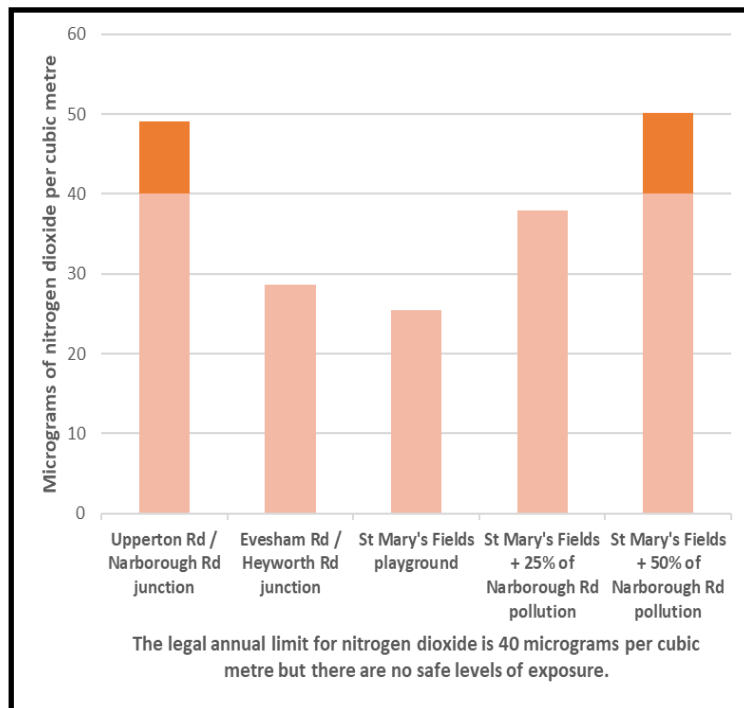


Air pollution results and the impact of the road on local children

If it is built, this road will run within a few metres of St Mary's Fields Primary School which has 480 children aged 4-11. It will also draw more traffic along Fullhurst Avenue past Imperial Avenue Infant school which has over 300 children aged 3-7, and Fullhurst Community College which has 900 children aged 11-16.

The impact on children of nearby additional traffic is:

- Increased levels of air pollution at school. Children are more vulnerable to air pollution than adults and it can have negative effects on them for the rest of their lives. This is especially the case for children from less advantaged backgrounds, which is true for many of the children in these schools. Remember that children spend a large proportion of their waking hours in school, so the exposure would be substantial.
- Higher risk of being run over as they travel to and from school each day.
- Increased levels of noise outside the classrooms. Traffic noise, as well as traffic-related pollution has been shown to have significant negative long-term effects on children and young people.³



Between 26/1/2018 and 19/2/2018, we used air monitoring diffusion tubes to get a sense of the levels of nitrogen dioxide present in the following areas:

- St Mary Fields school playground.
- The Evesham Road/Heyworth Road Junction just outside the school
- The Narborough Road/Upperton Road junction (a local traffic hotspot).

Nitrogen dioxide is a toxic gas which damages the lungs. It is also a good indicator of levels of other traffic caused forms of air pollution.

According to our test results, Narborough Road is currently well over the level at which the legal limit is set, and Middleton Street is likely to be as well. However, at the moment, St Mary's Fields is well under this level. If this road were to be built and a quarter of the traffic from Narborough Road and Middleton Street used it, we could therefore expect to see the school playground rise above the level at which the legal limit is set. And this prediction is based on current traffic – not the increased levels of traffic which could be induced by building the East-West link road (see our briefing on induced traffic for more information).

It is therefore a real possibility that building this new road would raise the levels of air pollution in St Mary's Fields Primary above the level set as a legal limit for nitrogen dioxide and other traffic related air pollution.

Building this road is likely to have a serious impact on the children of St Mary's Fields Primary School in terms of their health, safety and future lives. Do you want to be responsible for this?

There are solutions: car use can be managed instead of catered for. Public and active transport can be prioritised resulting in a happier, healthier and cleaner Leicester.