



MP factsheet

Members of Parliament are important people who have a real say in what the UK Government does and can make sure they keep their promises – like making sure every child in the world goes to primary school by 2015.

In Parliament your MP represents your local area (known as a constituency). They often like to come to schools and hear what children and young people have to say. This is because it's their job to represent your area and because they know you will be voting for them in the future.

Why should you contact your Member of Parliament?

Your MP is someone that people in your area have elected to represent them in Parliament in Westminster, London.

They were chosen in a vote called an election. They are supposed to speak up for what people in your area want.

So if you care about what the UK government does about getting every child into school, they are important people to talk to.

What can your MP do?

MPs like finding out what people like you think.

They can ask questions of the Prime Minister and his colleagues in order to hold them to account. They can also make suggestions for how things could be done differently. They can ask questions by writing letters, by going to meetings and by asking questions in person in Parliament itself.

They also vote in Parliament. When a decision is to be made about how the government does something – for instance giving more aid to help poor countries – MPs vote to say whether it should happen or not.

My MP says they are Labour, Conservative or a Liberal Democrat. What does that mean?

Most MPs are part of a party - a group of people who mostly believe the same things.

Currently the three largest parties in Parliament are the Labour Party, the Conservative Party and the Liberal Democratic Party.

The Party with the most MPs forms a Government which is led by the Prime Minister.

At the moment the Labour Party are in Government and Gordon Brown is the Prime Minister.

Find out more

To read about what your MP has been doing recently look them up on <http://www.theyworkforyou.com>

NB This website is well worth a look – you can see how your MP has voted on issues and when they last spoke in Parliament. You can also ask the website to email you details of your MP's recent work in Parliament.

75 million children are missing out on an education