

Why do we ask parents/drivers not to allow vehicle engines to idle outside school?

- Idling vehicles create as much, or even more, carbon emissions and air polluting emissions than moving vehicles (such as nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, cyanide, PM2.5 particles small enough to enter the blood stream).

- According to the Royal College of Physicians around 40,000 deaths annually in the UK are attributable to exposure to outdoor air pollution (admittedly not *just* from vehicles). There are links to cancer, asthma, stroke and heart disease, diabetes, obesity, and changes linked to dementia.

-Children's lungs are most vulnerable to air pollution's long-term effects.

-**Public Health England** and the **National Institute for Health and Care Excellence** propose introducing 'no idling zones' outside schools, hospitals and care homes to protect vulnerable individuals.

-Leaving the engine to idle for one minute can produce enough exhaust gases to fill up to 150 balloons. So idling for 10 minutes on *every school day* equates to 1,520m³ of excess fumes a year, which is enough to fill two Jumbo Jets.

-Allowing unnecessary idling of vehicle engines on the public highway is an offence under **section 42 of the Road Traffic Act 1988**, which enforces rule 123 of the Highway Code. This states: "You must not leave a vehicle engine running unnecessarily while that vehicle is stationary on a public road."

- You save money from fuel and you save wear and tear on your vehicle by not leaving the engine to idle. It is not the case that switching off and on again is more damaging. Indeed, the engine will still be warm as you switch on again when ready to drive away (and you will not need to use the accelerator pedal).

So if you expect to wait one minute or more for your children, please switch off your engine on arrival at school.