



Rt Hon Nadhim Zahawi MP

Secretary of State

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Robert Halfon MP
Chair
Education Select Committee
House of Commons
Via email: educom@parliament.uk

12 May 2022

Dear Robert,

You may have heard the announcement of a Schools Bill in the Queen's Speech on 10 May. I wanted to reach out to you as chair of the Education Select Committee. When I met with your committee in April we discussed my plans for school system reform, which I set out in the Schools White Paper, and the importance of steps to improve attendance and identify children missing from education. This Bill includes significant measures in these areas, as well as seeking to deliver our longstanding commitment to a direct national funding formula and additional safeguarding reforms to ensure that more children receive a safe and effective education.

I hope you will welcome this Bill as an excellent opportunity to create a stronger and fairer school system that works for every child. I appreciate that your Committee will have a close interest in this Bill and would be very happy to attend to discuss this further with you.

As set out in my recent letter to all members of the House of Commons, the Bill seeks to:

- Create a system which will level up standards by improving the accountability framework for trusts and introducing powers to intervene where necessary;
- Support more schools to benefit from being part of a supportive family of schools in strong trusts, including faith schools and grammar schools;
- Ensure that funding is allocated fairly and consistently to all mainstream schools, regardless of where they are in the country;
- Strengthen the school attendance system so all children can be supported and can benefit from being in school;
- Keep more children safe wherever they are educated by registering more educational institutions, and working with partners to enhance investigation and enforcement;
- Introduce children not in school registers to help local authorities identify children of compulsory school age who are not currently registered in full-time education in schools, and create a duty on local authorities to provide support to home educating families; and,
- Strengthen and expand the remit of the Teaching Regulation Agency to allow for enhanced handling of teacher misconduct and the prohibition of unsuitable teachers from the profession.

I wish to work with you on this important legislation. Please let me know if you would value any further information or if there is anything else I can do to support you and your Committee's engagement with the Bill.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Zahawi', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rt Hon Nadhim Zahawi MP
Secretary of State for Education