Barbara is 17 years old and goes to Nazome Primary School in Palombe, Malawi.

Barbara is visually impaired; at Nazombe Primary School they have an education resource centre for the blind.

Barbara said: “I like school because I feel I will become empowered and I will become independent, I will also be able to help others that are not able to come to school for various reasons, whether they are orphaned or they are just vulnerable, I can help them so that they can also access education like I have done.”

She is able to help others at the school who are vulnerable as a leader of an after-school club which tackles violence and harassment against girls, targeted simply because they are girls.

Barbara says: “If I didn’t come to school I wouldn’t have known the importance of education… Because I came to school I have a lot of information that is useful for me.”
Barbara said that her and other members of the after-school club are better informed, and know what is not supposed to happen to them at school.

Now that she has attended the after-school club, Barbara said she would feel better able to support if a girl came to her to say she had been subjected to violence.

Barbara’s story was shared with Send My Friend to School.