

Parent/Carer Fact Sheet



How car idling contributes to air pollution:

- Idling means leaving a car engine running when the car isn't moving. It often happens when drivers are waiting at traffic lights or outside schools.
- Even though the car isn't moving, the engine continues to burn fuel and release harmful fumes (carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and particulate matter) into the air.
- These toxic fumes can mix with the air and affect our health, especially for children, the elderly, and people with lung conditions like asthma.

Car idling around schools:

- Schools are often located near busy roads, and cars idling outside schools add to the pollution children breathe in.
- Studies show that reduced idling can lead to a significant reduction in pollution levels around schools, improving air quality and children's health.

Why should we care about reducing car idling?

- Healthier air means healthier children!
- Reducing car idling can help reduce asthma and other breathing issues in children.
- Encouraging drivers to turn off their engines while waiting can help improve overall air quality in your community.

Why is it bad for children?

- Children breathe faster than adults, meaning they take in more air (and pollution) per minute.
- Their lungs are still developing, so polluted air can affect their growth and cause respiratory problems like asthma or bronchitis.
- Air pollution is linked to coughing, wheezing, and shortness of breath, which are common symptoms for children exposed to dirty air.

What can you do?

- Turn off the engine when parked, especially if you're stopped for more than 10 seconds.
- Walk, bike, or scoot to school. If possible, choose greener ways of getting around.
- Carshare with other parents. Fewer cars mean less pollution.

