



A day in the life of an MP

There are 650 members of Parliament in the UK.

What do they do?

- Your MP is elected by your local community. They are responsible for representing the interests of all the people in his or her area or **constituency**.
- Your MP represents you when it comes to making decisions about things that affect the whole country.
- You can contact your MP to tell him or her about any issues that affect you or campaigns such as Send My Friend to School that you think your MP should support.
- Nearly every MP belongs to a political party. A political party is a group of people who share the same ideas about how the country should be run. A party's policies help people decide who they should vote for.
- Some MPs are chosen by the prime minister to join the government. They are called 'ministers'. The **government** is the group of politicians who are in charge of running the country. The prime minister leads the government, and chooses MPs who support his or her party's plans for running the UK.

Most MPs have a very busy diary.

Here's an imagined diary of an MP who is very active on global education issues!*

9am	Meeting with All Party Parliamentary Group on Global Education to discuss how to ensure every child gets an education by 2015.
11am	International Development Questions in the House of Commons – our MP asks a question on the level of funding for global education.
12.30pm	Lunch meeting with other members of the MP's political party to discuss views to take forward to the Minister of International Development. She is responsible for aid to other countries.
2pm	Meeting with local school students from the MP's constituency who are presenting him with messages of support for the Send My Friend to School campaign.



Send My
Friend
to School



EVERY CHILD NEEDS A
TEACHER

- 3pm Meeting with assistant to discuss what appointments the MP has the next day in the constituency.
- 4pm Reply to letters and write letters to the Prime Minister and the Minister for International Development to influence them to do more to support global education.
- 6pm Dinner with representatives from the Nigerian government to discuss ways in which Nigeria and the UK can work together to make sure every child has a teacher by 2015.

* In reality MPs have to work on a whole range of different local, national and international issues that affect their constituents (such as health, education, transport) and they would be very unlikely to have a whole day to work on one issue such as this!

