

FACT #5

CLOSING CLASSROOM DOORS/WINDOWS CAN RESTRICT THE INGRESS OF TRAFFIC-RELATED EMISSIONS. HOWEVER, DOING SO CAUSES A CARBON DIOXIDE CONCENTRATION BUILD-UP IN THE CLASSROOM.



To minimise traffic-related air pollution in classrooms, keep any traffic-facing doors/windows closed during peak hours and open internal doors/windows instead.

CHILDREN

- If you can see the school entrance from your classroom window, try to keep the window closed during your first lesson to protect yourself from morning pollution. If your teacher says so, you can open windows later in the day or if you feel hot or tired.

SCHOOL

- Consider installing carbon dioxide monitors in classrooms.
- Draw fresh air into the classroom if teachers notice/are made aware of symptoms among children of high carbon dioxide levels (e.g. tiredness, inability to think clearly, headaches, dizziness).
- Doors/windows that immediately face a road should be utilised for air exchange only during off-peak hours.
- Clean air purifiers/filters regularly or consider setting up proper air filtration and ventilation systems to mitigate indoor air pollution and minimise infiltration of outdoor pollutants.

COMMUNITY

- Residents should work with local authorities to ensure that new schools are strategically located in areas away from main roads, with safe walking/cycling passages to link the school premises with main connecting roads as well as housing/communities.



GLOBAL CENTRE FOR
CLEAN AIR RESEARCH

UNIVERSITY OF SURREY