



2019-0027645POSoS

**Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP**  
Secretary of State

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Judith Nemeth  
Executive Director, The Values Foundation  
By email: [jnemeth@values.foundation](mailto:jnemeth@values.foundation)

13<sup>L</sup> August 2019

Thank you for your email of 28 July, congratulating me on my appointment and inviting me to meet with you to discuss relationships and sex education, and also your email of 29 July to the Minister of State for School Standards.

It is a real honour to have been appointed as Secretary of State for Education. From the time I first became a School Governor, to serving on the Education Committee as a County Councillor, education has always been close to my heart. It is a privilege to be able to work with our brilliant social workers, teachers, college staff and lecturers who are making such a difference to people's lives. Working together, I believe that we can build a truly outward looking and global Britain.

My priority is to drive up standards and ensure that our children can have the best start in life, making the most of their time and opportunities in education and going on to lead successful lives, wherever they are from. To be in this role and to be able to be part of delivering this agenda is something that really excites me.

It is a privilege to have the opportunity to work alongside organisations such as The Values Foundation (TVF). I look forward to working with TVF as the department continues to develop its plans with regard to the teaching of relationships and sex education. I am grateful for your ongoing support in this vital area of work.

The department wants all children to leave school prepared for life in a modern, diverse Britain and understand the world in which they are growing up. As you know we hope these subjects will create an important opportunity to develop in pupils those important character attributes such as kindness, integrity and resilience.

My officials are working closely and proactively with the schools and their parents in Birmingham, as well as with partners around the country to support schools as they engage with parents during their implementation of the new subjects.

As part of this, we are working with the teaching union which largely support primary school headteachers, the National Association for Headteachers, to ensure that we are collectively providing the practical support that is needed to help schools with this engagement. We are also working with other stakeholders to ensure schools are supported.

I am grateful that you are engaging with my officials on these subjects and the importance of a positive faith perspective. With regard to your kind invitation to meet, my office is aware of your request and will be in touch if I am able to do so in the near future. However, I understand that you recently met with one of my officials, Mr Jonathan Daniels, Head of the Governance and Faith Schools Unit in the School Infrastructure and Admissions Division, to discuss these matters further.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gavin Williamson', with a large, stylized initial 'G' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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