

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

February 2017

Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about the support available to children in education with sensory impairments.

We all want every child to have the best start in life. It is important that young people with disabilities can access the services they need for a good education. Helping children with sensory impairments reach their potential is a priority for the Government. The Children and Families Act enables a joined-up approach to support children with sensory impairments, with clear information on the support that families can expect locally and the option of a personal budget for some parents and young people to give them more control over the support they receive.

The Department for Education provides millions of pounds of funding per year to the National Sensory Impairment Partnership to support local authorities in their work with children with sensory impairments. I support the vital work the Partnership does across the country, ensuring that the right support is in place to improve the outcomes for deaf, blind and multi-sensory impaired children.

I believe the Government is making good progress in this area. For example, more deaf or hearing impaired pupils are now leaving school with at least five GCSEs at grades A to C than six years ago, and there are an increasing number of alternative provision Free Schools.

There is, of course, far more to do to ensure that every child, regardless of circumstance, can receive the education they deserve. I am encouraged that the Government will continue to train teachers and support staff, to ensure that spending per child is protected in cash terms, and make sure that the approach taken to each child is individual and unique, and meets their needs.

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

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