



Manuela Perteghella

Member of Parliament for Stratford-on-Avon
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
Tel +442072192056
manuela.perteghella.mp@parliament.uk

The Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP
Secretary of State for Education
Department for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
20 Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT

Our Ref: MP02336

21 March 2025

Dear Rt. Hon. Bridget Phillipson.

I am writing to you following the breakfast briefing hosted by Juliet Campbell MP, Chair of the APPG on Dyslexia, where we heard from Jamie Oliver on the urgent need to support all children, not just the 75% who fit the system.

Jamie shared that, like three children in every classroom, he is dyslexic. He left school undiagnosed, struggling, and internalising a sense of failure—an experience still shared by thousands of children today. Dyslexia is not rare, yet 80% of dyslexic children are never identified in school, meaning they don't get the support they need.

Jamie spoke with honesty and emotion about his own experience. It was heartening to witness strong cross-party consensus on this issue - MPs from all sides of the House, as well as experts and campaigners, were united in recognising that we must do better for these children.

You have stood on a promise of breaking down barriers to opportunity. Unfortunately, for 25% of neurodiverse students this promise is an awfully long way off. Right now, too many bright, creative children are being let down because the system is not designed with them in mind.

We have an opportunity to work across parties to change this. I urge you to consider two changes that could make an immediate difference, and not let wider reforms get in the way of progress today:

Early Identification: Introduce universal dyslexia screening within the first two years of school, embedded in existing assessments. A reactive system that relies on diagnosis at age 8 is failing too many children. Identifying dyslexia early would ensure they get the right support before they fall behind.

Better Teacher Training: Teachers want to help, but most haven't had the training to recognise dyslexia. The previous government made updates to the framework, but they didn't go far enough. Making dyslexia training a core part of Initial Teacher Training, the Early Career Framework, and ongoing CPD would ensure every teacher has the knowledge and confidence to support dyslexic learners.

These are pragmatic and impactful changes that align with our shared commitment to an inclusive education system that enables every child to thrive. I would welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss how we can take this forward together across political lines.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Manuela Perteghella', written in a cursive style.

Dr Manuela Perteghella
Member of Parliament for Stratford-on-Avon