

# MAYOR OF LONDON

**St George's Church of England Primary**  
**School pupils**  
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**Date:** 22 July 2021

Dear Jerry, Alexis, Shalom, Angel, Rejoice, Nosa, Lucia, Elisa, John, Rylee, Michael, Torian and Favour,

Thank you for your letters about how to improve the environment in London, and I am sorry for the delay in replying. They are very well written, and you have clearly thought very hard about how to present your arguments. I'm very pleased to see young people like you writing to tell me about what's important to you.

I agree with you that we should have more trees in London and protect the trees that we have. We're already very lucky to have more than 8 million trees across our city, but I want there to be even more. You're right that planting more trees in London will help to absorb pollution and create homes for wildlife. They will also make our city look more beautiful and help to keep us cool.

Since I became Mayor, we've planted more than 330,000 trees. These trees have been planted on streets, in parks, at schools and in Londoners' own gardens. This includes a new community orchard at D'Eynsford Estate close to your school. We will also be planning more tree planting over the next three years.

I can see you're worried about rubbish on the streets. I also really don't want London to be a place full of rubbish, and I'm very glad there are lots of people like you who care enough to make sure that doesn't happen. Keeping London clean and making sure there are enough recycling bins for everyone to use is one of my top priorities, I want everyone to recycle as much as possible.

Your Council (Southwark) is responsible for clearing up litter and making sure there are enough bins in streets and parks. I work with all the different councils in London to make sure that everyone can recycle glass bottles, cans, plastic bottles and pots, paper, cardboard and food at home, and can take other things to the local recycling centre so that we don't have rubbish in the streets. Please keep encouraging all your friends to recycle too, because we need everyone to do it.

I've seen the impact that overflowing bins and litter has on our environment. I'm doing all that I can to reduce single-use plastic, like bottles, becoming waste in London. I've launched a project called London Refill, which lets people refill their water bottles at 3,300 different places across the city, and I've installed drinking water fountains across London to provide free drinking water. This will make it easier for Londoners to fill up their own reusable water bottles and avoid buying single-use plastic bottles, which can end up littering our streets, canals and rivers.

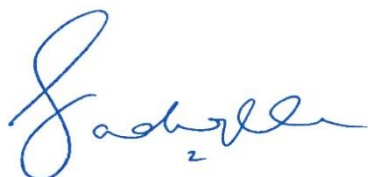
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Like you, I'd like to see people walking, cycling, and taking the bus more, and having fewer cars on London's roads. Where people have to use cars, I'd also like them to use zero air pollution ones like electric cars, instead of diesel ones. These changes will help reduce the dirty air in London and make the city a healthier place for everyone.

That's why I'm working with Transport for London, which delivers my transport projects, to improve walking and cycling paths across London. I'm switching London's buses to electric and hydrogen ones. I'm also helping people to get rid of their polluting cars and use cleaner ones instead by expanding the Ultra Low Emission Zone this October and offering a vehicle scrappage scheme.

I'm very pleased that you have all taken the time to write to me about these important environmental issues for London. Your generation will play an important role in helping to make London a cleaner, healthier and greener city.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sadiq Khan', with a small number '2' written below the name.

**Sadiq Khan**  
Mayor of London