Dear Head Teacher,

We have been unable to establish how the following important

information has been communicated and relayed to all those who

are or may remove weeds within or around your schools.

We reiterate , ensuring of clarity regarding this matter.

We would like to restate that as the Head of the School, you are

fully aware of the City of Edinburgh Council’s BAN on the chemical

weedkiller GLYPHOSATE from 2023 .

This harmful chemical , which was once used commonplace as a

weedkiller , has no longer a place in our environmentally and health

aware communities and has NOT to be used in, around or within

schools.

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 have been making a proactive moves away from

using pesticides, in particular glyphosate, in urban spaces.

Pesticides are dependant on having 24hrs rain /wind free weather

to avoid run-off during applications. This is tricky to secure in the

U.K. and if not strictly adhered to , the wrong plants can be

mistakenly targeted, as well as the product running off into other

vulnerable areas, which others may have presumed safe.

Pesticides do not just harm the weeds they aim to control but they

have a major impact on non-target organisms in the soil, affect

wildlife , animals and biodiversity , not to mention us humans !

Pesticides degrade our soil, contaminate our waterways and pollute

our air . Glyphosate has been stated (even by those protecting its

continued use) to persist in the soil for at the very least 6months .

This is not so good when investigative children are encouraged and

welcomed to these areas.

Everyday decisions we control, can have huge impact on bee

pollinators, beneficial insects, birds and aquatic animals -ultimately

affecting us all

The University of Nebraska published an article showing that more

than 29 species of weed had developed a tolerance to pesticides

anyway. Rather than simply replacing one chemical with another

stronger one, councils are now stepping to a more sustainable

positive direction, moving away from chemical weed control once

and for all and moving to safer methods such as manual.

We understand maintaining the tidiness of the school grounds is

important, however, pesticide free methods like manual weeding

,asking volunteers, hot water, hot foam machines or the use of

strimmers are entirely effective solutions nowadays.

Of course with safety the number 1 priority in schools ,along with

environmental awareness, encouraging our children to protect the

natural environment rather than poisoning it, seems a worthwhile

pursuit for any forward thinking educational establishment.

Many adults and children are particularly vulnerable to pesticides .

We hope you can raise awareness within your school, ensuring all

are protected, aware of the potential dangers and no one resorts to

using unnecessary toxic chemicals anywhere on your schools

grounds. Protecting the health of both your pupils and staff along

with those who visit.

Schools have a legal duty to ensure that the children in their care

are safe guarded,parents and carers have a expectation that their

child will be safe guarded in school and protected against harm .

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

https://issuu.com/pan-uk/docs/a\_guide\_to\_lobbying\_against\_glypho

s?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-ch

allenges-ahead

https://www.pesticidefreebalerno.com/

We would like to see your school ensure the Health of pupils, was made an absolute priority by ensuring the crucial use of safealternatives for weed control replaced harmful chemicals previously used . This should be clearly communicated to all relevant staff, also parents and pupils to foster support.

Let us know if we can help with any further information

We look forward to hearing from you and about your schools commitment, which we are happy to share publicly.

Please reply letting us know as head teacher that your school staff have been made aware to not use glyphosate on the grounds .

Kind regards