



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

5 May, 1981

*Dear Mr. Cope,*

Thank you for your letter of 16 April enclosing a copy of one from a young constituent of yours, Miss Hannah Rye.

I very much appreciate the congratulations which Hannah was kind enough to send me. I was also very interested in the points which Hannah made in her letter about schools and teachers.

I can quite understand her disappointment at school swimming lessons being stopped. But I am sure that Hannah will understand from her own experience that we cannot always afford all the things we should like to have. This is also true for local education authorities who have the difficult job of deciding how to spend the limited amount of money which the country can afford to spend on education.

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Hannah may also be interested to know that there are now far fewer children than there were a few years ago. That is why it is sometimes necessary to replace a teacher who leaves by moving one from another school. I know it can be a bit unsettling while a new teacher and a new class get to know each other, but I can assure Hannah that there are now fewer children for each teacher to look after than ever before.

I hope that Hannah will find this letter helpful. I should like to offer her my best wishes for the rest of her school career.

Yours sincerely  
Margaret Skelton

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Bob Cryer, Esq., M.P.