

## **BRISTOL AIRPORT EXPANSION APPEAL 16.9.21**

**by Alison Allan, Bristol resident**

I am the retired primary school lead for a Bristol Education/Business Charity.

I am here to draw your attention to the plight of the children, parents and teachers at Parson St Primary School, Bedminster.

OFSTED says Parson St School requires improvement. It's hardly surprising when you read the pupil stats: 21.3% English not their first language; 32% free school meals, 16% special educational needs, but only the same pupil teacher ratio - 19:1 as comparable local primaries with no special needs in their cohort.

The school is surrounded on two sides with 2 and 4 lanes of traffic respectively. The playground and buildings are a good drop below pavement level, so are perfectly positioned to receive the maximum detriment from traffic pollution. Across the road, a hundred yards diagonally, is a further source of pollution – the Parson St station, running diesel trains. Now, add to that, the inevitable increase in traffic with an expanded flight schedule at Bristol Airport.

People drive past the school to access the ring road to the airport in either direction. The school has mounted placards on both its road facing fences to motorists, begging them to switch off their engines, which I observed was routinely ignored.

What chance do Parson St Primary's 444 children have when they are not only under the flight path of air traffic, but have to breathe the fumes from cars and lorries servicing an expanded airport. I wonder how the school is expected to implement Covid ventilation measures to get fresh air to the children? The expansion of Bristol Airport can only make this already unacceptable situation worse.