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*Copy of the letter sent to Westminster's primary schools announcing the Schools' Clean Air Fund:*

## **Schools' Clean Air Fund**

We are writing to you today to share a new package of resources that we have developed to help improve air quality around schools across Westminster, including a new £1m funding opportunity. We know that air pollution is our residents' number one concern. We also know that the adverse impacts of pollution disproportionately affect young people. That is why tackling pollution around our schools is a top priority for Westminster City Council.

From introducing play streets and 20mph zones, to helping some of our schools receive air quality audits funded by the Mayor of London, we have been working hard to help schools reduce local pollution levels. We think there is more that we can do however, and today we are excited to be able to tell you about our plans.

Firstly, today we have announced an exciting new clean air fund for all Westminster primary schools. Using money raised from our diesel parking surcharge, which itself helps improve air quality in the city, we are making £1m available to schools over the next four years to tackle pollution and help schools create local 'no pollution zones'.

We have put together a number of resources on our website that outline some simple steps you can take to improve air quality around your school, and to help pupils and parents reduce their exposure to harmful pollution. By putting together this air quality checklist, we want to make it as easy as possible for you to identify action your school can take on this important issue. We have included a leaflet on the checklist with this letter, and more information will be available over the coming months on our website [www.westminster.gov.uk/greener-city](http://www.westminster.gov.uk/greener-city).



## City of Westminster

We want to use our new fund to work in partnership with schools on a variety of projects to improve local air quality. This could include timed road closures at the start and end of the school day - reducing pollution as pupils arrive and leave your school, encouraging walking and cycling, or pollution monitoring and mapping to help parents understand how to reduce their family's exposure to pollution on the school run. We have included a list of project ideas on our website with the checklist, but we welcome any initiatives to reduce pollution at your school.

Our Schools' Clean Air Fund will go live at the start of the next school year in September, and we will be in touch with you again to outline exactly how you can access this exciting funding opportunity before the end of this school year.

We are dedicated to tackling pollution across Westminster, and in particular around our schools where pollution can have disproportionately adverse impacts. Whether your school already has experience of implementing measures to reduce pollution and increase walking and cycling, or you are just starting on this journey, we want to work with you to improve the air you and your pupils breathe.

If you would like any information on our clean air fund or air quality checklist, or have any ideas for projects you would like to implement at your school, please get in touch with us by emailing [airquality@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:airquality@westminster.gov.uk).

We look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Nickie Aiken, Leader of the Council   Cllr Tim Mitchell, Cabinet Member for  
Environment and City Management