



2011/00036277POTL

Tim Loughton MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families

Sanctuary Buildings Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 0012345 ministers@education.gsi.gov.uk

Miss Claudia White
Founder, GRIN Campaign
By email: founder@grincampaign.com

13 June 2011

Dear Miss White,

Thank you for your emails of 8 May, addressed to the Minister of State for Schools regarding bullying and your campaign, Global Respect In Education. I am replying as the Minister responsible for young people.

I was very interested to read about your campaign and your suggested revisions to the Schools White Paper, *The Importance of Teaching*. I agree that it is essential for all young people to be able to study in school or college, without fear of bullying.

The Schools White Paper is a wide-ranging document which sets out the Government's overall approach to different aspects of education. You have clearly examined the chapter on behaviour closely. This chapter was intended to set out the Government's commitment to tackling all forms of bullying, especially those motivated by prejudice.

Homophobic and disability bullying were cited in the White Paper as examples of types of bullying, which are both prevalent and often tackled ineffectively in schools. However, in developing anti-bullying strategies, school staff should assess the particular motivations behind incidents of bullying in their schools and incorporate those issues accordingly. It is important that schools' strategies include the way they respond to incidents of bullying and methods for raising awareness of sensitive issues around bullying, to try and prevent incidents from occurring in the first place.

We do not want to dictate to schools how they should approach these issues but in order to help them to prepare effective anti-bullying strategies we updated our advice to schools, which condenses the previous 481 pages of guidance into one short document. This summarises the legal obligations and

powers schools have to tackle bullying, the principles which underpin the most effective anti-bullying strategies in schools, and further resources through which school staff can access more specialist information on the specific issues that they face. The advice can be found at:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/advice/f0076899/preventing-and-tackling-bullying>.

I recognise the considerable physical and emotional harm that bullying can cause. I hope that my reply offers some reassurance that the Government takes all forms of discrimination and bullying in schools very seriously.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Loughton', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above a horizontal line that serves as a separator between the signature and the printed name below.

TIM LOUGHTON MP