

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.

Schools can complete air quality and active travel activities throughout the year to achieve Clean Air School accreditation at Bronze, Silver, or Gold level, working 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 Richmond 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 6 different air quality activities.** Will include at least one activity from each band.



Silver

Building on success – **You have delivered 12 different air quality activities.** Will include at least one activity from each band.



Gold

Leading the way – **You have delivered 15 different air quality activities.** Will include at least one activity from each band. **An Air Quality Assessment (in past five years) is required for Gold accreditation.**

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#	Activity	Description
BAND A: AIR QUALITY TEAM PACKAGE		
Minimum of one activity from this band for Bronze of Silver, two for gold. Must include an Air Quality Assessment in last 5 years for gold.		
A1	Air Quality Assessment	Air Quality Officers complete free of charge. RSP Air Quality Officers carry out a site assessment covering outdoor pollution sources, indoor air quality, building characteristics, proximity to roads, and the school run. Provides a report with recommendations tailored to the school.
A2	Air Pollution Workshop	AQ Officers can deliver workshops to classes free of charge. Sources, health effects, and what students can do. Tailored to appropriate key stage. Can tie into science, geography, or PSHE curriculum.
A3	Idling Action Event	AQ Officers can lead an Idling Action event for the school free of charge. Can include student marshals, signage, and engagement with parents/carers.
B4	AQ Monitoring	Use your own or council provided equipment to monitor air around your school. Fun and practical way of getting pupils to understand pollution sources around their school. Lesson plans can be provided by the AQ team.
BAND B: AWARENESS, MONITORING AND COMMUNICATION		
Minimum of one activity from this band for Bronze of Silver, two for gold		
B1	AirText	Sign up to the free air quality text/email messaging service. Daily messaging about the air pollution levels (low, medium, high). Displayed on noticeboard or shared with parents.
B2	AQ competition	Top tips leaflet, posters, presentation to raise awareness of London's air pollution and identifying ways to improve air quality. The Council runs an AQ poster competition in June for Clean Air Day which all schools are welcome to participate in.
B3	AQ Data in the Curriculum	Use real air quality data (Breathe London, AURN, London Air) in maths or science lessons. Graphing trends, comparing sites, calculating averages, interpreting time series.
B4	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. Does not require a formal TRO; enforced by signage and community norms.
B5	Car Sharing Promotion	For those that need to drive to school, lift sharing could be an option. Could use an online platform or a simple noticeboard system.
B6	Communication with parents	AQ information shared in newsletter and on website. Could include seasonal tips, AirText updates, active travel links, and wood burning awareness.
B7	Dr Bike	Lead an assembly, complete bike maintenance. Removes a practical barrier to cycling by helping students keep bikes roadworthy: tyre pressure, brakes, chain, lights.
B8	Eco Group	School has a student led Eco Group and include Air Quality as a focus, alongside wider environmental topics.

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B9	Extra-Curricular Activities	After School Clubs – Bike club, scooter club, gardening club. Regular, sustained engagement beyond one-off events.
B10	Hands Up Survey	Travel Count/Transport Mode 1. Classroom hands-up survey of how pupils travelled to school. Quick, visual, and engaging.
B11	Health Benefits of Active Travel	Promote Health Benefits of walking, cycling, and scooting to school via assemblies, posters, a dedicated section on the school website, or parent-facing materials.
B12	Healthy Schools London (HSL)	Awards scheme funded by the Mayor of London. Air quality activities can count toward both HSL and CASA where applicable.
B13	Invite Local Dignitaries to Air Quality/Active Travel Events	Invite Councillors and Mayor, to eco, sustainability, and travel events. Raises profile and builds political support for clean air measures.
B14	Junior Travel Ambassadors (JTA)	Students who promote safe, active, and independent travel within their school community. TfL Explorers (primary) or Pioneers (secondary).
B15	Lichen Survey	Survey nitrogen-sensitive and nitrogen-loving lichens on trees near the school to create a biological map of air pollution. Cross-curricular (science, geography). Free, requires no equipment. Info sheets can be provided by AQ team.
B16	Local Community Involvement	Hold Community AQ Events, AQ Science Projects. Could include a community clean air walk, an exhibition of student work, or a joint monitoring project with a residents' group.
B17	Mapping Exercises	Map clean air walking, scooting, cycling routes from the students' home to school, using real AQ data where available. Prioritises air quality, not just distance.
B18	New Starter Pack AQ Information	Include information on clean air, active travel benefits, and the school's CASA status in the onboarding pack for new pupils and families. Info packs can be provided by the AQ team.
B19	Outdoor Classroom Day	Students work outside for the day, learn about the environment and air quality. Two dates per year (May, November).
B20	Road Safety Talk	Debra the Zebra, TfL talk, Road Safety Assembly. Supports safe active travel.
B21	School Air Quality/Travel Noticeboard and Web Page	Have regular AQ updates on the noticeboard – link with AirText. Can include seasonal campaigns and school AQ data.
B22	School Travel Plan	Is a school travel plan in place? Establish and maintain a plan covering active travel, road safety, and air quality. A structural document that guides ongoing school actions.
B23	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. More rigorous than a hands-up survey.
B24	Wood Burning Awareness	Students learn about wood burning as a PM2.5 source. Activities could include a chimney survey of nearby streets, creating awareness materials for families, or learning about Smoke Control Areas.

