



Bishop Aldhelm's CE Primary School

Loved by God; United in Learning

Headteacher: Scott Tait Deputy Headteacher: Lizzie Sharpe

14.6.2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Please can we ask that you do not leave your car idling when you drop off or collect your child from school. This includes when parking in the roads surrounding our school as well as when in our carpark.

Please see this website and the information below regarding idling cars
<https://www.confused.com/car-insurance/guides/fines-for-idling>.

Vehicle idling is an offence against the Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) (Fixed Penalty) (England) Regulations 2002. The law states that is an offence to idle your engine unnecessarily when stationary. If you fail to turn your engine off after being spoken to you may be issued with a fixed penalty notice.

Many thanks,

Mr Tait

From Cars and Motoring 2022

Over a quarter of parents leave car engines idling outside schools despite the pollution health risks to children

- **Some 27% of parents and guardians leave engines running outside schools**
- **That's despite car emissions being known to increase the risk of health issues**
- **Renault, which conducted the study, said the problem looks set to worsen**
- **Some 60% of drivers polled were unaware they face fines of up to £80 for idling**
- **Volvo has new in-car tech that removes fine toxic particles from the cabin [not from the exhaust]**

More than one in four parents and guardians have admitted to leaving their car's engine running while waiting to pick up their children from school.

With vehicle emissions closely linked to respiratory and other health issues among children and adults, councils across the country have displayed 'no idling' signs outside schools with the threat of fines of up to £80 for those who flout the rules.



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Winston Ave, Poole, BH12 1PG
01202 715100
office@bishopaldhelms.poole.sch.uk



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Studies by charity Unicef has estimated that one in three children in the UK grow up breathing unsafe levels of air pollution.

That could intensify now that 62 per cent of parents say they are more likely to drive their children to and from school as a result of the recent pandemic, according to a new poll by French car maker Renault.

It revealed that of the 4,000 parents it studied 27 per cent leave their engines idling during the school run.

Many may not realise that by leaving the engine running for convenience or to keep the heater or air conditioning running that they are contributing to harmful particle emissions from exhausts that can damage children, more mums and dads admit they'll be driving their kids rather than using public transport, analysis suggests the problem could severely worsen.

Studies by charity Unicef has estimated that one in three children in the UK grow up breathing unsafe levels of air pollution. Of the reasons given for leaving their engines running nearly a third cited doing so because they are only stationary for 'a short while' and a quarter said they wanted to keep the heater or air-con going.

Alarming, 60 per cent of all drivers are unaware that it is illegal to leave their vehicle's engine to idle under Rule 123 of the Highways Code.

Authorities can now issue fixed penalties of between £20 and £80 under Road Traffic Regulations 2002 and Section 42 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 in Scotland.

By leaving their engines idling for just 10 seconds, drivers are wasting more fuel than restarting the car's engine, says a report by EDF Energy.

Half of those found to keep their motors running claim to do so for one to five minutes. Almost seven per cent estimate they can do it for up to 15 minutes on average.



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