

August 2023

)ecer constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about transgender guidance for schools.

The Government understands that this is a complex and sensitive subject for schools to navigate. Guidance is being developed to support schools both in relation to transgender pupils and those who are questioning their gender. The guidance will be clear that, apart from in exceptional circumstances, schools should involve parents in any decision about their child.

Recognising the complexity of this subject, the Government will be taking more time to speak to teachers, parents and lawyers to ensure that the guidance provides clarity for schools and colleges, and reassurance to patients. The Government has committed to holding a full public consultation on the draft guidance prior to publication, to which anyone can respond.

In the meantime, my colleague Gillian Keegan, the Education Secretary, has stated clearly that schools and colleges should not agree to any changes that they are not absolutely confident are in the best interests of that child and their peers. Schools should also prioritise safeguarding and meeting their existing legal duties to protect single sex spaces and fairness in single sex sport.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY