

Clean Air School Accreditation

Clean Air Schools help raise awareness of air pollution among pupils, parents/carers, and the wider community. They also demonstrate a strong commitment to improving air quality both within the school environment and in the surrounding area.

Complete air quality and active travel activities throughout the year to achieve Clean Air School accreditation at Bronze, Silver, or Gold level. Schools can work towards these awards at a pace that suits them.

Take a look at the activity list below—you might be surprised by how many activities your school already completes throughout the year. You may even find that your school could achieve bronze, silver, or gold level accreditation upon registration as relevant activities completed over the last three years will be accepted. Refer to T&Cs for details.

The Wandsworth Air Quality Team is available to support schools in achieving accreditation and can also provide free Air Quality Assessments, Pollution Workshops, and Idling Action events.



Bronze

Creating change – **You have delivered 12 different air quality activities.** This could be as simple as organising a Walk to School Week, hosting an air quality poster competition, or conducting a hands-up survey.



Silver

Building on success – **You have delivered 20 different air quality activities.** You have a clear plan for the year and are already making meaningful improvements to your school and wider community.



Gold

Leading the way – **You have delivered 25 different air quality activities (*An Air Quality Assessment is mandatory to achieve Gold accreditation*).** You and your students are leading the way, making a meaningful difference in your school, your community, and across London.

School Name:		
Date:		
Officer Name:		
Activity/Action	✓	Details/Evidence
<p>Complete a minimum of 2 activities from the Air Quality Team Package band below. All 3 are a target to achieve. An Air Quality Assessment is required to achieve Gold Accreditation.</p>		
Air Quality Assessment (<i>Required for Gold accreditation</i>) – Air Quality Officers complete free of charge.		
Idling Action Event/Campaign – AQ Officers can lead an Idling Action event for the school free of charge.		
Air Pollution Workshop – AQ Officers can deliver workshops to classes free of charge.		
<p>Complete a minimum of 4 activities from the Awareness Raising/Monitoring/Legacy band below</p>		
AQ competition – top tips leaflet, posters, presentation to raise awareness of London’s air pollution and identifying ways to improve air quality.		
AirText – Sign up to the free air quality text/email messaging service. Daily messaging about the air pollution levels (low, medium, high).		
AQ Monitoring – Use own or council equipment to monitor air. Citizen Science – fun and interesting way of getting people involved and understanding environmental issues.		
Car Free Zone – Schools can create a car-free zone around your school for a healthier and safer environment for pupils and staff. The zone is an area in which parents/carers are not permitted to drop off their children. This could be a 100-metre radius around the school gates.		
Car Sharing Promotion – For those that need to drive to school, lift sharing could be an option.		
Communication with parents – AQ information shared in newsletter and on website.		
Dr Bike – lead an assembly, complete bike maintenance.		
Eco Group – School has a student led Eco Group and include Air Quality as a focus.		
Extra-Curricular Activities – After School Clubs – Bike club, scooter club, gardening club.		
Funding – Awards for All gives grants of up to £10k, Jack Petchy Foundation. Funding for AQ related materials, equipment e.g. bike shelter.		
Hands Up Survey – Travel Count/Transport Mode 1 per term.		
Health Benefits of Active Travel – Promote Health Benefits		
Healthy Schools London (HSL) – awards scheme funded by the Mayor of London.		
Invite Local Dignitaries to Air Quality/Active Travel Events – Invite Councillors and Mayor, to eco, sustainability, and travel events.		
Junior Travel Ambassadors (JTA) – Students who promote safe, active, and independent travel within their school community.		
Local Community Involvement – Hold Community AQ Events, AQ Science Projects.		
Mapping Exercises – Map clean air walking, scooting, cycling routes from the students’ home to school.		

Outdoor Classroom Day – Students work outside for the day, learn about the environment and air quality.		
Park and Stride – Encourage families to park their car a distance from the school and walk the rest of the way. It allows those who live further from the school to introduce an element of active travel to their journey. As well as promoting physical activity, Park and Stride can reduce congestion and improve Air Quality around your school. If using public transport, suggest they Drop-a-Stop (get off a couple of stops earlier) and walk the rest of the way.		
Road Safety Talk – Debra the Zebra, TfL talk, Road Safety Assembly.		
School Travel Plan – Is a school travel plan in place?		
School Streets Consultation – If your school is located on a side road/off a main road, then you could apply for a School Street.		
School Air Quality/Travel Noticeboard and Web Page – Have regular AQ updates on the noticeboard – link with AirText.		
Scooter/Cycle Parking – is there Scooter/Cycle parking on the school site?		
Working in partnership with local police – Safer Transport Team/safer Neighbourhood Team can support school travel initiatives that relate to fear of crime, antisocial behaviour and year 6's transition to secondary school.		
Zigzag lines enforcement – Pupil-led campaign which could include posters being displayed alongside the zigzag lines, or pupil-designed parking tickets being issued to offending parents! Teacher-led patrol during drop-off and pick-up times. Letters to remind parents or enforcement and why it's important.		
Travel Survey/Count – Students/Teachers/Parents/Carers can observe how the school community travel to school and create a tally for the number of people using different types of travel modes. 1 per term.		
Participate in a minimum of 3 activities from the Campaign Activities band below		
Clean Air Day – Participate in Clean Air Day activities.		
Clean Air Night – Participate in Clean Air Night activities.		
World Car Free Day – Annual day on or around 22 nd September to encourage drivers to leave their car at home and raise awareness of the impact of vehicles on the environment. Global movement to encourage active and safe travel on the journey to school. You could run an assembly hold travel activities to encourage parents to leave the car at home.		
World Environment Day (WED) – Annual global event held annually on 5 June. This day is a great opportunity to work with your school travel working group to investigate the air quality around your school and consider how active travel can be used to improve it. To celebrate, why not encourage your students to explore the levels of nitrogen dioxide around their school? You can do this by searching for nitrogen-sensitive and nitrogen-loving lichens on nearby trees.		
Green Transport Week – Every June to raise awareness between transport and the environment. Cycling Club, Walking Bus, and AQ Competition.		
Sustrans – The Big Walk and Wheel – The UK's largest inter-school walking, wheeling, scooting, and cycling challenge. It aims to inspire hundreds of thousands of pupils to get active on the school run.		
Junior Citizen – Attend a Junior Citizen event where children learn about the transition from primary school to secondary school. Pupils learn skills around stranger danger, road safety, travelling on public transport.		
Walk to School Month – October's International Walk to School Month helps to encourage and embed active travel behaviours within your school community. It's also an opportunity to be a part of a global campaign which can get your pupils walking alongside you.		
Step Counting Week – Students can count steps to school, parents can help with pedometer, phone, sports watch. Schools could also count steps around playground, use trundle wheel to measure distance.		

