

[INSERT MP NAME HERE]

House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

[INSERT YOUR ADDRESS HERE]

Dear [MP NAME],

I am writing to you as a concerned constituent, ahead of the proposed return to school for children across the United Kingdom in the coming weeks. As I am sure you are aware, it has been posited that children could be asked to return to school under a variety of scenarios, I believe, which would be detrimental to both their mental health and capacity to learn.

These circumstances include the prospect of blended learning, where pupils are required to attend school on a rotational basis, social distancing and children wearing personal protective equipment. I am sure you can see the risks that this poses to the development of children and I urge you to oppose any policy which would see children return under anything other than pre-coronavirus circumstances.

In recent days, the Government have rightly pointed out that the risk of transmission between children at schools is statistically low. Further to the statements by the Government a study by the the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) has found that across 15 countries evidence “suggests that re-opening schools has not been associated with significant increases in community transmission”.

Yet, given the received wisdom that the return of children to school under normal circumstances will not result in a ‘second-wave’ of coronavirus, I am concerned that children will be required to stay apart in social bubbles and only be educated on a part-time basis. These concerns are not just shared between parents and members of the public. A recent study by Barnardo’s suggested that 90% of education professionals also believe that the coronavirus has had a detrimental and long-lasting impact on children’s mental health. I believe one of the most effective and important measures to address this issue is by allowing children to return to an environment where they feel safe, comfortable, and back into a routine rather than being forced to wear personal protective equipment, taught in social bubbles and placed into an irregular pattern of learning.

I would implore you to write to the Education Secretary and outline the positive impact which a return to school in the fashion in which children were meant to be taught, will have on young people’s mental health and life chances. Finally, if the Government is so intent on following scientific guidance when negotiating the challenges posed by the coronavirus, then I would urge it to consider the most recent guidance from SAGE which advised that the risk of serious illness to children from this virus is low.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Best wishes,

[YOUR NAME]