[Your Name]

[Your Address]

[City, Postal Code]

[Your Email Address]

[Your Phone Number]

[Headteacher's Name]

[School Name]

[School Address] [City, Postal Code]

[Date] CC: [Your Local MP]  
 [Your LA’s Head of Children’s Services]

Dear [Headteachers Name]

I hope this letter finds you well. My child [child’s name], is in year [year group].

As you are aware my child has [Long Covid/ condition] which puts them in a higher risk category for COVID infections."delete as appropriate

I am writing to you to emphasise the vital need for clean air in our school to support the health and wellbeing of all students and staff. I would like to discuss how concerned parents can collaborate with you and your leadership team to address the threat posed by contaminated indoor air.

Recent times have brought heightened awareness of the health importance of clean indoor air, with air filtration confirmed to significantly reduce absences(1). We now know that indoor pollution levels can often exceed those outdoors. An important part of a school's safeguarding responsibility is to protect the physical health of children in their care. Students spend most of their time indoors at school. It is our duty to provide clean air and a healthy environment. This will enhance their physical and mental well-being, attendance and academic performance. Given the impact of complex health conditions like Long Covid(2), clean air has become an essential consideration for all institutions.

**Benefits of Clean Air In Schools**

* Improved academic performance(3), reduced absenteeism and enhanced cognitive function. The impact of clean air on test scores can be as significant as reducing class sizes, as demonstrated by a one-off ventilation project.
* Crucial role in reducing the transmission of airborne pathogens, including viruses like SARS-CoV-2.
* Long-term health benefits(4) for students and staff, including improved respiratory and cardiovascular health, neurological function,mental health and general well-being.

**Concerns**

* Indoor air pollution, especially PM2.5(5) exposure contributes to health issues, including allergies, cardiovascular disease, asthma, and even dementia(6).
* Lack of natural ventilation in indoor spaces can spread infectious particles(7).
* Airborne diseases like COVID-19 pose a significant ongoing threat(8). Other airborne diseases to consider include: flu, measles, chickenpox, TB, and RSV. As well as the initial illness, diseases can lead to preventable longer term conditions, most recently Long Covid which is estimated to affect 65 million(2) globally with over 2 million(9) in the U.K alone.

Our school's location of [Check your school  [here](https://naei.beis.gov.uk/emissionsapp/) (data from 2021))] worsens the issue, resulting in a substantial economic cost of an estimated 3 million(10) lost workdays due to sickness. Delete if not applicable.

The school is a workplace, and we have a duty to protect the health of our staff (11). Teaching unions support clean air(12). Staff illness and absence also continues to disrupt the education of our children and increases the pressures on school budgets.

**Action and Cost**

* Low. Implement natural ventilation when the annual seasons and air quality allows (5-8 air changes per hour) as recommended by experts and endorsed by organisations like the World Health Organisation(13) and the UK Health and Safety Executive.
* £500-1000 approx per room. Use portable air cleaners with HEPA filters in poorly ventilated or highly polluted areas.
* £140 approx. per room. Engage and empower students in creating cost effective DIY Corsi-Rosenthal air cleaners as part of a STEM project and take an active role in their environment.(14)

In conclusion, poor indoor air quality is a real threat to our children's health and our school community's well-being. For [child’s name] air filtration as a safety measure could be considered a reasonable adjustment under the Equality Act 2010(15). Delete if not applicable.

There are things that we can do to improve this. Our school plays a central role in children’s lives and a healthy environment is essential.I am eager to collaborate with parents, local politicians, and the local authority to find solutions.

I kindly request a meeting to discuss these matters further and am available for online, in-person or phone meetings at your convenience. Together, we can make a significant difference.

Yours sincerely,

[Your Name]

References:

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1. [Long COVID: major findings, mechanisms and recommendations | Nature Reviews Microbiology](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41579-022-00846-2)
2. [Indoor air quality and health in schools.](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2352710222009202)
3. a)[The Removal of Airborne Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) and Other Microbial Bioaerosols by Air Filtration on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Surge Units](https://academic.oup.com/cid/article/75/1/e97/6414657?login=true)

b)[Increasing ventilation reduces SARS-CoV-2 airborne transmission in schools: A retrospective cohort study in Italy's Marche region](https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpubh.2022.1087087/full)

c)[Mask Use and Ventilation Improvements to Reduce COVID-19 Incidence in Elementary Schools](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7021e1.htm)

# [Indoor Exposure to Fine Particulate Matter and Practical Mitigation Approaches](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK583497/)

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2. [Designing infections disease resilience into school buildings through improvements to ventilation and air cleaning](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5ef3652ab722df11fcb2ba5d/t/60a3d1251fcec67243e91119/1621348646314/Safe+Work+TF+Desigining+infectious+disease+resilience+April+2021.pdf)
3. [WHO COVID-19](https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019)
4. [ONS Prevalence of ongoing symptoms following coronavirus (COVID-19) infection in the UK](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/bulletins/prevalenceofongoingsymptomsfollowingcoronaviruscovid19infectionintheuk/30march2023)
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6. [HSE Ventilation in the workplace](https://www.hse.gov.uk/ventilation/overview.htm)
7. [NEU Ventilation in th workplace](https://neu.org.uk/advice/health-and-safety/work-environment/ventilation-schools-and-colleges)

# [WHO Roadmap to improve and ensure good indoor ventilation in the context of COVID-19](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240021280)

# [Air pollution: Lambeth students build filters for their classrooms](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-65025489)

1. [Equality and Human Rights Commission Reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/315587/Equality_Act_Advice_Final.pdf)