



**THE RT. HON. STEPHEN TIMMS MP**

**House of Commons  
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*Labour Member of Parliament for East Ham*

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The Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP  
Secretary of State for Education  
Department for Education  
20 Great Smith Street  
London SW1P 3BT

Our Ref: ST81486

4 June 2020

Dear Gavin,

I have been contacted by a number of my constituents who have raised concerns about events of the last few weeks which have disproportionately affected Black people in the UK.

My constituents are troubled that the national curriculum excludes Black histories throughout, and omits the vast contributions Black people have made to the UK. They argue that, as a result, young people who learn from the national curriculum are not given a full or accurate version of British history.

I understand there have been numerous calls over the years to reform the national curriculum to incorporate Black histories, but that these requests have been denied.

My constituents tell me “...*learning Black history should not be a choice but should be mandatory. Our curriculum should not be reinforcing the message that a sizeable part of the British population are not valued.*” They are keen that Ministers include Black histories on the national curriculum from KS1 - KS4 to include Black British histories across different subject areas, including History, Citizenship, English and PSHE.

What are your thoughts on this suggestion?

Thank you for your help.

Yours sincerely,

STEPHEN TIMMS MP

Cc: Constituents