

# JOHN HOWELL OBE MP



Ms Zoe Atkins  
St Andrews Primary School  
Station Road  
Chinnor  
Oxfordshire  
OX39 4PU

10th July 2019

Dear Ms Atkins

Thank you for sending me the letters created by your pupils for the Send My Friend to School Campaign. I have sent them on to the Prime Minister.

I share the concerns and am pleased that the UK is working hard to guarantee that all children get access to a good, safe education. As I am sure you will agree, education has a number of benefits. It gives children the power to improve their own lives and their country, and all children have a right to a decent education. Between 2015 and 2018, the UK supported 11.4 million children to gain a decent education. This is something we should be really proud of.

I also agree that children learn best when they feel safe. The 246 million children living in countries affected by armed conflict need our help if they are to reach their full potential. World leaders have been discussing this recently and I know that the UK will continue to encourage others to sign the Safe Schools Declaration.

The Government is also stepping up its support for marginalised children - hard-to-reach girls, children with disabilities, and children in emergencies - to ensure they are not left behind. But protecting children in schools should not be limited to war zones: violence in schools in developing countries must end. Through its education programmes, UK is increasing its support for reducing school-based violence. This includes investing in good teaching, because teachers have an important role to play in tackling school-based violence. I look forward to the day that all children can attend school in safety.

Please pass on my thanks to all who have taken the time to share their concerns with me.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Howell', written over a thin horizontal line.

**John Howell OBE MP**  
Member of Parliament for Henley

Westminster Office:  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA  
Tel: 020 7219 6676

Constituency Office:  
PO BOX 84  
Watlington  
OX49 5XD  
Tel: 01491 613072

Online:  
[howelljm@parliament.uk](mailto:howelljm@parliament.uk)  
[www.johnhowellmp.com](http://www.johnhowellmp.com)  
@JohnHowellMP  
[www.facebook.com/john.howellmp](http://www.facebook.com/john.howellmp)