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www.gov.uk/Number10

From The Direct Communications Unit

15 November 2016

Dear Sir/ Madam

Thank you for your recent letter to the Prime Minister, with questions from children about intolerance.

It is good that you are providing a programme of learning material to Primary Schools in the UK. I was also interested to read about how you will be marking the UN International Day for Tolerance on 16 November.

The Government is proud of the UK's record of race and religious tolerance. We have the strongest laws in the world to protect people and communities against violence and aggression. The Equality Act is just one way in which the law protects individuals from harassment, making any such acts criminal and therefore promoting tough sentences as punishment.

The Department for Education provides advice to help schools understand the Equality Act and how it affects them. The new National Curriculum provides many opportunities to raise awareness of racial and religious diversity and tolerance and to celebrate the success of individuals from a range of diverse backgrounds.

All children have a right to feel safe and respected at school or college and no child should be excluded or discriminated against due to their race or religious beliefs. The Government continues to take tackling all forms of bullying, including bullying on racial and religious grounds, very seriously. There is a firm expectation that schools will deal with all forms of bullying and victimisation at the earliest opportunity and will not allow pupils to suffer emotional or physical harm.

We are particularly concerned about online safety. While it is only right that children are able to enjoy and benefit from social media, there are risks associated with the unwise use, such as cyberbullying. We work closely with the UK Council for Child Internet Safety and this has been an excellent way of bringing together Internet Service Providers, social media companies, regulators and children's charities to discuss issues and keep children safe online.

I hope you can understand that, due to the volume of correspondence she receives, it is not always possible for the Prime Minister to reply personally. However, she has asked me to extend her best wishes for your activities on 16 November.

Thank you, once again, for writing.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anna', written in a cursive style.

Correspondence Officer