

Every child deserves an education

Young people and Paralympian Ade Adepitan take their message to the top!



Ade and the young delegation at Number 10



YOUNG people travelled to Westminster, accompanied by TV presenter and Paralympian Ade Adepitan, to find out what the UK Government is doing to make sure that every child worldwide, regardless of their disability, gets a chance to go to school. Then they delivered hundreds of colourful messages to Number 10 Downing Street.

Half a million young people

The ten young people represented the almost half a million UK pupils who are taking part in this year's Send ALL My Friends to School campaign and care deeply about education for all, and in particular for children with disabilities.

They have been learning about the barriers to education in class and then creating colourful 'buddy' messages to speak out for the right of every child to have a quality education.

Pupils involved came from Guildford County School (Surrey), The Village School (Wembley), Southern Road Primary School, (Plaistow, East London), Sir Jonathan North Community College (Leicester), and St Philip Howard Catholic High School (Sussex).

Meeting influential people

The young people met with David Blunkett MP, who is blind, and a great supporter of education for all. David told them about the difference education has made to his life and how he, and other MPs, can take their messages into Parliament and make them count.

They also had a private meeting with education advisers at the Department for International Development (DfID) in Whitehall, where they challenged them on what steps the UK Government is taking to ensure primary education for all up to and beyond 2015, and in particular for children with disabilities.

Maisie Le Masurier

Maisie Le Masurier, 15, one of the 2014 Young Ambassadors said: "The highlight for me was meeting David Blunkett MP and hearing how with the help of his education he has been able to overcome his disability and have a successful and important career. This demonstrates how vital education is and inspires me even more to campaign for the 24 million children with disabilities that are still missing out on school."



Katherine talking to David Blunkett MP

Ambassador Ade Adepitan

Finally, together with Ade Adepitan, they went to Downing Street and delivered hundreds of colourful buddy figures to the Prime Minister, asking world leaders to live up to the promise made in 2000 for universal primary education and to ensure that no child is left behind.

Ade Adepitan says: "If world leaders are serious about getting EVERY child into education, they must prioritise the needs of children with disabilities now."

Ade was born in Nigeria, where he got polio at 15 months old. Ade moved to London before he started primary school but knows that if he had stayed in Nigeria his life would have been very different. Nigeria is the country with the largest number of out of school children – more than ten million.

Katie Wilson

Katie Wilson, 12, from Sir Jonathan North Community College said: "I think it's really important that we handed in our messages to Downing Street because it means that we get our voices heard by the Prime Minister and other higher people. It's so important because this campaign really has to be heard and we have to get everyone to school."



Almost half a million pupils in 4,000 UK schools are speaking out for every child's right to go to school.



Inclusive education messages for the PM

57m children out of school – one third have a disability

In 2000, as part of the Millennium Development Goals, world leaders promised that every child would receive a quality education by 2015. Since then the numbers of children out of school has halved, but there are still 57 million children missing out on school and more than a third of these have a disability.



Samia and Sohaib making their buddies