



The All-Party
Parliamentary Group on
**Inclusion and Nurture
in Education**

The Rt Hon Helen Hayes MP
Chair, Education Committee
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

14 July 2026

Dear Helen,

Education Committee inquiry into the *Every Child Achieving and Thriving* White Paper

I am writing as Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Inclusion and Nurture in Education to welcome the Committee's inquiry into the Government's *Every Child Achieving and Thriving* White Paper.

As the Committee considers its themes of raising attainment, improving attendance, reducing disadvantage gaps and workforce reform, I hope it will examine the role that inclusive and relational approaches can play in achieving these objectives.

Evidence from schools across the country demonstrates that when children feel safe, connected and understood, they are better able to engage in learning, attend regularly and fulfil their potential. The APPG has heard repeatedly from school leaders that understanding children's social and emotional development is fundamental to improving attendance, behaviour and attainment. We also consistently hear that early intervention and strong relationships are critical to preventing challenges from escalating and to supporting those pupils most at risk of poor outcomes.

The APPG's work has also highlighted the importance of ensuring that accountability frameworks, workforce development and school improvement policies support schools to create inclusive environments in which all children can thrive. I believe these considerations are central to the successful implementation of the White Paper's reforms.

Through the APPG, and with the support of our secretariat, education charity nurtureuk, we are closely connected to a wide network of school leaders, practitioners and academics, working to improve outcomes for children and young people. nurtureuk also convenes the Inclusive and Relational Approaches Working Group, bringing together experts and organisations from across education and the third sector. Together, these networks offer extensive expertise on the practical challenges and opportunities associated with delivering the ambitions set out in the White Paper.

I would be very pleased to facilitate introductions to practitioners and experts who could contribute to the Committee's inquiry. In particular, I would encourage the Committee to consider inviting Arti Sharma, Chief Executive of nurtureuk, to give oral evidence, alongside a leader from a nurtureuk partner school who can speak directly to the impact of whole-school inclusive and nurturing approaches on attainment, attendance, wellbeing and staff practice.

A recent [research report](#) commissioned by the Department of Education in Northern Ireland (January 2026) showed that nurture provision delivered;

- Significant, measurable improvements in pupils' social, emotional and behavioural development
- **Improved attendance** (chronic absence fell from 49.7% to 36.9% and severe chronic absence fell from 22.3% to 8.5%)
- **Improved attainment** (an estimated 1.5–2.7 GCSE grade improvement per Nurture Group pupil)
- Positive knock on effects for classrooms, staff and school culture

The APPG would be delighted to support the Committee's work in any way that would be helpful and would be happy to connect you with relevant witnesses from across our networks.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Hall MP

Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Inclusion and Nurture in Education