

Your involvement and feedback would help us draw recommendations that may be able to address any concerns expressed during this review.

1. What do you think are the factors that affect air quality

Pollution from cars, buses, lorries and airplanes. In our area we have normal transport with added complications of the airplanes and the larger vehicles delivering goods to and from the airport as well.

Use of energy from residents and businesses.

Population density and concentration.

Availability of green spaces and trees.

2. Do you feel there is poor air quality in the location of your school or where you live (if you live within any of the wards around the airport namely: Stopsley, Wigmore, Crawley, Roundgreen and South wards?)

The University of Birmingham's study confirms that the pollution levels in Luton are the worst in the UK. I agree with these findings for this area (Wigmore), which is taking on increasing levels of road and air pollution steadily, most notably over the past 5 years with plans in place that facilitate in increase in both for the future.

3. What makes you think that there is air pollution in your areas or where you school

Observations of known pollutants and their density (1&2)
Report findings from more than one study published in the past 5 years citing very high levels of pollution.
The school has also been asked to participate in a long term study by the University of Bedfordshire (CHILL study) because it meets indicators of high pollution.

The school has had to call out emergency services to identify sources of fumes and strong smells on the premises. They identified the airport as the source. This has happened more than once involving the fire brigade and contractors.

4. Do you think this is affecting your health and wellbeing

Yes

5. Do you feel that air pollution is the cause of sickness and absenteeism in employees or schools?

Yes

6. What do you consider to be the health risk or impact of poor air quality?

Increased incidences of respiratory problems such as asthma, bronchitis etc
Increased incidences of neurological problems, including migraines
Impaired efficiency in dealing with mental health and wellbeing problems, leading to increases in stress and depression.

7. What do you think can be done to improve air quality

Reduce emissions caused from the airport including:

- The airplanes themselves
- The volume of traffic from travellers
- The volume of traffic from large vehicles making deliveries

This will need to be in part due to a reduction in flights, use of more efficient aircraft and investment in a transport system that really is fit for purpose. Plans for road networks to service the airport expansion and development of its associated cite, Century Park have now been amended to rely on roads that pass through residential areas such as Eaton Green Road. To reduce the impact of airport traffic, the transport system needs to be designed to bring traffic from the M1 to the airport without passing through the residential area around and behind it.

8. Q. What action do they take to discourage parents that sit outside the school with running engines?

Parents of our school park in the ASDA car park. There is highly limited facility to park outside the school, certainly not in the manner described. Senior leaders undertake gate duties and help ensure that the road is being used correctly. None report seeing parents waiting outside the school with running engines.

Personally, I have undertaken such duties at two other schools and can report that parking issues outside Wigmore Primary School are much reduced in comparison and the logistical layout of the school site ensures that parents are not idling engines outside the school. Parents need to park correctly because they are required to leave their car to walk and collect their child from the teacher.

9. Are there any action plans in place to discourage running or idling engines near their schools premises?

See above

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10. Q. Do any airport taxi Drivers Park near their schools with idling engines?

No

Q. Do any of the school buildings have any air filter systems?

The school kitchen. This is not common in school buildings and not a priority for LA funds.
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11. Q. Do school staff, governors, students and parents think their school is close to or affected by aircraft movements or by traffic travelling to and from the airport?

<p>The school is close to and affected by the airport – you can see the planes, the cargo area and airport buildings from the playgrounds. We are less than 1 mile from the airport.</p> <p>We are affected by the movements because children have had to remain inside when fumes are high, the noise of planes disturbs learning (which has noticeably increased in recent years).</p> <p>Increased traffic related to the airport has had made journey times for parents, pupils and staff longer. Parents with children who have poor punctuality are required to have meetings with officers and transport issues have been cited as a problem, particularly for those relying on public transport.</p> <p>The CHILL study is yet to be completed, but will further inform us as to the impact of the aircraft movements and traffic.</p>
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12. Q. If so do they think this represents any danger, particularly to the young people from air pollution?

Yes

13. Q. What precautions do they currently take to protect their young people?

Parents, governors and local residents actively campaign against further development in the area which will increase air pollutant levels.
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When fumes from the airport are higher than normal, children are kept inside rather than playing outdoors.

14. Q. Do they think there is anything the Council or the airport companies could do to either reduce the pollution or to add to the protection of their young people?

The Council are already aware of the views of the residents in this area who wish to see a reduction in aircraft frequency as well as improvement in the road network (item 7) to reduce airport traffic on residential roads. They are particularly concerned about the development of Century Park with its primary access route on Eaton Green, rather than the initial plan.

The Council and airport companies also need to link their developments and plans with the wider picture for the area, which includes further development in Hertfordshire land behind the school, which will again significantly increase the traffic and air pollutants in the area. The Council have not effectively addressed the transportation issues that would be cumulative from the housing development, Century Park and plans for the airport. Consideration of priorities and wider strategy that brings traffic away from the area instead of increasing it further would be beneficial.

If the airport companies would like to discuss funding improvements to the air systems in the school due to the increases in pollutants, we are happy to facilitate a visit.