 2025*

**Model 1 : more pictures**

*Rue Bretonneau, Paris 20e ©Respire 2025*

*Rue de la Cour des Noues, Paris 20e ©Respire 2025*

# 3 different approaches of permanent pedestrianization

**Model 2 : Non-redesigned closed school streets (mainly permanent closure) :**

- Closed by barriers/gates, only accessible for emergency, city services and deliveries for businesses
- Road markings, panels but still looks like a traditional road
- A few tactical layouts (paint on the floor, plant pots)
- There are a first step before becoming a fully redesigned school streets (model 1)
  ⇒ Less expensive and quicker to implement but less accepted by the population

**Cost :** ●○○○
**Feasibility :** ●●○○

*Rue des Tourelles, 20e, ©Respire septembre 2023*

*8 Rue Charles Baudelaire 12e, ©Respire, 2023*

*Rue Surmelin, 20e, ©Respire septembre 2023*

**A “model 2” school street and the same street once fully redesigned (model 1)**

Rue des Tourelles (Paris 20)

*1st step : temporary design (model 2)*

*2nd step : permanent design (model 1)*

# 3 different approaches of permanent pedestrianization

**Model 3 : Unclosed school streets**

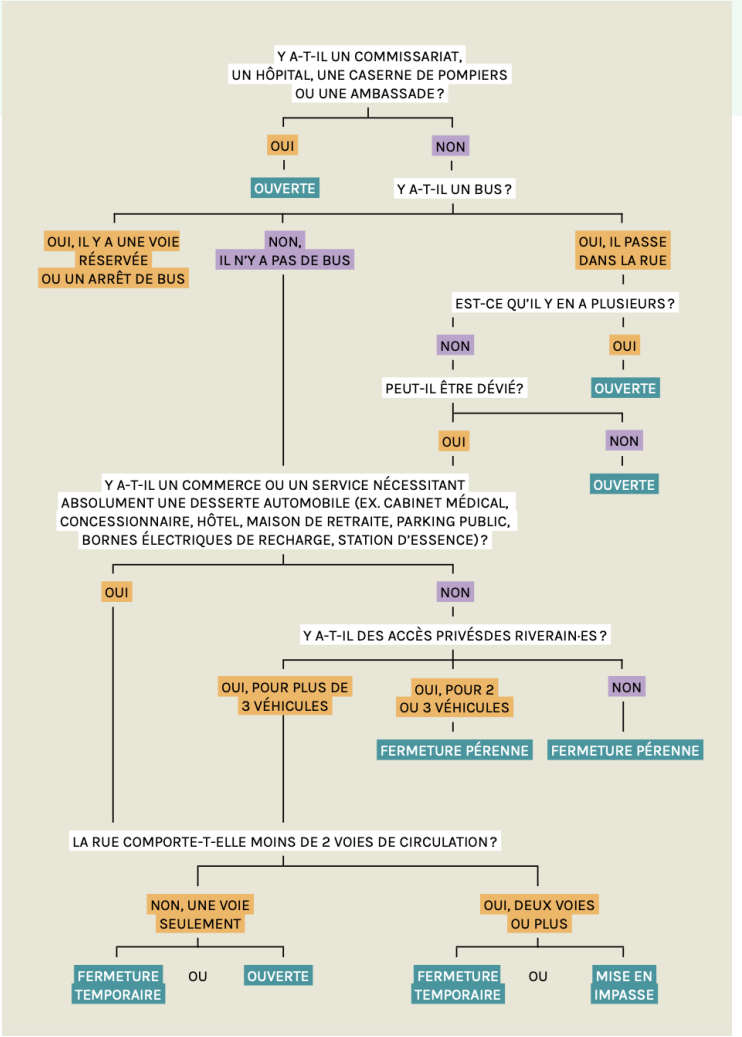
- the traffic plan has been changed so the traffic is limited
- 2 types : the “pedestrian areas” (only local traffic is authorized) and the “contact zones” (general traffic is authorized but at 20km/h ⇔12 mph, pedestrian have priority)
- 👍 It is highly recommended to redesign the streetscape in order to discourage drivers from entering the street ⇒ Fits the most complexe streets, but it needs ambitious developments to function

**Cost :** ●●○○
**Feasibility :** ●●●●

# 3 different approaches

**How can we pick a model of school street for a specific street ?**

- Our analytical tool to find a solution for every type of street
- Based on Paris' criteria to implement school streets
- **Translated version about to come !**
- Find this tool and many more in our urban recommandations guide "School streets and their alternatives" (not translated yet) : https://respire-asso.org/rues-scolaires-et-alternatives/



# Alternatives towards smoother streets

- **Reduce vehicle speed** : specific traffic control agents nearby the schools, 30km/h (18mph) zoning
- **Street for kids events** : more or less regularly organized by citizens or local NGOs
- **Temporary pedestrianization on week-end** : named “Paris Respire”, a scheme that needs city agents who close and control a network of streets in each neighborhood of Paris

*Panel “Paris Respire” ©Le Parisien*

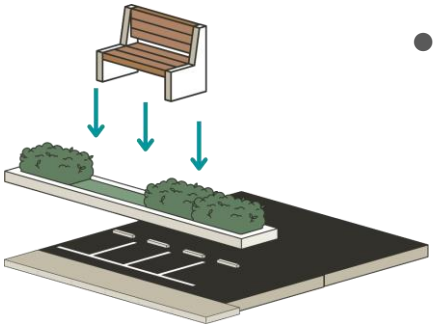
*Street for kids event ©Respire*

*Point école, Rue Milton, 9e, ©Respire 2023*

# Alternatives towards smoother streets

**1) Reorganize motorized traffic**

- Eliminate one general traffic lane to create a bus lane
- Changes in the traffic plan at a neighborhood scale, to cut rat runs and favor only local traffic across the schools



**2) Reallocate road space and redevelop streetscapes**

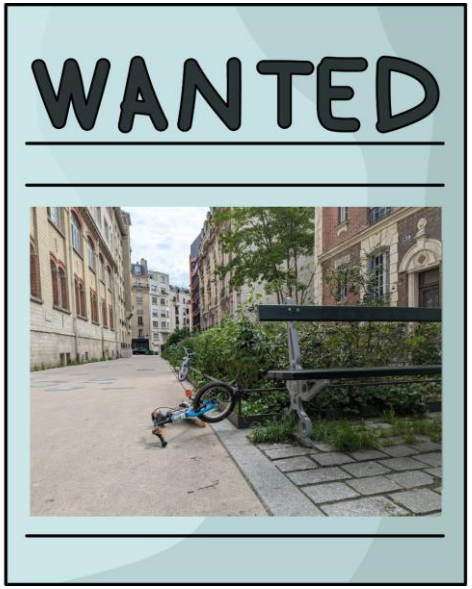
- Eliminate a maximum of parking spaces
- Eliminate useless traffic lanes (one way traffic whenever possible)
- Create urban layouts that allow modal shift (eg. cycling lanes, larger sidewalks) and appropriation of citizen and pedestrian activities (school forecourt, play equipments, sits, fontains, toilets...)

# Public reception

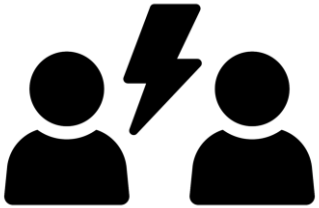
They are largely accepted by the population

They are so successful that they are asked everywhere in Paris

They are used by a lot of different people, for different uses and at different time of the week




The opposition has been very limited to a few inhabitants



# Thank you !

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