**WRITING TO YOUR MP**

It seems like central government are making decisions daily about what they believe needs to be done to beat the Covid pandemic in schools and early years. Something which all of us can do is to write to our MP outlining how the decisions they have made have affected us, including pupils and parents.

This is a really valuable thing to do because if no-one raises concerns with their MP’s, then how will they know what’s really going on in your school and how you feel. They are elected as your representatives so they need to know what challenges their constituents are facing.

**TIPS**

**Make it personal! To make the most impact on your MP, take time to pen your own unique letter. Researching and writing a message of your own shows you’re passionate about the issue. A handwritten letter instead of an email helps you stand out even more. A pre-written template may take you seconds to send, but your own letter is always stronger**.

The best postal address for your MP is their Westminster address (House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA). If your MP is not in Westminster, the post is automatically forwarded on to them.

To find your local MP, you can go on-line here [All MPs - TheyWorkForYou](https://www.theyworkforyou.com/mps/) and put in where you live. You will then have the option to send an email.

Be clear and to the point – focus on one issue and don’t try to cover too many things.

Don’t forget to include your home address so the MP knows where to send their response.

**Suggestions for structuring your letter:**

* Introduction.

If this is your first letter to your MP, you might want to start by introducing yourself and sharing why you care about the issue that you are raising. If you have a personal connection to the topic of your letter then this is a great way of engaging your MP and conveying your passion and commitment.

* Get your MP’s attention with a dramatic fact or short statement.
* State the problem. Present the causes of the problem you just introduced. How widespread or serious is the problem?
* Develop your solution (you could do this by giving examples)
* What you want them to do about it

Ask for a response. If you haven’t had an acknowledgement of your letter after a couple of weeks, give your MP’s office a ring to check they have received your letter.

Share your reply. When you receive a response from your MP, tell your UNISON branch.

Even if the response you received wasn’t great, don’t be down heartened. By writing to your MP, you have directly imputed into the effort.