**Dear Board of School Governors,**

I am a student writing to ask the school governing board to take action to tackle sexual harassment faced by young people in our schools. As the governing board, will you pledge to adopt a Whole School Approach to tackle the sexism, misogyny and sexual harassment many of us face?

Sexism, misogyny and sexual harassment are endemic within schools. According to a recent survey conducted by the End Violence Against Women Coalition (EVAW), almost a [third of girls don’t feel safe from sexual harassment in school](https://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/new-campaign-film-its-about-time-things-changed/), and [80% of girls think schools need to do more to tackle the issue](https://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/new-campaign-film-its-about-time-things-changed/). These issues can be even worse for Black girls, those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), and others who face other forms of discrimination. Research from Plan International has shown [82% of Black girls have faced public sexual harassment](https://plan-uk.org/file/everything-is-racialised-reportpdf/download?token=bVe1kW6-).

The recent rise in toxic online figures is fuelling online misogyny and impacting our experiences within school as many of our peers pass off content featured in podcasts and TikToks as banter. But this isn't a joke. What’s more, we’re not just experiencing sexism from our peers - [60% of girls surveyed by EVAW have heard teachers use sexist language](https://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/new-report-its-about-time-a-whole-school-approach-to-ending-violence-against-women-and-girls). Our school culture is harmful, leaving many of us feeling unable to participate fully in school life.

Under Article 19 of The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1988), we have a right to experience school free from violence. Schools have a duty to create safe environments for us to thrive. Yet we’re being let down and **it's #AboutTime things changed. Will you take action?**

**TAKE ACTION:**

1. Understand the issues from our perspective by watching EVAW’s film, co-created with young people, on sexual harassment at school. Watch the film [here](https://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/new-campaign-film-its-about-time-things-changed/).

2. Understand the solutions by reading EVAW’s new report [It's #AboutTime: A Whole School Approach to Ending Violence Against Women and Girls](https://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/new-report-its-about-time-a-whole-school-approach-to-ending-violence-against-women-and-girls).

3. Sign up to EVAW’s [Call to Schools](https://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Call-to-Schools-temporary-poster.pdf) – a set of ten demands, co-created with young people, to change schools' culture, tackle the root causes of sexual harassment and assault, and create a safe learning environment for everyone.

I look forward to seeing the culture in school change!

Best wishes,

[Insert name]