



Rt Hon Ed Balls MP
Secretary of State

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Barry Sheerman MP
Chairman
Children, Schools and Families Select Committee
House of Commons
London
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Dear 

As you know, in September 2009 I commissioned Maurice Smith to conduct a review of the measures that exist to prevent the promotion of racism by teachers and the wider school workforce in schools.

Maurice has submitted his report, and I have today accepted his recommendations in full. I attach copies of both his report and my response.

On the issue of a ban, Maurice has concluded that whilst in principle there is no case against a ban, this would be a disproportionate response to the isolated and rare incidences that have been reported. I accept this finding and will implement his recommendation that the case for a ban is kept under active consideration and reviewed on an annual basis.

I have also noted his finding that many of the safeguards that protect children and young people from discrimination or political indoctrination that are in place in maintained schools do not apply to schools in the independent sector. I have therefore asked him to conduct a further piece of work exploring further whether the current arrangements strike the right balance between allowing independent schools autonomy, operating in accordance with their ethos and values, and protecting the young people attending those schools from teachers displaying racist or intolerant views or behaviours that could be harmful. This further report is due in September 2010.

I am copying this letter and attachments to Michael Gove MP and David Laws MP, and I am placing copies of the report and my response in the libraries of both Houses.

Yours sincerely



ED BALLS MP



department for
children, schools and families