



Department for Education

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**The Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP
Secretary of State for Education**

Dr Manuela Perteghella MP
By email: manuela.perteghella.mp@parliament.uk

7 July 2026

Dear Manuela,

Thank you for your correspondence of 12 May, on behalf of your constituents, regarding the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) system.

We have hosted the largest national conversation on SEND in a generation. I appreciate your support in helping to make sure the voices of families and professionals in your constituency are heard as part of that conversation. As well as listening to those who educate, support and care for children or young people with SEND we have engaged with young people themselves to shape these vital reforms and help rebuild confidence in the system.

I recognise the concerns raised by families in your constituency about the need for SEND reform to deliver earlier support and more inclusive mainstream provision, while maintaining confidence that children and young people will continue to receive the provision that is right for them. You highlight a range of important issues, including the future of EHCPs and legal protections, access to specialist provision, workforce capacity and training, funding, the role of health services, support at key transition points, and ensuring parents can continue to play a meaningful role in decisions about their child's education. These issues go to the heart of the challenges families currently face and the importance of building a system that is more consistent, responsive and effective.

I want every child to have the best start in life, with help available earlier and locally when families need it. Our reforms aim to ensure all children will get the right support in their early years setting, school and college. That is why we have introduced a new £1.6 billion Inclusive Mainstream Fund over three years from the 2026 to 2027 financial year, worth over £500 million per year, for three years. We have published guidance to help schools make the most effective use of this funding.

We have also published practical guidance to help schools establish inclusion bases and adapt buildings to be more inclusive. Alongside this we have announced a £200 million national training programme to help all staff. From September 2026, all staff in early years, schools, and colleges will be entitled to receive new, high-quality training, which is government backed and developed with experts.

In addition, we are investing £1.8 billion over three years in "Experts at Hand" to improve access to specialist interventions when they need them, reducing delays. These experts will work alongside school staff, building skills and confidence to identify needs early and respond effectively because every child deserves to be supported and to achieve and thrive.

We will manage the transition to a new system carefully. That is why our investments start now, before forthcoming legislation.

The insights you have shared have been passed on to the relevant teams, so that they can inform and improve the further development of our proposals for reform.

The formal consultation has now closed, and we are reviewing the thousands of responses we have received, alongside feedback from over 200 engagement events we held over 12 weeks. The lived experience and insights shared by young people, families and professionals will play a central role in shaping the next stage of these reforms.

I look forward to continuing to work with you over the coming months as we take our proposals to Parliament and will continue to engage closely with young people, parents and professionals on how they will work in practice.

Yours,
Bridget

The Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP
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