

**OUTRIGHT**

Speak out on children's rights

## Air Action



## Project at Parkhill Junior School

Over the past two terms, members of three of our pupil voice groups (Rights Respecting Ambassadors, Eco Warriors and Planet Protectors) took part in a borough-wide project, called *Redbridge Air Action*; it was combined with this year's UNICEF *Outright* project.

The project aims to inform pupils and the wider community about the quality of our air and, importantly, provide strategies to reduce our exposure to air pollution. This supports our right to a safe and clean environment as stated in article 24 of the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**.

Air quality and pollution are issues that affects all of us. Pollution these days is invisible but it's all around us and we breathe it **all of the time**.

**Who is most affected?** Children, older people and those with health problems are most affected by air pollution.

*"Children's developing organs and immune systems - and smaller bodies and airways - make them especially vulnerable to dirty air"* - Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General of WHO



**Article 24 (health and health services)**  
Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food, a clean environment and education on health and well-being so that children can stay healthy. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.

## Who breathes the most pollution when travelling?

Drivers and car passengers breathe in the most pollution of all. Even cyclists breathe less pollution than people in cars!

As a school we want to ensure that everyone understands what we can all do, to help reduce the amount of pollution that we both produce and inhale.

# The Project

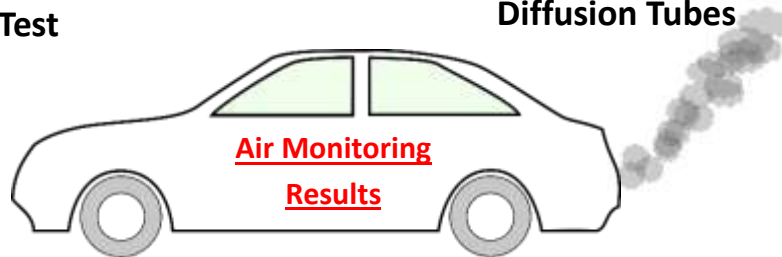
Parkhill Junior School learners took samples of the air at **six** locations around the school, using diffusion tubes which detect Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) gas, a major pollutant in cities and towns. Our learners also looked at the amount of particle matter in the air, by completing a swipe test. We also looked for lichen, as this particular plant is an indicator of pollution levels.



Swipe Test

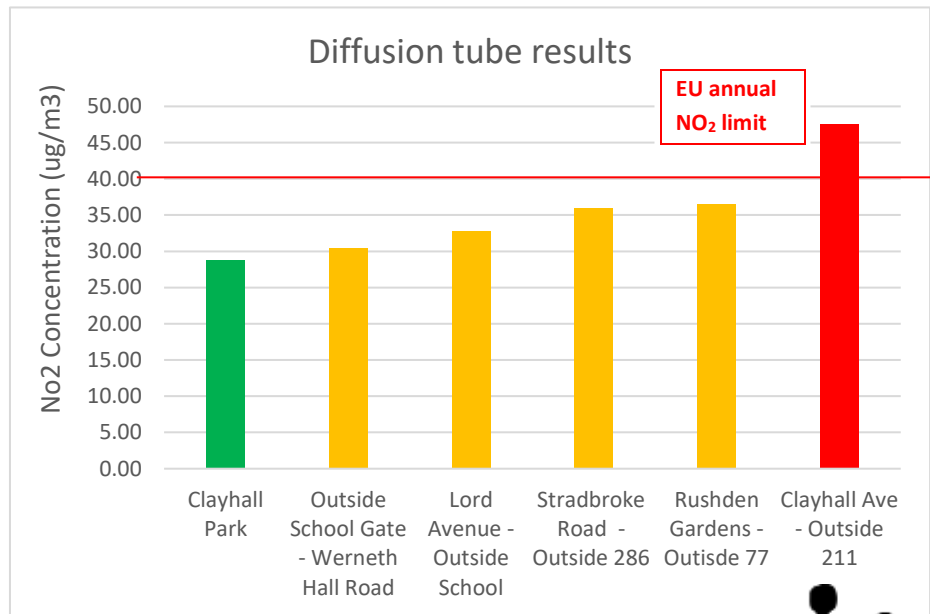


Diffusion Tubes



## The learners' results

showed that one of the diffusion tubes had nitrogen dioxide readings which would be over the EU annual emissions limit if they remained this high for 12 months. EU limits are in place to protect our health



Our learners also worked hard to create our very own **Walking Zone Map**. Using stop watches and maps, they walked away from the school in various directions, plotting when they got to 5- and 10-minutes' walk, from Parkhill Junior School.



It also shows us which streets to walk on, to avoid breathing the worst pollution.

As a **Walking Zone School**, we ask that you walk, cycle or scoot to school. If using a car, please park outside the walking zones and travel actively the rest of the way to school.



You can sign up to receive free daily air quality updates and find out when air quality is poor, by going to <http://www.airtext.info/signup>

Or text **airtext** to 78070.

**Article 12  
(respect for the views of the child)**

Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously. This right applies at all times, for example during immigration proceedings, housing decisions or the child's day-to-day home life.

**Assembly**

The children produced a detailed presentation of their findings and presented the winners, from the poster competition, with their prizes. Some very proud moments for all, at this wonderful event!



# Gallery



## Prize-winners



## Walking Zone Map for Parkhill Junior School