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B2 5	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 of enforcement and why it's important.
B2 6	Air Quality Podcast or Vlog	Secondary students research, script, record, and publish a podcast or short video on local air quality. Can feature interviews with the AQ team, councillors, parents, or researchers. Builds media, research, and communication skills. Evidence: published episode or video link.
B2 7	Social Media Campaign	Student-led social media campaign on air quality, active travel, or anti-idling. Can run on the school account with staff oversight, or as a curriculum piece. Evidence: campaign plan, sample posts, engagement metrics.

BAND C: CAMPAIGNS AND EVENTS

Minimum of one activity from this band for Bronze of Silver, two for gold

C1	Clean Air Day	Participate in Clean Air Day activities (annual, June). National campaign with free resources from Global Action Plan.
C2	Clean Air Night	Participate in Clean Air Night activities (annual, January). Focus on domestic burning, bonfires, indoor air quality.
C3	Earth Day	Participate in Earth Day on April 22 to raise awareness about environmental protection and promote actions to safeguard the planet.
C4	Green Transport Week	Every June to raise awareness between transport and the environment. Cycling Club, Walking Bus, and AQ Competition.
C5	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.
C6	Sustainability Day	June 24th or October
C7	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.
C8	Sustrans – The Big Walk and Wheel	The UK's largest inter-school walking, wheeling, scooting, and cycling challenge (March). It aims to inspire hundreds of thousands of pupils to get active on the school run. Two-week event with daily logging.
C9	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.
C1 0	World Car Free Day	Annual day on or around 22nd 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.
C1 1	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.

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C1 2	WOW – Walk once a week challenge	Year-round walking challenge run by the charity Living Streets. It encourages pupils and parents to walk, scoot 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.
C1 3	Walk to School Week	Annual week-long event (May, run by Living Streets), distinct from October Walk to School Month. Shorter and higher-intensity, with daily themes and classroom resources. Strong active travel and air quality co-benefit.
C1 4	Any other eco-day	There are eco days happening throughout the year. If your school runs any other eco events we'd love to hear about that too.

BAND D: ACTIVE TRAVEL AND SCHOOL RUN

Minimum of one activity from this band for Bronze or Silver, two for gold

D1	Active Travel Activity – Balance Bike Training	Balance Bike Training. For younger children (EYFS/KS1), deliver balance bike sessions to build confidence and coordination before progressing to pedal bikes.
D2	Active Travel Activity – Be Bright Be Seen	Sell hi vis vests, promote hi visibility. Reflective stickers or spoke lights for darker months. Removes a safety barrier to winter active travel.
D3	Active Travel Activity – Bicycle Training	Bicycle Training. Deliver or facilitate Bikeability cycle training. Levels 1, 2, or 3 depending on age and ability. Can be through TfL programmes or external providers.
D4	Active Travel Coffee Morning	Parents/Carers learn about the benefits of Active Travel during a coffee morning. Can cover route options and the school's CASA programme.
D5	Bike Week	Cycle to School Week. National Bike Week (June). Promote cycling to school, host events, link with Bikeability training.
D6	Biker's Breakfast	Council can provide smoothie bike. Reward students who cycle, scoot, or walk to school with a free breakfast event. Fun, visible, and effective at boosting participation.
D7	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, scoot to school. Rewards – certificates, stickers.
D8	Cycle to School Day	Students to cycle to school. A single dedicated day. Can include a group ride, assembly, and prizes.
D9	Scooter Training	External company could deliver training or training can be internal. Covers safe scooting, road awareness, and manoeuvring.
D1 0	Street Design Challenge	Students create an artist's impression of their ideal street. What would it look like if prioritised for clean air, safety, and play? Cross-curricular (art, geography, DT).
D1 1	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

