

Cleaner air around schools

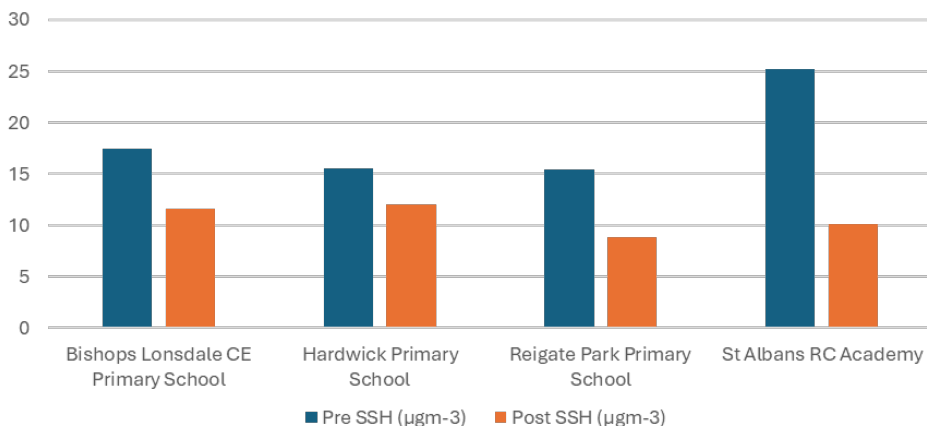
Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) is a type of air pollution which mainly comes from cars and vans and can build up when engines are left running or traffic is slow. Breathing in lots of NO₂ can be harmful, particularly to children.

We have measured NO₂ outside 13 schools since August 2023.

To reduce air pollution (including NO₂), some schools introduced a School Safe Haven (SSH). This means that cars are restricted near the school at drop-off and pick-up times.

All schools where we monitored NO₂ levels are well below UK safety limits. However, all schools with an SSH have even lower NO₂ levels. The graph shows how NO₂ reduced after implementing a SSH.

NO₂ Concentrations Pre and Post Implementation of School Safe Haven



The benefits of cleaner air around schools:

- Cleaner air helps children's health, especially asthma.
- Reduced coughs, colds, and chest infections.
- Less irritation to the airways.
- Supports healthy lung development.
- Fewer hospital visits for breathing-related illnesses.
- Reduced risk of serious respiratory diseases later in life.
- Cleaner air at drop-off and pick-up times helps protect children, parents, and school staff every day.

How you can help reduce air pollution outside your child's school:

- Where possible, swap the car for walking, cycling or wheeling to school.
- Park further away from school and walk the last part of the journey.
- Use public transport.
- Car share with other parents.
- Don't leave your engine running.

Find out more and to read our report, go to
derby.gov.uk/school-safe-haven-project