



OUR LIVES. OUR PLANET.

**Larissa Lockwood,
Director of Clean Air**

**Air quality in
schools, links to
cognitive function,
and the impact of
air purifiers**

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Air pollution can damage children's life chances

- Children are particularly vulnerable to air pollution. It not only damages physical health but also the ability to learn.
- Exposure to air pollution can cause a range of health issues in children including effects on lung function development, worsening of asthma, increases in asthma hospital admissions and it also plays a part in causing asthma in some children .
- High air pollution has been linked to low birth weight, premature birth and stillbirths
- Research is beginning to point towards the effects of air pollution on the developing brain, such as reduced memory function.



Clean Air for Schools



Philips
Foundation



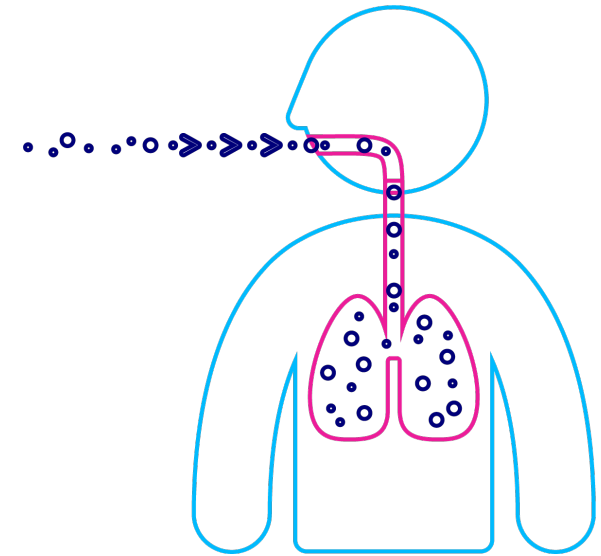
The University of Manchester



Clean Air for Schools Framework

The framework is designed to help your school to:

- Reduce air pollution from your **own operations**,
- Tackle air pollution at the **school gate**, including the school run.
- **Educate** the next generation to help them and their families make cleaner air choices,
- Become a **local leader** on air pollution, working with local partners to improve air quality in the local area.



www.transform-our-world.org/programmes/clean-air-for-schools

The Framework asks simple questions to tailor a choice of actions across four key areas:

Voice

Campaign for change using student/school voices, such as working with your local authority to reduce traffic passing the school through, for example, a school street.

Education

Raise awareness of air pollution (sources, impacts & solutions) with pupils, the local community and beyond, such as assemblies for students or providing air pollution info in the school newsletter.

Operations

Cut the air pollution that the school generates and reduce pollution levels in the classroom through, for example, good ventilation and consolidating deliveries.

The School Gates

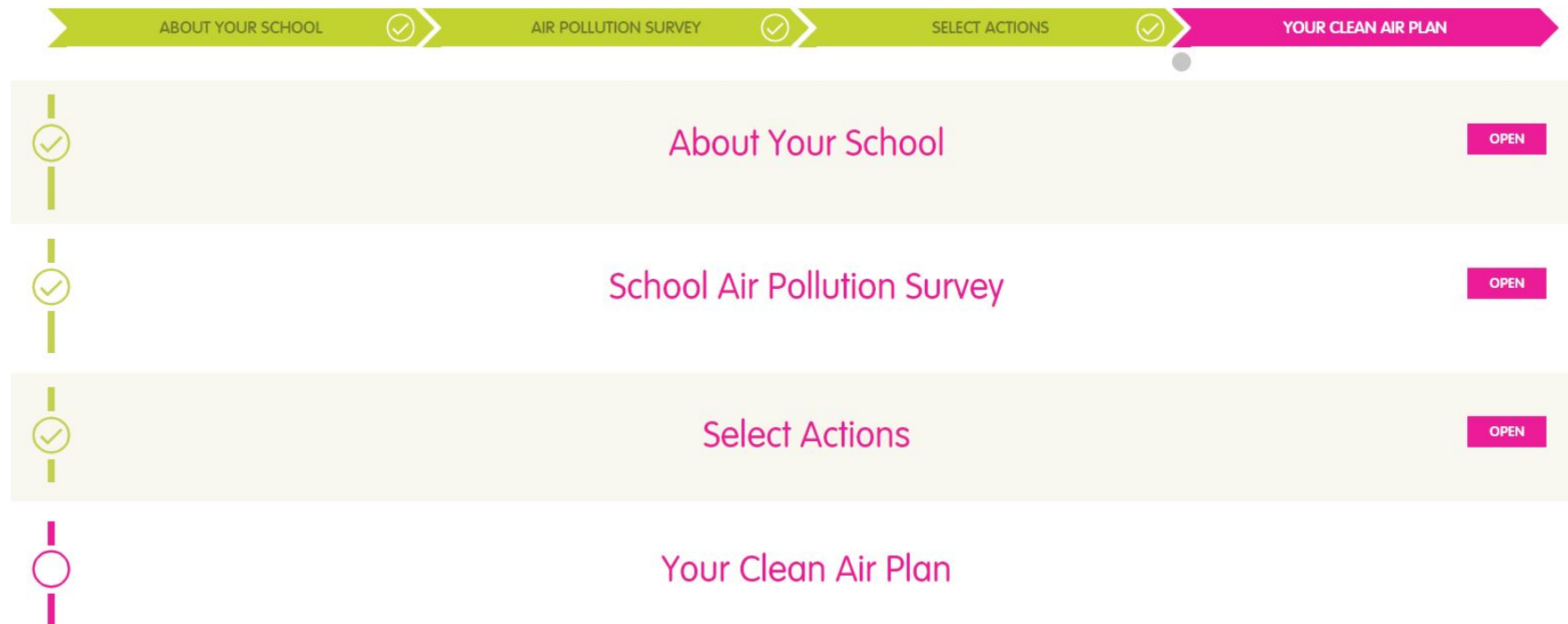
Tackle the air pollution generated at the school gates by providing scooter and bicycle parking or by trialling a school street.

