



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

11 October 2016

Dear Children

Thank you for contacting me about the ‘Send My Friend to School’ campaign. Your correspondence has been passed to me by your MP, Ms Angela Smith.

It is good of you to write to share your concern with cutouts and a message of support for those children across the world who currently do not have access to an education.

I agree that no child should miss out on an education, even in times of conflict and other emergencies. Education can give children like you the opportunity to have some routine in your life at what might be a testing time. It can also encourage young people to think about the future of their community and to look toward peace for their country.

The UK Government’s education programmes supported 11 million children to access schooling between 2012 and 2015 and we aim to support a further 11 million girls and boys to obtain an education by 2020. We have demonstrated particular leadership regarding access to education for Syrian children as a result of the ‘No Lost Generation’ initiative, which has allowed over 251,000 children to receive an education in Syria and the wider region.

In February, we also organised an international conference on Syria where countries from all over the world pledged that every refugee and vulnerable child in those host countries bordering Syria should receive a quality education by the end of the 2016/17 academic year.

Another example of the UK's leadership is our flagship Girls' Education Challenge (GEC) programme. Girls are 2.5 times more likely to be out of school than boys in conflict-affected countries. The GEC will enable up to one million more of the world's most under-privileged girls – many living in crisis-affected countries – to benefit from an education that will help transform their lives. The UK is organising a Girls Education Forum this summer to increase commitments and actions from other countries and partners on this important issue.

It is clear, however, that more needs to be done. Over half of the estimated 75 million children affected by emergencies and protracted crises worldwide are out of school. That is why we are working closely with partners to develop a new approach to address this critical issue and a new fund, 'Education Cannot Wait', was launched at the World Humanitarian Summit last month. This fund aims to raise up to \$1.5 billion a year by 2020, to help 13 million children get the education they deserve. As a founding donor, the UK committed £30 million to 'Education Cannot Wait' over the next two years, which will contribute to reaching over four and a half million children and young people by 2018.

We are working very hard, with our international partners, to deliver a better future for every child across the world. I appreciate you getting in touch on this important matter.

I have sent a copy of this letter to Ms Smith for her information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. M.' or similar, written in a cursive style.

Tankersley St Peter's C.E. Primary School