Dear Head Teacher

Last year harmful pesticides were unfortunately used around the school grounds for weed control.

I understand maintaining the tidiness of the school grounds is important, however other methods like manual weeding or the use of safe alternatives free from harmful chemicals are entirely possible.

Safety should be the no.1 priority for our children along with encouraging our children to protect the natural environment rather than poison it.

Pesticides do not just harm the weeds that they are marketed to control but they have a major impact on non-target organisms, like soil, biodiversity and humans.

They contaminate our air, soil and waterways.

When using chemical weed killers, you are relying on having 24hrs rain /wind free weather for application. Rain can lead to the wrong plants being targeted, as well as product run-off into other areas. The everyday decisions we allow or make can impact declines in bee pollinators, beneficial insects, birds, aquatic animals and non-target plants.

 **The World Health Organization** released a statement in 2015 stating that glyphosate was**“probably carcinogenic to humans.”**

Since then Governments, local councils, schools and companies across the world are making a proactive move away from using pesticides, in particular glyphosate, in urban spaces.

The University of Nebraska published an article showing that more than 29 species of weed had developed a tolerance to pesticides. Rather than simply replacing one chemical with another stronger one, it’s time to take a step in a more positive direction, make a move away from chemical weed control and move to safer methods such as manual.

Here are some educational links to read more about the topic:

<https://issuu.com/pan-uk/docs/a_guide_to_lobbying_against_glyphos?e=28041656/59432891>

<https://www.weedingtech.com/alternatives-to-glyphosate/>

<https://www.baumhedlundlaw.com/toxic-tort-law/monsanto-roundup-lawsuit/where-is-glyphosate-banned-/>

<https://cropwatch.unl.edu/multiple-herbicide-resistant-weeds-and-challenges-ahead>

<https://www.pesticidefreebalerno.com/>

I would like to see put Health and the Environment of its pupils as an absolute priority by making this change. Please let me know if we can help with further information or assistance in manually weeding before resorting again to using known harmful chemicals.

I look forward to hearing from you

Kind regards