There are essential actions that every school should look at to tackle air pollution:





- **Reduce the volume of traffic outside the school** by, for example, implementing a school street.
- **Improve air quality inside the school** by, for example, improving ventilation.
- **Create low pollution habits with the future generation** by engaging students and their families with advice on tackling air pollution.
- **Use the children's and school's voice** to encourage local and national decision makers to make air quality improvements across your local area.

How does it work?

1. Answer a few questions about your school.
2. Choose from the recommended actions.
3. You will be presented with a clean air action plan that also links to helpful advice, resources and case studies to help you to implement your chosen actions.



Choosing actions

PATH 1	PATH 2	PATH 3	PATH 4
Traffic at the School Gate Goal: Streets free of all non-essential traffic	School Operations Goal: Addressing pollution sources, within control of the school	Education Goal: The school community are aware of and act on the issue of air pollution	Voice Goal: Influence communities, businesses and decision makers to help tackle air pollution
1st	FURTHER ACTION	FURTHER ACTION	2nd
Promote active travel on the school run 	Switch to lower emission school supplies 	Help your students cycle to school 	Ask businesses to help tackle air pollution 
Read more	Read more	Read more	Read more
ADD TO ACTION PLAN	ADD TO ACTION PLAN	ADD TO ACTION PLAN	ADD TO ACTION PLAN
WE ALREADY DO THIS	WE ALREADY DO THIS	WE ALREADY DO THIS	WE ALREADY DO THIS
NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE

Choose from over **35 actions** based on existing research, best practice, academic insights and in-school air quality testing by the **University of Manchester**. And be guided by the advice and resources developed by the range of organisations committed to improving air quality in and around schools, including **Living Streets**, **Mums for Lungs**, **Sustrans**, **Modeshift STARS**, **Unicef** and many more.

Page of a school clean air action plan

Your Action	In a bit more detail	Looking for inspiration
<p>Reduce polluting traffic around the school</p> <p>Pathway: Traffic at the School Gate</p>	<p>1) Talk to your local authority about reducing speed limits on the streets around your school</p> <p>Reducing speed limits and encouraging smooth driving on roads near the school can cut pollution and improve road safety.</p> <p>2) Talk to your local authority about moving the bus stop away from the playground</p> <p>In some cases, bus stops near the school may be a significant source of emissions with buses frequently braking and accelerating to and from the stop. This may also contribute to queuing traffic and congestion. Relocating the stop further away from the school may help to lessen these issues.</p> <p>3) Ask the council to replace heavy polluting public buses with low emission alternatives</p> <p>Public transport is a lower air pollution option than the car per passenger. However, older buses can still contribute significantly to air pollution. The good news is that low emission buses are available.</p> <p>4) Ask your local authority to limit heavy weight vehicles from using the roads around the school</p> <p>Introduce a weight restriction to prevent large polluting freight vehicles driving past the school.</p> <p>5) Ask your local authority to introduce Ultra Low Emission Vehicle (ULEV)-only streets around the school</p> <p>Take a look at the case study on page 19 of the Mayor of London's 'Toolkit of Measures to Improve Air Quality at Schools' for inspiration.</p> <p>Co-benefits</p> <p>Reducing speed limits will also improve road safety.</p> <p>Encouraging ULEVs around the school will help with the transition away from petrol and diesel vehicles.</p>	<p>Request a speed limit reduction here.</p> <p>The Low Emission Bus Guide provides advice on procuring new buses and retrofitting diesel buses.</p> <p>Page 19 of the Mayor of London's 'Toolkit of Measures to Improve Air Quality at Schools' is an excellent source of inspiration for introducing an Ultra Low Emission Zone.</p>
<p>Open windows to ventilate your school to improve indoor air quality</p> <p>Pathway: School Operations</p>	<p>Improve air quality inside the school with natural ventilation by opening windows when outdoor air quality is good. Outdoor sources of air pollution, such as road transport, are also a source of indoor air pollution so make sure windows are closed next to busy roads, during rush hour and other high air pollution periods.</p> <p>Co-benefits</p> <p>With more fresh air in the classrooms, students could experience higher concentration levels throughout the day.</p>	<p>Air pollution forecasts can be found on the Clean Air Hub.</p> <p>The Education and Skills Funding Agency has produced guidance on indoor air quality in schools.</p>



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