

PARENTS FACT SHEET: AIR QUALITY

There's been a lot in the news lately about air pollution in London and throughout the UK. There are two pollutants which are the main cause of this: **Nitrogen Dioxide** (NO₂) and **Particulate Matter** (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}), both of which are emitted from diesel vehicles.

- Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) is one of the toxic air pollutants known to cause serious health and environmental problems. It's found in the exhaust fumes of diesel vehicles.
- Particulate Matter is the name for very tiny particles which we breathe in and can harm our lungs. PM_{2.5} is a lot smaller than PM₁₀ and is so small that it can enter our blood stream. Long term exposure contributes to the risk of developing cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, including lung cancer. In children it causes asthma and restricts the size of their lungs as they grow.
- In Brentford we need to contend with traffic on the arterial roads of the M4 and A4 running through residential areas and levels of NO₂ and PM₁₀ regularly exceed that which is legal here and on other busy roads.

The Council is creating 20mph limits on roads around schools, on quiet residential roads and on some main roads when they pass through areas with lots of pedestrian activity. This reduces accidents and also helps to reduce air pollution. We're inviting school pupils to enter a drawing competition to make a school banner to promote this: '20's plenty for us' and 'no idling'

The Mayor of London has been consulting on the city's air quality to help him decide what measures he will take to improve our air quality. He is currently proposing to extend the Ultra Low Emissions Zone to Chiswick on the other side of the North and South Circular. This will tax diesel vehicles when they are driven in this zone and as such will help to reduce these pollutants in the air. At the moment Brentford will be outside this ULEZ and this won't help improve the pollution in our area.

We believe the whole of Greater London should be included in the ULEZ and there are a few ways that we can contribute as residents:

1) fill out the Mayor of London's 3rd consultation on air pollution and ask to extend the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) to the whole of Greater London, this closes on 25 June: <https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/environment/air-quality-consultation-phase-2/>

2) sign the petition to extend the ULEZ to the whole of Greater London:
<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/extend-the-ultra-low-emission-zone-to-the-whole-of-london>

3) if you own a diesel vehicle, consider changing it for a hybrid, electric or hydrogen vehicle with low or zero emissions. There is a Government grant for electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles and the possibility of a diesel scrapage scheme to help towards the cost

4) help reduce car emissions by encouraging children to walk, scoot or cycle to school

Air Quality Brentford - a voluntary group of residents trying to help improve our air quality by positive action
keep in touch with us: airqualitybrentford@hotmail.com
[@agreenerlondon](http://airqualitybrentford.wordpress.com) • <http://airqualitybrentford.wordpress.com>