

Protect and Teach Template Letter/E-mail - England:

Confirmation of Single-Sex Toilet Provision & Legal Compliance (Post-For Women Scotland)

[Your address if a letter]

[Date]

Dear [Headteacher / Governing Body / School name],

Re: Request for information regarding pupil toilet, changing and residential facilities

I am writing as a parent/carer of a [Year X] pupil at [school name] to request confirmation of the school's current arrangements for pupil toilets and changing facilities, and the basis on which those facilities are provided and accessed.

I am making this request in order to understand how the school is meeting its legal duties and safeguarding responsibilities in relation to pupils' privacy, dignity, safety and welfare.

The Supreme Court's judgment in **For Women Scotland Ltd v The Scottish Ministers [2025] UKSC 16** confirmed that, for the purposes of the Equality Act 2010, the protected characteristic of sex has its biological meaning. The Court concluded that the terms "**sex**", "**man**" and "**woman**" in the relevant provisions of the Equality Act 2010 refer to biological sex rather than certificated sex. The Court also specifically recognised the importance of this interpretation to the operation of provisions concerning single-sex spaces and services.

In addition, the **School Premises (England) Regulations 2012**, regulation 4(2), require separate toilet facilities for boys and girls aged 8 or over, except where the toilet facility is provided in a room that can be secured from the inside and is intended for use by one pupil at a time. Regulation 4(4) also requires suitable changing accommodation and showers for pupils aged 11 or over at the start of the school year who receive physical education.

The equivalent standards for independent schools are contained in the **Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014**.

From **1 September 2026**, *Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026* (KCSIE 2026) will also apply. It states that schools must not allow children to use toilets designated for the opposite biological sex and must not allow children aged 11 or over to undress in front of a child of the opposite biological sex. It also provides for alternative facilities, where appropriate, provided that doing so does not compromise the provision of single-sex facilities or the safety, comfort, privacy or dignity of any child.

In light of these requirements, I would be grateful if you **could provide written confirmation** of the following:

1. Toilet provision

Please confirm the school's current arrangements for toilet provision, including:

- the age at which pupils are provided with separate boys' and girls' toilet facilities;
- how access to those facilities is determined;
- the number and location of the single-sex toilet facilities available to pupils;
- whether any additional single-user or universal toilets are provided; and
- whether any multi-occupancy toilets are designated or operated as mixed-sex facilities.

2. Compliance with the School Premises Regulations

Please confirm that the school considers its toilet provision to comply with regulation 4 of the **School Premises (England) Regulations 2012**, or the corresponding requirements applicable to the school.

Where the school provides single-user facilities instead of, or in addition to, communal single-sex facilities, please explain how those arrangements satisfy the relevant statutory requirements.

3. Access to opposite-sex facilities

Please confirm the school's policy and practice concerning requests by pupils to use toilet facilities designated for the opposite biological sex.

In particular, please confirm whether the school permits a pupil to use a multi-occupancy toilet facility designated for the opposite biological sex and, if so, the legal and policy basis on which that decision is made.

4. Additional facilities and safeguarding

Where the school provides alternative or additional facilities for individual pupils, please explain how the school ensures that this does not compromise the availability or adequacy of the required single-sex provision.

Please also explain how **safeguarding risks, privacy, dignity and the welfare of all pupils** are considered when such arrangements are made.

5. Changing facilities and showers

Please provide details of the school's current arrangements for changing accommodation and showers for pupils aged 11 or over who receive physical education.

Please confirm how the school ensures that pupils are not required to undress in front of a pupil of the opposite biological sex, in accordance with KCSIE 2026 from 1 September 2026.

6. Equality and safeguarding considerations

Where the school has changed, or proposes to change, the designation or use of existing toilet or changing facilities, please provide details of:

- the nature of the change;
- the safeguarding assessment undertaken;
- any equality impact assessment or other equality analysis undertaken;
- how the privacy and dignity of pupils of both sexes were considered; and
- any consultation undertaken with pupils, parents/carers or relevant staff.

7. Female pupils and menstrual needs

Please explain how the school considers the particular privacy, dignity, sanitary and welfare needs of female pupils, including access to appropriate toilet and washing facilities during menstruation.

Where the school has identified any evidence that pupils are avoiding toilet use, restricting fluid intake, missing lessons or experiencing other welfare difficulties because of the school's toilet arrangements, please explain how such concerns are monitored and addressed.

8. External advice

Please identify any external organisation, consultancy, charity, training provider, local authority service or other third party that has advised the school on its toilet, changing-room or gender-related facilities policy since **[date, if applicable]**.

Where appropriate, please provide copies of, or links to, the relevant advice or guidance relied upon by the school.

9. Residential and overnight accommodation

Where the school provides residential trips, boarding or other overnight accommodation, please provide the school's current policy concerning the allocation of sleeping accommodation and associated washing/changing facilities.

Please also explain how safeguarding, privacy and sex-based considerations are assessed when allocating such accommodation.

10. Relevant policies and assessments

I would be grateful for copies of, or links to, the current versions of any relevant:

- pupil toilet and changing-facilities policy;
- safeguarding or risk assessment relating to toilet or changing facilities;
- equality impact assessment or equality analysis;
- gender-questioning/gender-related policy or guidance insofar as it relates to access to facilities; and
- residential or overnight accommodation policy, where applicable.

I would appreciate a written response within **21 days** of receipt of this letter.

This request is intended to establish the school's current policy and practice and to understand how the school is meeting its legal and safeguarding responsibilities. It

is not intended to make assumptions about individual pupils or to seek personal or confidential information about any child.

Boys and girls are each entitled to appropriate privacy, dignity and safeguarding in facilities where they may need to use the toilet, change clothes or attend to personal and biological needs. I would therefore like confirmation that the school maintains appropriate single-sex provision for both sexes, that this provision remains available and accessible to pupils, and that any additional facilities or individual arrangements do not compromise those protections.

I would also like confirmation that the school has considered the particular practical and biological needs of both boys and girls, including the privacy and sanitary needs of menstruating female pupils, and has assessed any safeguarding or welfare implications arising from its current arrangements.

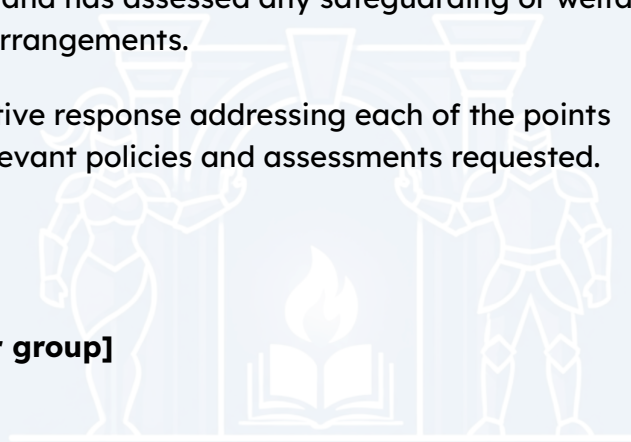
I look forward to receiving a substantive response addressing each of the points above, together with copies of the relevant policies and assessments requested.

Yours sincerely,

[Parent/Carer name]

Parent/Carer of **[child's name / Year group]**

[Contact details]



Protect and Teach
GUARDIANS AT THE GATE