

MAYOR OF LONDON

School Council

Holly Park Primary School
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Dear School Council members,

Thank you for your email of 29 June, asking me questions and expressing what important differences you'd like to see for London. I am sorry for the delay in my reply.

I am very pleased that you had such a wonderful time on your visit to City Hall, and I'm impressed that you managed to find your school on the giant map of London – it must have been tricky to find.

It is very admirable of you and your school to have donated money for the victims and families affected by the Grenfell Tower fire. I am sure that these donations will help a lot of people that need it. My thoughts are with the victims and families affected by this tragedy.

Being the Mayor of London is a difficult job, but I love it and I love this city – it is where I was born and grew up. It was a great honour to be elected by the people of London as Mayor in May 2016. I believe that London is the greatest city in the world, and I'm incredibly grateful and privileged to be trusted by Londoners to do this important job.

In carrying out my work as Mayor, I am driven by one great big ambition for London – and that's for every single Londoner to get the opportunities that this city gave me and my family growing up here.

You mention several important changes that you would like to see happen in London. I wanted to tell you how I am addressing them.

Like you, I think it is vital we have more affordable homes so that every Londoner can have somewhere decent and affordable to live. I have made it one of my top priorities to build more homes across the city, particularly homes that are affordable to people on low and middle incomes. I will ensure that we start building at least 90,000 new affordable homes in London by 2021.

It is also important for me to help people off the streets. We are a wealthy city, and it is wrong when people feel they have no choice other than to sleep rough. I have created a 'No Nights Sleeping Rough' group, which brings together key people to identify and pursue new ways of preventing and tackling rough sleeping in the capital. I recently worked with this group to successfully bid to Government for an extra £4.2 million to spend on services to help rough sleepers.

MAYOR OF LONDON

I was very lucky to go to fantastic schools in London and I want all young Londoners to have the same opportunities I had. That's why I am working with London Councils to make sure that there are enough schools in London and that these schools receive the money they need to remain the best.

I'm committed to planting more trees in London, and I'm providing funding for schools and community groups to plant more trees and help make London greener. In fact, your school can already apply for free packs of trees from The Woodland Trust of the Conservation Volunteers. These could be used to help plant a hedge, which may be able to be planted as a barrier near a polluted road if there is space. You can find more details about how to apply for free trees on our website at: www.london.gov.uk/WHAT-WE-DO/environment/parks-green-spaces-and-biodiversity/trees-and-woodlands.

I am also working on reducing the dangerous pollution levels in London. Therefore, I have asked the Government to help fund my plans to take diesel cars and vans off the road, which causes toxic air pollution. I'm committed to getting rid of highly polluting diesel buses and taxis in London as well. Next year I will stop new diesel taxis from operating in London, and I'm also aiming to buy only electric or hybrid buses by then too.

I also aim to reduce air pollution from cars by encouraging people to get out of their cars, that's why I am prioritising public transport and creating safer and more appealing routes for walking and cycling.

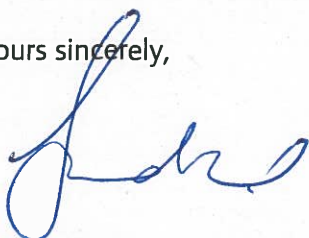
The recent tragic events in London have shown how our emergency services staff, doctors, nurses and police officers selflessly work around the clock to make sure we are safe and protected. I recognise the dedication of these people and want to make sure they receive the money and equipment they need to let them carry on the fantastic work they do to help others. I recently thanked these staff members by giving them free tickets for the World Para Athletics here in London.

I am committed to a safer city for all Londoners - it is my top priority to keep Londoners safe. I work very closely with the London Metropolitan Police Service and the Government, to make sure London is safe and secure against all threats such as terrorism, so that everyone can enjoy this wonderful city in peace and safety.

I hope that I have gone some way to reassure you that I am working on these important matters. I wish you every success with your bright futures.

Thank you for taking the time to write to me.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London