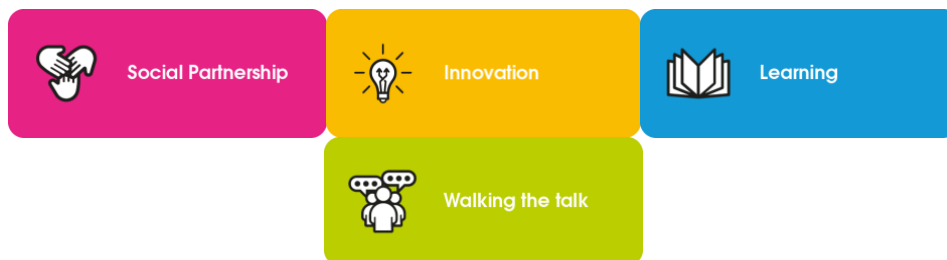


CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT



Birmingham City Council

Air Quality Monitoring in Schools

In January 2022 the Council launched its first Clean Air Strategy (CAS) for the city of Birmingham. This innovative strategy seeks to improve air quality across the city and not just in areas where air pollution concentrations are traditionally high. The launch took place at Lea Forest School and was undertaken in conjunction with the first discreet project under the CAS; Air Quality Monitoring in Schools (AQMiS).

The AQMiS project seeks to raise awareness of air pollution amongst primary and secondary school students and teachers and by extension amongst parents. The aspiration is to inspire a culture of behavioural change both in terms of influencing the choice of mode of transit to school and also in wider lifestyle choices.

The project is a collaboration between Public Health, Travel Demand and Environmental Health and involves the deployment of indicative air quality sensors which monitor gaseous and particulate pollutants, specifically nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulate matter (PM₁₀ / PM_{2.5}), at a location on the school grounds and display the pollutant concentrations via an expanded 'traffic light' based on a common air quality index (CAQI) on the sensor and also provide actual concentrations via data provision on a publicly accessible website. In this way there is an instant visual guide as to the pollutant concentration and in-depth data available behind the scenes. The project is supported by educational resources which the schools can use to incorporate the project into student learning.

The project seeks to deploy an air quality sensor at schools across the city with at least one school per ward being selected. This ties in with the Council's vision for the CAS to be relevant across the wider city and to not just focus on areas where air quality is traditionally recognised to be poor. This is underpinned by the Council's pledges within the CAS around collaboration, clean air for schools, protecting the vulnerable and measuring progress.

For further information contact:

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