



Chris Heaton-Harris
Member of Parliament for Daventry
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
Tel: 020 7219 7048

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Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about education for deaf children.

I believe it is vital that young people with disabilities can access the services they need for a good education. The system for identifying and meeting the needs of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) is designed to deliver the right support where it is needed.

To be awarded teacher status, all trainees must satisfy the teachers' standards, including a requirement that they have a clear understanding of the needs of SEND pupils and are able to support them. The Whole School SEND Consortium have been awarded a contract to embed SEND within approaches to school improvement and to equip the school workforce to deliver high quality teaching for all pupils with SEND.

The programme of work includes building a Community of Practice with the involvement of 15,000 schools by the end of 2022, across the 8 Regional School Commissioner regions.

The Department for Education has considered the National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) proposals for a government funded bursary scheme. Officials are now working with the NDCS and other organisations in the sensory impairment sector to identify other solutions to support teachers wishing to train as Teachers of the Deaf, and qualified teachers of the sensory impaired more widely.

More generally, I am encouraged that the 2021 Spending Review has provided £2.6 billion to create school places for children with special educational needs and disabilities. This has meant that capital funding levels will be over £900 million by 2024-25. Ministers have also assured me that high needs funding will be increased by a further £780 million for 2022-23, which is specifically for children with more complex SEND.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY

Website: www.heatonharris.com