School street principles of the City of Helsinki

Traffic safety

- Reducing driving speeds by means of speed bumps, raised junctions or narrowing the driving lane.
- Channelling through traffic onto the main network by means of extended pavements, changes to turning arrangements at junctions, barriers or making streets one-way.
- Developing drop-off traffic and parking arrangements where necessary.

Pleasantness of the environment and climate resilience

- The pleasantness of the street environment and climate resilience will be improved by increasing the amount of street greenery and developing the outdoor spaces near the school street.
- The environment can be made more experiential by means such as street paintings or environmental art.
- The pleasantness of the area can be improved with furnishings, such as seating arrangements.

Sense of safety

- Where necessary, lighting will be improved to enhance the sense of safety and support the distinctive features of the area.
- Lighting renovations can be started earlier, improvements can be made to pedestrian crossings and poorly lit areas (e.g. underpasses and parks), and consideration can be given to shortening the periods during which the lights are dimmed.

Place-specific solutions and recognisability

- The necessary measures will be determined on a case-by-case basis and planned to support the specific characteristics of each area.
- The school street will be developed into a recognisable environment.

Winter maintenance

- The prioritisation of winter maintenance on the school streets will be reviewed and, where necessary, the maintenance classification will be raised.

Play, leisure time and physical activity

- The outdoor area near the school street will be developed to encourage children to play, be active and spend more time there.
- The conditions for walking and cycling will be improved.

Participatory planning

- The planning will be carried out in a participatory manner.
- The school will be involved from the problem identification phase.
- The school will be contacted throughout the planning process, and the aim is to involve pupils as well.

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