

**TEMPLATE LETTER FOR SCHOOLS**

Dear (insert name),

I’m really saddened to see the number of parents and carers sitting outside the school, and in neighbouring roads, with their engines running. It means that children are having to walk through toxic exhaust fumes to get in and out of school.

There are a number of scientific studies which show that air pollution affects children’s working memories and it is also well known that polluted air affects children’s lung and brain development.

With 1 in 20 deaths in Colchester linked to air pollution, I’d really like to see the school take action to address this. I know there are some parents who can’t walk or cycle their children to school due to work or other responsibilities but if they have to use the car they really should be switching their engines off while they are waiting outside the school.

Colchester City Council has produced a really useful Toolkit for Schools as part of their CAReless Pollution campaign which has information, activities, lesson ideas and an assembly all ready to go. They have also produced outdoor banners, outdoor signage, posters, myths and facts postcards, car stickers, newsletter text and template social media posts all asking drivers to switch off their engines when they are stationary.

I’d be really keen to see these resources used by the school to help make the air at pickup and drop off cleaner and healthier for our children. All the materials are free of charge and can be downloaded at [www.cleanaircolchester.org](http://www.cleanaircolchester.org) or requested by emailing cleanair@colchester.gov.uk.

We all deserve the right to breathe clean air and by taking action together we can make a huge difference.

Thanks in advance,

(insert name)