

Advice from home educating parent who has been to see her MP

My advice would be to start with asking what s/he knows about the subject then maybe explaining why you chose to home educate, emphasising all the positives. My MP was obviously impressed with our enthusiasm and I'm sure you'll make just as good an impression. I've yet to meet a home edder who is not passionate about education! You will give him/her more info than they'll ever be able to take in in one go so it would be a good idea to drip feed information following the visit i.e. send updates/articles or ask questions.

If your MP is Labour you could quote some of the positive comments that the minister made in response to [<http://www.theyworkforyou.com/whall/?id=2009-06-09a.216.0>] Mark Field's speech, or ask about funding. If there are 50000 home educated children we're currently saving them 200 million pounds a year. When you see your MP, leave them with something on paper; perhaps something of your own, but it need not be if you're not good at writing or haven't the time (goodness knows, we've all been forced to waste a lot of time we should have been spending on other things, not least our children's education).

Close your conversation with them, if they are in sympathy, by asking them to DO something: vote against it if/when it reaches the Commons, tell their colleagues, write to Ed Balls, initiate some delaying tactic – anything, but he/she is your elected representative, and it's action you want, not just sympathy.