Dear [head teacher’s name],

As the parent of XX (in year XX) I wanted to let you know how concerned I am about air pollution levels around the school. At the moment the school is in the [XX](https://addresspollution.org/) percentile of the most polluted addresses in the UK, which is extremely worrying. This means that the levels of air pollution are well beyond safe for our children to breathe.

Air pollution can have a severe impact on [children’s ability to learn](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8663889/#:~:text=Ambient%20air%20pollution%20has%20been%20associated%20with%20various,effects%2C%20including%20impaired%20cognitive%20function.&text=Studies%20have%20associated%20air%20pollution,11%20and%20accelerated%20cognitive%20decline.), their [academic progress](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0160412021003214), as well as their [lung function](https://www.qmul.ac.uk/media/news/2018/smd/study-of-2000-children-suggests-london-air-pollution-is-restricting-lung-development.html) and overall health. [Research](https://www.manchester.ac.uk/discover/news/clean-air-day-2020-reducing-air-pollution-levels-could-improve-childrens-ability-to-learn/#:~:text=Global%20Action%20Plan%2C%20the%20Philips,extra%20learning%20time%20per%20year.) has shown that lowering air pollution levels in and around schools could significantly improve a child’s working memory.

Air pollution is a difficult problem to solve, and I’m keen that our school does something demonstrable to tackle it on two levels: exposure to pollution during the school day as well as considering the school run. [The latest data on school travel](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/nts06-age-gender-and-modal-breakdown#school-travel) shows that in England, 47% of primary school pupils and 26% of secondary school pupils are driven to school. Reducing this school run traffic would make a real difference to the air our children are breathing.

I hope that by working together we can ensure that all children in and around our school have access to clean air, with all the physical and mental health benefits that entails. You can find more information in the [Clean Air for Schools Framework](https://www.transform-our-world.org/programmes/clean-air-for-schools), a free online tool that helps schools create an individual plan to combat air pollution in and around the school gates. The recommendations are supported by research from the University of Manchester, as well as the National Education Union and the National Federation of Head Teachers’ Associations.

There are also groups such as [Mums for Lungs](https://www.mumsforlungs.org/) working actively on this issue, who might be able to support you and the Senior Leadership team in learning more about this critical issue and signpost you towards resources such as lesson plans and assemblies. I look forward to hearing what measures the school is taking to ensure this.

Thank you.