

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

November 2016

Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about Anti-Bullying Week.

Bullying is absolutely unacceptable and should not be tolerated in our schools.

All state schools in England are required to have a behaviour policy in place that includes measures to prevent all forms of bullying among pupils. It is my understanding that schools are free to develop their own anti-bullying strategies, but they are held clearly to account for their effectiveness through Ofsted.

I am encouraged that, in September 2016, the Department for Education and the Government Equalities Office announced £4.4 million of funding for 10 projects to tackle bullying. This includes £2.8 million for projects preventing and tackling homophobic, transphobic and biphobic bullying. I am confident that this funding will do much to ensure that our schools are safe, inclusive environments where pupils are able to learn and fulfil their potential.

However, there is always more to be done, and, while I was unable to attend the event on the 16th of November due to parliamentary commitments, I commend the Anti-Bullying Alliance's ongoing work to put to a stop to bullying. I wish the "Power for Good" campaign, every success.

Once again, many thanks for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris'.

**CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY**