

Send My friend to school

Every Child Needs A Teacher

Summer 2013 Action Guide



Children leave school at the end of the morning school shift in Mandanpur Khadar, Delhi. This overcrowded primary school has 2,400 pupils.

Photo: David Levene/GCE UK

INTRODUCTION

In 2000 over 180 countries around the world agreed the Millennium Development Goal to *'ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, girls and boys alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling'*.

In 2000 there were around 110 million children out of school. Initial progress towards the goal was rapid and many millions of children enrolled in school for the first time. However recently progress has stalled. There are currently 60 million children out of school and it is likely that 48 million children will still be out of school in 2015.

WHY HAS PROGRESS SLOWED?

Good education is about more than just the number of children who attend school. Teachers, teacher training, class sizes and school facilities are also very important if children are to receive a good education. In many countries enrolment has grown without enough investment to make sure children are learning to the best of their ability. And teachers are vitally important if schools are to succeed. Currently the world is short of 1.7 million teachers.

WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE?

More investment in education is required to pay for the 1.7 million teachers the world needs. However rich countries are not delivering some of the aid money they have promised, and some countries with many children out of school are not spending enough money on education, even when they can afford to.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

1. Design 'ideal teachers' in your school and send them to your local MP Go to page 2

2. Plan a campaign in your school and inform the press Go to page 3

3. Invite your MP to school and organise an event Go to page 4



The walk to school in Mandanpur Khadar, Delhi.

Photo: David Levene/GCE UK

For support with taking action, get in touch with Oxfam's Education & Youth Team:

education@oxfam.org.uk

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Design 'ideal teachers' in your school and send them to your MP

Your MP is the best person to take your messages about every child needing a teacher to the UK Government. For example your MP can write to the Minister for International Development or ask a question in parliament. Winning the support of your MP with a creative campaign is the first step to helping ensure that every child has a teacher.

*Students from Kingsbury School with their ideal teacher.
Photo: Camille Shah/GCE UK*

Why this action?

Showing that a group of people feels strongly about an issue helps to convince MPs to take the issue seriously. MPs are contacted many times every day by local voters, so having many other people showing they agree with you helps to make your issue more prominent.

Doing something creative that requires you to put in some thought and effort is even more persuasive. The key is to make your ideal teachers creative and original so they stand out and your MP notices them.

What to do

STEP ONE

Ask your teacher to register for Every Child Needs A Teacher at www.sendmyfriend.org

This website also has lots of exciting resources and ideas to develop your understanding of global education and help you learn about campaigning.

Then think about designing your 'ideal teachers'. There are templates in the free resource pack you'll be sent when you register, but feel free to be creative and design your own.

STEP THREE

Learn about the issues so you write well informed messages. There are lots of resources at www.sendmyfriend.org and the Young Ambassadors video at <http://vimeo.com/63161059> has first hand evidence of schools in India.

STEP TWO

Think about how your teacher can help you to collect as many 'ideal teacher' messages as possible. You could write messages in your class and you could ask other classes to join in too.

The campaign video at <http://vimeo.com/59643750#> explains the issues and how to get started. Set yourself a target number of 'ideal teacher' messages and get started!

STEP FOUR

Send the messages with a letter to your MP. MPs' contact details are at <http://www.theyworkforyou.org>.

In your letter summarise the core issue and what you want your MP to do. Try to write this in a really brief and inspiring way. There's advice at http://www.sendmyfriend.org/resource_type/do-it-yourself/

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Sam and Millie, Young Ambassadors for 2013, meet Gulafsha

Photo: David Levene/ GCE UK

Plan a bigger campaign in your school and inform the press

Aim to plan a bigger campaign in your school and community. The purpose is still to send 'Ideal Teacher' messages to your MP, but this time you need to think more carefully about how to inspire lots of other young people to be involved.

- Could you design and present an assembly or lesson?
- Could you organise an exhibition or film screening?
- Could you visit other local schools and inspire young people there to be involved?
- Could you write a press release and get a story in your local paper?

Meet Gulafsha

Gulafsha is 14 years old and lives in Trlokpuri, Delhi. She is a young campaigner active in improving schools in her community. Here's what Gulafsha says about her school;

'We have about 70 children in our class and we don't have any benches for students to sit on so we have to sit on the floor. Quite often the teachers don't turn up at all and when they do turn up sometimes they just give us some work to do and they leave the class again'

Does any of this evidence make you think about the qualities of your ideal teacher?

What to do

STEP ONE

Ask your teacher to register for Every Child Needs A Teacher at www.sendmyfriend.org

There are 'Do It Yourself' resources for you to design your own materials at http://www.sendmyfriend.org/resource_type/do-it-yourself/

Get thinking with others about what you'd like to do

STEP THREE

Next try to get a story about your campaign in your local paper. The press pack for Every Child Needs A Teacher at <http://www.sendmyfriend.org/resource/press-pack/> contains step by step advice

STEP TWO

Set some targets for your campaign and plan how you'll work with others to achieve them. This will involve some careful project planning. Make sure you are realistic and set targets you can achieve

Get Global has some great ideas and practical examples to help you design your own campaign. It is at <http://www.getglobal.org.uk/> Or ask Oxfam for support.

STEP FOUR

Finally send your 'ideal teacher' messages to your MP with a covering letter—see page 2 for more information.

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Young Campaigners Tanisha and Jasmin from Soar Valley School organised a meeting with their MP Keith Vaz. They presented Mr Vaz with a t-shirt signed with messages from students at their school

Photo: GCE UK

WHAT TO DO

STEP ONE

Ask your teacher to register for Every Child Needs A Teacher at www.sendmyfriend.org

Organise collecting 'ideal teacher' messages as outlined on Pages 2 and 3. Try to collect as many thoughtful and passionate messages as possible.

STEP THREE

Invite your MP back to school. You'll find contact details at <http://www.theyworkforyou.com/>. Virtually all MPs also have their own websites which include contact details.

Our MP toolkit at <http://www.sendmyfriend.org/resource/mp-toolkit/> provides lots of advice about the best ways to engage your MP

STEP TWO

Plan the type of event you'd like to invite your MP to. For example it could be a large assembly or a smaller meeting with young campaigners.

Make sure your event is well organised, tightly scripted and creative. Rehearse with a teacher playing the role of your MP so you can iron out any glitches before your big day.

STEP FOUR

Have a great event!

Remember to ask your MP to do something specific. The MP toolkit has suggestions. Take lots of photos, ask your local paper to write a story and tell us how you got on.

Invite your MP to school and organise an event

Your MP is able to take your 'ideal teacher' messages to Parliament and share them with the Prime Minister and the Department for International Development (DFID).

Every year around 100 MPs visit schools in their constituencies and participate in events organised by young people.

Organising an MP event provides you and your friends with a great opportunity to develop project management and campaigning skills.

Make sure you ask your MP to take a specific action—for example to write to the relevant Minister—and to ask her or him to feed back the results of their action to you.

Finally don't forget to tell GCE UK about how you got on. We'd love to hear about your success!

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