WOW – Walk once a week challenge – Year-round walking challenge run by the charity Living Streets. It encourages pupils and parents to walk, scooter or cycle to school one day each week, rewarding pupils with a badge if they do so four times over a month. Schools can create their own walk once a week challenge.		
Complete a minimum of 3 activities from the Active Travel Activities band below		
Active Travel Activity – Bicycle Training		
Active Travel Activity – Balance Bike Training		
Active Travel Activity – Be Bright Be Seen – Sell hi vis vests, promote hi visibility.		
Active Travel Coffee Morning – Parents/Carers learn about the benefits of Active Travel during a coffee morning.		
Biker's Breakfast – Council can provide smoothie bike.		
Bike Week – Cycle to School Week.		
Cycle to School Day – Students to cycle to school.		
Cycle Reward Card Scheme – Introduce a cycle reward card scheme to encourage pupils to ride their bikes to school. Each student gets a stamp on their card each time they cycle, walk, scooter to school. Rewards – certificates, stickers.		
Scooter Training – external company could deliver training or training can be internal.		
Street Design Challenge – Students create an artist's impression of their ideal street.		
The Golden Lock – The golden lock is a fun way to encourage pupils to ride their bikes to school as often as possible by offering them the chance to win a prize. Surprise one of your pupils by fixing the golden lock onto their bicycle in the bike shed. At the end of the day as your pupils leave school, whoever's bike has the golden lock gets to claim their prize. Announce winners in assemblies and include their photograph in your school newsletters to further promote cycling.		
Walking Bears – Introduces road safety messages and encourages children to think about how they travel to school. Children take turns to have the walking bear for a night over the course of the school term.		
Walking Bus – walking buses are a sociable and active way to travel to school. They allow pupils to learn about their local environment while reducing congestion and pollution at the school gates. Pupils and volunteers meet at an agreed time and location and walk a set route to school in a group, picking up 'passengers' along the way. The same is done in reverse for the walk home. While the walking bus can be initiated and supported by the school, it works best when run informally by parent and carer volunteers. You can gather interest and support the group to identify the most suitable meeting points and safest routes.		
Walking Zone – Create a walking zone map of your school's local area to help pupils and their families to plan safer, active travel routes to school. With your school at the centre, your map should include an area marked out showing everywhere that can be reached within a 5 or 10 minute 'walking zone'.		
Weekend Walkies – Encourages pupils to keep active over the weekend. Each week a different pupil takes home the cuddly 'weekend walkies' dog/cuddly toy to accompany them on their adventures, big and small. They then share their experiences with the class and write down or draw what they did on a journal sheet.		
Other Activities relating to Air Quality (list) – Reduce car use		
Total Number of Activities Completed =		

Terms and Conditions for Clean Air School Accreditation

Accreditation Evidence

- Schools may submit retrospective evidence of air quality activities from the past three years, and accreditation will be granted for the current year. For example, valid evidence can include an air quality assessment conducted within the past three years, as well as photographs, newsletter articles, or pupil surveys from within that same timeframe. Schools are required to complete the minimum number of activities in each category of the accreditation checklist and provide supporting evidence. Schools must have completed an Air Quality Assessment in order to achieve Gold accreditation.

Use of Accreditation, logos and marks

- The school may use its Clean Air School accreditation status, logos and marks in communications and public relations only as long as it continues to meet the accreditation criteria.

Intellectual Property

- The accreditation scheme and logos were created by Wandsworth Council and remain Wandsworth Council's property.
- Schools awarded the accreditation mark and logo have been given permission from Wandsworth Council to use them in communications and public relations, provided they continue to meet the accreditation criteria.

Maintaining Accreditation and Reporting Obligations

- To maintain accreditation a school representative must submit evidence annually or meet at least once a year either online or face-to-face with a Wandsworth Council Air Quality Team representative to verify continued adherence to Clean Air School standards.
- The school agrees to update Wandsworth Council (the accrediting body) via written communication or during the annual meeting with updates, achievements and evidence.

Duration and Renewal

- Accreditation is granted for one year from the date it is awarded. For example, if a school receives accreditation on 10th September 2025, it will remain valid until 10th September 2026.
- To renew the accreditation, schools must submit evidence of air quality and sustainability activities completed over the previous three years to the council representative.

Non-transferrable

- Accreditation is personal to the school and cannot be transferred to another party.

Consequences of Breach

- Violations of the terms and conditions can lead to revocation of the Clean Air School accreditation.

Changes to Terms

- These Terms and Conditions may be updated periodically to reflect evolving standards or regulations. The school will be notified of any such changes.

