



Education Committee
Helen Hayes MP

From the Chair

Catherine McKinnell MP
Minister for School Standards
Department of Education

11 March 2025

Dear Catherine,

Government Policy on SEND

As you will be aware, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) represent the most significant challenge facing the Education sector, raised both by our constituents, and by other Members of this House. The urgency of the situation was repeatedly highlighted to me when I sought election as Chair of the Education Committee and, in agreement with members of my Committee, our first action as a Committee was to launch an inquiry into SEND.

Since its launch we have received over 880 submissions of written evidence, clearly reflecting the strength of feeling on this issue. Many of these have come from individuals navigating the SEND system on behalf of their children, and the effort that has been made by such an unprecedented number to contribute to a Parliamentary inquiry reflects the importance of this issue and the huge impact it has on daily lives. Since the call for evidence closed at the beginning of February, we have taken oral evidence from 16 witnesses, including parents, teachers, support workers, economists, representatives of local government, and, most compellingly, from young people themselves. You can watch the incredibly courageous and informative evidence the young people gave us [here](#).

As a Committee, we wish to work constructively and collaboratively with Government to develop workable policy solutions through our cross-party scrutiny which is based on evidence from a diverse range of expert stakeholders. I am sure you will agree that there is no policy area where evidence-based change, supported by strong buy-in from stakeholders, is more urgently needed than SEND. We therefore urge the Government to examine the scrutiny we are conducting in this area as a constructive complement to your own work in this area.



Education Committee
Helen Hayes MP

From the Chair

My Committee are grateful for the written evidence that your Department submitted to our inquiry into SEND. We note however, that this made no reference to an upcoming White Paper or other major policy announcements. In light of recent media reports suggesting the imminent publication of a White Paper on SEND, we ask you to write to us setting out your plans and the anticipated timescales for any policy announcements on SEND over the next six months.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Hayes MP
Chair, Education Committee