

Template Letter

Dear [Headteacher]

I understand [name of school] now has / is planning to install mixed sex toilets at the school, [which my xx year old son/daughter/child attends].

I would be grateful if you would clarify the following points:

- 1) Please would you provide me with a copy of the impact assessment you undertook before making the decision.
- 2) Please would you advise me of any specific consideration given to the specific biological needs of girls. I note that in other areas of the UK, there have been reports of girls missing school during their periods and dehydrating themselves to avoid having to urinate in the presence of boys.
- 3) Please would you advise me how the toilet design impacts on the needs of menstruating girls. Plan UK International found that between 48 and 56% of girls (depending on age) experience period shaming at school. The toilets at [name of school] have public, shared hand washing basins open to the corridor which undermines the privacy and dignity of girls dealing with accidents relating to menstruation.
- 4) The Department for Education's non-statutory guidance entitled 'Gender separation in mixed schools' (June 2018) provides: "separate toilet and washing facilities must be provided for boys and girls aged 8 and over pursuant to Statutory Regulation 4 of the School Premises (England) Regulations 2012, which falls within the exemption provided for in Schedule 22 of the Equality Act 2010". Can you please explain the reason for your divergence from this guidance.

I am sure you will appreciate my concerns regarding the safety, privacy and dignity of girls whilst they are at school. I am requesting you to return the school to single sex toilet provision. As there are toilets throughout the school, no extra cost and minimal inconvenience would be caused by designating some for girls and some for boys.

I look forward to receiving your responses to my questions and to my request for single sex provision at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely [name]