



Eastlands Primary School

Walking to School Facts & Figures Leaflet

Aims:

- To raise awareness of air pollution in
 - a. pupils,
 - b. parents and
 - c. staff
- To promote walking to school
- To promote using alternative modes of transport
- For every Eastlands family to consider how they can contribute to improving air quality around school grounds.



Why we walk

Healthier BODIES,
Happier MINDS

Fewer CARS at the
SCHOOL GATE

Less air POLLUTION

START benefiting from walking to school TODAY and swap your
school ride for a SCHOOL STRIDE

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Road danger reduction

It is a sad reality that up and down the country, roads around schools have become plagued with a surge of traffic concentrated over a 50-minute period at drop off and pick up times.

School run related traffic accounts for a quarter of cars on the road and adds [254,000](#) vehicles a day in London alone. This results in increased risks of collisions with vulnerable road users and other motorists, unlawful parking, traffic jams and road rage. Cyclists and pedestrians are left with the feeling that roads are no place for them, this has implications for everyone especially children.

Statistics from the Department of Transport reveal that 14% of children killed on Great Britain's roads in 2018 were between the morning school run (7-9am) and 23% after school between 3-5pm. A [report](#) from insurer Admiral shows a 43% fall of road collisions during the holidays at school run time.

For the past 30 years, children have been progressively removed from the roads which have been abandoned to motor vehicles. This created a vicious circle: traffic makes the roads unsafe so parents will drive their children everywhere.

It's time to create a virtuous circle by supporting families to switch to active travel to school and by making it clear that motor vehicles have no place outside school gates.

[\(School streets site\)](#)

Air pollution

Did you know that air pollution can be 30% higher outside schools because of idling cars? And that 6,500 schools in Britain educating 2.6 million children are in areas where fine particles in the air exceed 'WHO' recommended limits?

Engine idling

The Royal College of Physicians estimate 40,000 deaths a year in the UK are linked to air pollution.

Cutting out engine idling will help for a start - not only will it improve air quality in congested areas but it is also a potentially fine-able offence. So, if you have to park near school please switch off your engine.

What is engine idling and why is it bad?

Idling is the act of leaving a vehicle's engine running while it is stationary.

While this is often the result of traffic, there are some instances, such as waiting for children outside of schools and in traffic jams/long traffic pauses, when idling is not necessary and should be avoided.

Idling increases the amount of exhaust fumes in the air.

These fumes contain a number of harmful gasses including carbon dioxide, which is bad for the environment and contributes towards climate change, as well as a range of other

harmful gasses including nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons which are linked to asthma and other lung diseases.

Park & Stride

[Park & Stride](#) is when parents and carers who have to drive to or from school are encouraged to park well away from the school gates and walk the last part. Their children can get the benefits of walking some of the way to school and congestion around the school gates is reduced for everyone.

What can I do to help?

1. Walk to school all or most days
2. Walk, bike or scoot to school (and this will increase your fitness)
3. If you live far away park further away from school so fumes don't build up in the area immediately around school.
4. Use alternate routes to school –
 - a. The pathway from Whinfield Recreation Ground, Clifton Road has been widened. This path leads to the back-school gate or
 - b. Park by the Hart Field Park off Hillmorton Road.
5. Share this message with other parents and continue let school know of unsafe behaviours.
Thank you.



Keeping Our Kids Safe at drop off and Pick Up!



Dear Parents and Carers,

At drop off and pick up times, Lansdowne Place becomes very busy with cars, pedestrians and cyclists. Recently there was a near-miss involving a child and a vehicle.

All children at Eastlands have a right to feel safe, and the school is committed to helping children and families be more active on their journeys to school.

Therefore, we are kindly requesting parents with cars to park away from the school, if possible.

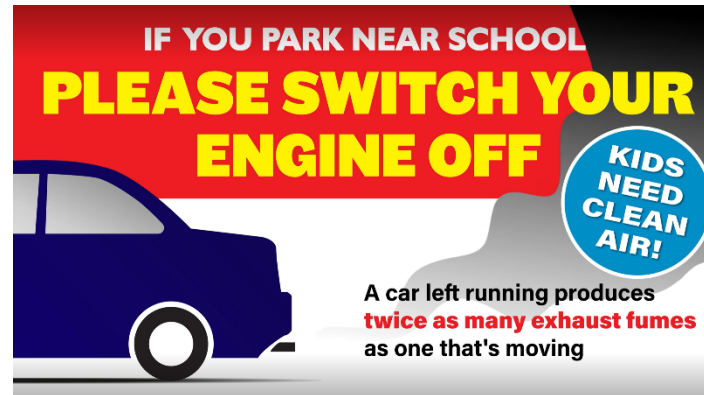
There are two good car parks within easy walking distance of the school, shown on the map overleaf. Both give access to the school via excellent footpaths:

- GEC Recreation Ground car park, Lower Hillmorton Rd is 4-minute walk to school
- Whinfield Recreation Ground car park, Butlin Rd, is a 6-minute walk

Parking away from school has additional benefits besides safety:

- Reduced traffic fumes around school
- Less queueing to get in and out
- Helps the residents of Lansdowne Place
- Walking in the morning can help children feel healthier and more relaxed

Warwickshire County Council's Road Safety Education Team launches a Cars Idling Campaign with Eastlands Primary School



Warwickshire County Council's Road Safety Education Team and Eastlands Primary have launched a campaign to improve the air quality around our school at the start and end of the day.

We are now encouraging everybody who travels by car to prevent idling by switching off your engine. Idling means leaving a car engine running whilst it is stationary. When stationary for more than 10 seconds please consider switching off your engine.

According to Living Streets and the British Lung Foundation, there are several benefits to our children and families when we prevent idling:

- By preventing the breathing in of harmful fumes from idling vehicles, we can reduce the risk of health problems such as lung and heart disease, strokes, and respiratory illnesses.
- The average emissions of a passenger vehicle are 4.6 tonnes of carbon dioxide a year – by switching off your engine you can help to reduce this figure.
- Drivers can save money by not wasting fuel when a car is switched on unnecessarily.

For more information about idling cars, Living Streets have produced an anti-idling toolkit which can be found at: <https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/get-involved/campaign-with-us/tackle-air-pollution>

You can follow the Road Safety Education team on Facebook [@WCCSafeActiveTravel](#), and on Twitter: [@WCCSafe_Active](#)