Dear Secretary of State

The Department is currently consulting on the introduction of compulsory Relationships Education and Relationships and Sex Education at primary and secondary schools respectively. We look forward to reviewing the outcome of the consultation after it closes next month and the Government announces its response.

We note that on page 29 of the draft guidance for schools, the Department proposes that pupils should know “key facts about puberty and the changing adolescent body” and “the main changes which take place in males and females, and the implications for emotional and physical health”. We welcome that paragraph 99 of the guidance proposes that:

As with education about puberty, programmes should include understanding of and preparation for menstruation, for all pupils. Schools should also make adequate and sensitive arrangements to help girls manage menstruation and with requests for sanitary protection.

In addition to the existing proposed guidance, we would like to add our voice to calls for specific education for all pupils about menstrual wellbeing and specifically the prevalence and impact of endometriosis on girls.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Health and Social Care Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon Robert Halfon MP
Chair of the Education Committee