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		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.
D1 2	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. EYFS/KS1.
D1 3	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.
D1 4	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'.
D1 5	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.
D1 6	Adult Cycle Training	Free adult cycle training (Bikeability for adults, or TfL-funded sessions) offered to staff and parents. Removes barriers to staff and family cycling. Strong culture-shift effect when staff model active travel.
D1 7	Journey Planning Workshop	Students learn to plan multi-modal journeys using TfL Go, Citymapper, or similar tools. Covers walking routes, bus and tube combinations, and choosing lower-pollution routes where possible. KS3+. Links to TfL Citizens and Pioneers content.
D1 8	Student-Led Route Audit	Secondary students audit walking, cycling, and scooting routes around the school, documenting road safety issues, pollution hotspots, and infrastructure gaps. Produces a written or multi-media report that can feed into the School Travel Plan or a consultation response.
D1 9	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. Can include designated locations agreed with local businesses or car parks.

BAND E: SCHOOL ACTIONS

Minimum of one activity from this band for Bronze of Silver, two for gold

E1	Air Filtration (filter change)	School installs or maintains indoor air quality filters. New filters each year minimum. (e.g. through the Mayor's School Filters Programme or independently). A physical intervention with measurable impact on classroom PM2.5.
E2	Funding	Awards for All gives grants of up to £10k, Jack Petchey Foundation. Funding for AQ related materials, equipment e.g. bike shelter. Also GLA programmes and Greener Schools.
E3	Green Screen / Pollution Barrier	Install or maintain a new living green screen, hedge, or climbing plant barrier between the playground/entrance and the nearest road. Or a solid barrier.
E4	Healthy Cleaning Policy	School adopts or reviews a policy on cleaning products, choosing low-VOC, fragrance-free alternatives. Eliminates aerosol air fresheners from classrooms. The AQ team can assess cleaning protocols during an AQ Assessment.

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E5	High Pollution Day Protocol	School has a documented procedure for high pollution days: triggers from AirText/Met Office alerts, actions such as moving PE indoors, closing road-facing windows, alerting parents, precautions for pupils with asthma.
E6	School Fleet / Deliveries Review	Audit the school's own vehicles (minibus) and supplier deliveries. What fuel type? Do deliveries arrive during the school run? Can timing or vehicles be changed to avoid break, lunch and drop-off times.
E7	Scooter/Cycle Parking	Is there Scooter/Cycle parking on the school site? Provide secure, covered parking - a prerequisite for encouraging two-wheeled active travel.
E8	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.
E9	EV Charging for Staff and Visitors	School installs or maintains electric vehicle charging points for staff, visitors, or fleet use. Contributes to fleet transition and demonstrates institutional commitment. Can be grant-funded via OZEV Workplace Charging Scheme.
E1 0	Annual Review of Travel Plan	Work with the Council's school travel planner to update your school's travel plan
E1 1	Classroom Monitoring	Use a low-cost PM and CO2 monitor to assess ventilation in classrooms. Students record readings through the day and investigate what affects levels (windows open/closed, number of occupants, activity levels).
E1 2	School Streets Consultation	If your school is located on a side road/off a main road, then you could apply for a School Street (temporary road closure at drop-off/pick-up via TRO). Engagement with council on a consultation also counts. If a scheme is already in place, this counts.
E1 3	Climate Action Microgrant	School applies for or receives a climate action microgrant from Richmond Council to fund a project that improves air quality or supports climate action on the school site, such as greening, active travel infrastructure or awareness campaigns.

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Terms and Conditions for Clean Air School Accreditation

Accreditation Evidence

- Schools may submit retrospective evidence of air quality activities over the past, and accreditation will be granted for the current year. For example, valid evidence can include photographs, newsletter articles, email chains, 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 the past five years 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 the Regulatory Services Partnership (RSP) serving Richmond, Wandsworth, and Merton Council, and remain the RSP's property.
- Schools awarded the accreditation mark and logo have been given permission from Richmond 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 Richmond Council Air Quality Team representative to verify continued adherence to Clean Air School standards.
- The school agrees to update Richmond 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. Once accreditation is awarded, the school will maintain that level for a minimum of one year. During this time, schools complete the required activities and may only progress to the next level of accreditation after this period.
- 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.

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