

Schools Cleaner Air Zones Case Study: Oxford Gardens Primary School

The Schools Cleaner Air Zones project was developed to raise awareness of air quality amongst schools which are situated in or near to pollution hot spots. We identified opportunities for infrastructure changes to the school and assessed the suitability for the update or installation of structural features and facilities designed to improve air quality. An additional aim was to facilitate the development of an air quality educational programme within the school with teaching resources and materials to promote pupil, parent and wider community air pollution awareness.

Oxford Gardens Primary School was invited to participate in the Schools Cleaner Air Zones Project as they were identified as a school within 150 metres of a busy major road with elevated levels of NO₂ and PM₁₀.

Oxford Gardens Primary School is located in the North of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea to the North of the Westway elevated dual carriageway. Westway is one of the busiest roads in the Borough and has been identified as an area that has high background levels of NO₂ and PM₁₀ pollution. These elevated concentrations of NO₂ and particulate material originate primarily from road transport sources such as vehicle engine exhausts and tyre and break wear and tear.

The project was tailored to the needs of the school who were interested in further greening and landscaping within the school environment and a project that would build on the IT, geography and science curriculum.

Green screen infrastructure with an inbuilt planter bed was installed to the rear playground boundary wall of the school facing the Westway Road. This was designed so that it could also be used for future air quality and horticulture lessons to ensure a continued legacy of air quality teaching within the school.



Before Green Infrastructure Installation

After Green Infrastructure Installation

An air quality education programme was also designed and delivered to year 4 pupils in Dragon and Leprechaun classes in conjunction with the installation of the green infrastructure. The green screen installation was used as a teaching aid and example of air quality mitigation measures.

During the project, year 4 pupils mapped their lowest pollution routes to school, created images for no idling engine posters and created images, scripted and produced an animation/film to report on the lessons learnt from the air quality teaching programme.

The teaching programme ended with Year 4 pupils hosting a school assembly event to the rest of the school to play their animation/film and to report about the air quality project and reasons for the green screen installation and monitoring activities.

The project was funded by the GLA, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Council and Defra.