

Your details

[Address line 1]

[Address line 2]

[Address line 3]

[Postcode]

[Email]

[Telephone]

Recipient details

[Address line 1]

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[Postcode]

[Date]

Dear [name of Headteacher or Designated Safeguarding Lead],

My child, [name], is in [class/form/year] at [school]. My [daughter/son] is attending the residential trip to [location] on [date].

I am writing to enquire about the provision of single-sex facilities on residential school trips, as are legislated for in exemptions to the Equality Act 2010 that are designed to protect single-sex provision for women and girls. I would appreciate some clarity on the following questions:

- Will there be adequate provision of single-sex only toilet and bathroom facilities on this residential trip?
- Will there be adequate provision of single-sex only changing and showering facilities on this residential trip?
- Will all the sleeping accommodation on this residential trip be single-sex only?

Although the terms 'sex' and 'gender' have been used interchangeably in recent history, changing political circumstances have made it necessary to draw a distinction between the two – particularly where legislation is concerned. 'Sex' refers to the biological, reproductive classification of people as either 'male' or 'female'. 'Gender' refers to the social expectations, roles or stereotypes of each of the sexes. It is important to acknowledge the difference in order to protect both adults and children from sex-based discrimination.

Gender re-assignment is also a protected characteristic under the Equality Act. People undergoing gender reassignment have the right not to be discriminated against. However, they do not have the right to be treated as the opposite sex in all situations.

The Equality Act 2010 specifically says that single-sex exemptions can be used to designate spaces which are only for one sex, and apply to scenarios such as changing rooms ([Schedule 3 part 7 sections 26-27](#)) and sleeping arrangements ([Schedule 23 part 3](#)). The Act makes it clear that the above exemptions apply even with regard to people undergoing

gender reassignment, as long as the exemptions are 'a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim' ([Schedule 3 part 7 section 28](#)).

The legitimate aim in this case is the safeguarding of children: You may be aware of the recent articles in the national press on the [increase in child on child sexual abuse](#) and [the alarming extent of the sexual harassment of girls in school](#). All children must feel safe in a school environment, and in this context, it is particularly important that girls are able to change and sleep in a single sex space.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

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