

Dear Parent or Carer

Birmingham's new Clean Air Zone

You may be aware that on 1 June 2021 Birmingham will introduce a Clean Air Zone. A Clean Air Zone is an area where targeted action is taken to improve air quality, particularly because of pollution from road vehicles. In Birmingham, [we are introducing a charging Clean Air Zone](#), where the most polluting vehicles must pay if they wish to drive in the zone. See below for more information.

How will the Clean Air Zone affect Home to School Transport?

As with any changes impacting on the highways network, there can be a risk of congestion while citizens get used to the Clean Air Zone.

As citizens around the city get used to the clean air zone, some may choose alternative routes meaning roads outside the [zone](#) may be busier than usual. This is likely to settle once citizens adapt to the zone.

For home to school transport, the Council is engaging with Operators, Pupil Guides and families in advance of the introduction of the Clean Air Zone to minimise any potential issues with journeys as far as possible.

Parents are advised that home to school transport journey times may therefore vary during the first part of next half term. Your operator will advise if they think it is necessary to agree a variation to your child's pick up time in the morning. In the afternoon, you may find your child's drop off time at home is different to their usual drop off time.

The Council will be talking to operators on a daily basis to monitor arrival times at school and journey times. Whilst we expect the travel times to settle once the scheme has bedded in, we will be reviewing home to school transport daily.

We will be in touch nearer the time with more detailed information as we receive it, but please be reassured that we will communicate as regularly and effectively while this change takes place.

What is a Clean Air Zone and why is it being introduced?

Pollution in the air, mainly caused by vehicles on the roads, is having a harmful effect on the health of people living, working and studying in the city.

Our population is growing, new buildings are going up, our rail and metro systems are getting bigger and faster and we have the Commonwealth Games to look forward to in 2022. All these things are great for the city and region. We want everyone to enjoy them,

Home to School Transport Clean Air Zone Update

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now and in the future. Improving air quality will mean more people, especially children, live healthier lives.

We need cleaner air as soon as possible and have already started to make positive changes. The Government expectation was that Birmingham, and a number of other cities, introduced a Clean Air Zone from 2020. Due to the pandemic, the introduction was delayed to 2021.

A Clean Air Zone is an area where targeted action is taken to improve air quality, in particular by discouraging the most polluting vehicles from entering the zone. No vehicle is banned in the zone, but those which do not have clean enough engines will have to pay a daily charge if they travel within the area.

The Government has said that [Birmingham needs a Clean Air Zone](#) and that we need to reduce levels of NO₂ in the air to a maximum average of 40µg/m³ as soon as possible. Once we reach that target, we want to continue to lower the amount of NO₂ and particulate matter in the air as far as we can.

With best wishes from

**Home to School Transport Team
Birmingham City Council**

www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk