



2020-0029442POSoS

Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP
Secretary of State

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James Daly MP

By email: james.daly.mp@parliament.uk

Your ref: JD2454

24 June 2020

Thank you for your letter of 10 June, enclosing correspondence you have sent to Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, Leader of Bury Council, regarding the death of Shukri Abdi.

Thank you for raising the tragic death of Shukri Abdi with me and for our meeting on 11 June. You will have received a copy of my letter to the independent Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel reiterating the importance that in any child death, safeguarding partners should look at the events and examine local practice and systems to see if there were lessons to be learnt.

I have sought reassurance from the interim Chair that all the facts of the case have been properly established and that the original safeguarding partnership decision remains robust.

All schools must safeguard and promote the welfare of children. As part of this duty they must have regard to the department's' statutory safeguarding guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education.

Amongst other things the guidance is clear that all staff have a role to play in child protection, that if staff have any concerns about a child they should act immediately and where appropriate referrals should be made to children's social care and or the police.

The government has sent a clear message to schools that bullying, including cyberbullying, for whatever reason, is unacceptable. It can have a devastating effect on individuals, blight their education and have serious and lasting consequences for their mental health.

All schools are legally required to have a behaviour policy with measures to prevent all forms of bullying. They have the freedom to develop their own anti-

bullying strategies appropriate to their environment and are held to account by Ofsted.

On 7 June, we announced a £750,000 extension to our anti-bullying grant programme, which supports schools to tackle bullying. This includes projects targeting bullying of particular groups, such as those who are victims of hate related bullying.

Thank you for writing on this important matter.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gavin Williamson', written over a large, stylized blue 'G'.

Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP
Secretary of State for Education