

# St Luke's CE Primary School

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17 FEB 2021

BY: \_\_\_\_\_



Dear Aaron Bell,

Please find enclosed letters from some of the children in my school. I have also sent them to Boris Johnson, George Eustice and the Environment Agency.

The children in my school and the schools in the surrounding area are increasingly being plagued by the foul smell that is coming from Walley's Landfill Quarry in Newcastle under Lyme. I know that Aaron Bell has mentioned this previously in the Houses of Parliament but the smell is becoming often unbearable and is increasing in occurrences. It is affecting the children in many ways, such as preventing them from playing and exercising outdoors.

Ventilation is key with regards to safeguarding the children against Covid in my school and we have been very fortunate in only having to close one bubble since September 2020. However, keeping windows open at my school is causing children to feel sick and have headaches due to the smell. Staff are complaining that the inside of their noses hurt and often you can taste the smell too. I am very concerned about the long-term effects of what our children, my staff and the community of Silverdale and Newcastle are breathing in. This is clearly not proven. However it isn't just physical health that is being affected as families are unable to take part in their daily outdoor exercise and as such it is affecting people's mental health.

The smell from this Quarry is often horrendous and I would describe it as a gassy and eggy smell that we are unable to escape from. It is there in all types of weather.

This is an important Health and Safety concern in Newcastle-under-Lyme and I feel that more investigations need to be done. I understand that Newcastle Borough Council are going to be spending £50,000 on the investigation but something needs to happen quickly.

I look forward to hearing a response from you for the children and families in my school.

With my very best wishes and support,

Sam Ray

Executive Headteacher