

Thank you for your email. I have been asked to respond as I work in the Air Quality team at City Hall.

The Mayor believes poor air quality is not only a public health issue but a matter of social justice and he is committed to tackling London's toxic air.

You are correct the latest modelling indicates the annual average NO<sub>2</sub> at Salusbury Primary School is 38.1  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ . You can find a list of modelled pollutant concentrations for schools and educational institutions in London on our [datastore](#). However, the base year for the modelling is 2013 and we expect local concentrations will have improved since then.

Primary schools were selected to receive an audit from a shortlist of primary schools identified by the Greater London Authority (GLA) working in partnership with Transport for London (TfL) by locating primary schools in boroughs exceeding legal limits of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), (40  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) calculating average NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations (LAEI 2013) at 150m from the centroid of each of the schools on the Edubase database. Only schools that exceeded legal pollution limits were included on the shortlist.

Whilst Salusbury Primary was not selected to take part in the air quality audits programme, the Mayor wants to encourage London boroughs to audit every school within an area of high pollution. That is why a "[Toolkit of Measures to Improve Air Quality at Schools](#)" has been made available online so that all schools can learn from the audit process. You may wish to liaise with your local borough to see if they can help your school with an audit.

Your school may be interested in our popular Community Green Spaces grants which will be reopening for applications in July for projects to take place January - December 2019. Schools can apply for grants of between £5,000 and £50,000 and there's a new type of grant available this year to support greening projects in schools that help protect students from air pollution. Projects could include creating new community gardens, improving wildlife habitats or greening school playgrounds. Free packs of trees are also available for schools.

All the information will be at [www.london.gov.uk/greener-city](http://www.london.gov.uk/greener-city).

You also enquired as to what else was being done to improve air quality in London. You may be interested to know the amount of money committed to tackling the capital's air quality crisis has significantly increased over five years. Transport for London's Business Plan, for example, includes roughly £800m to deliver far-reaching programmes to address the threat to health from poor air. Some actions include:

- Introducing an emissions surcharge (dubbed the 'T-Charge') on top of the Congestion Charge, which will remove older polluting vehicles from central London;
- Introducing the world's first Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) in April 2019 and extending its boundaries to the North and South Circulars for all vehicles and London-wide for lorries, coaches and buses;
- Transforming London's bus fleet by phasing out of pure diesel buses and a commitment to purchase only hybrid or zero-emission double decker buses from 2018, with the entire fleet becoming 'zero emission' by 2037;
- Making sure we no longer licence new diesel taxis from 2018 and supporting the trade to upgrade to much cleaner 'zero emission capable' vehicles;
- Introducing Five Low Emission Neighbourhoods, spanning eight boroughs and involving a range of local businesses. In addition to continuing the Mayor's Air Quality Fund, these targeted actions will tackle some of the worst pollution hotspots across London, with TfL contributing £14m.

The GLA are also taking forward a number of initiatives to reduce pollutants from other sources, such as construction machinery and gas boilers, along with the Cleaner Vehicle Checker scheme that will inform consumers of the least polluting new cars and vans available for purchase.

Crucially, air pollution is not a problem the Mayor can solve alone. As the Mayor does not have the necessary powers to tackle all sources of air pollution and has a limited budget, it requires far

stronger support and leadership from national government to reach legal compliance sooner. Without a clear national plan to tackle emissions from vehicles, the air in UK cities will not improve.

The Mayor will continue to call for greater commitment from the Government to protect the health of our citizens through, for example, a fully-funded diesel scrappage fund to get polluting vehicles off our streets immediately, as well as new powers so that cities across the UK can take the action needed to clean up our air.

Please keep an eye on [www.london.gov.uk/cleanair](http://www.london.gov.uk/cleanair) for further information on our consultations. You can also follow the GLA Environment team on Twitter for regular updates (@LDN\_Environment).