

The government really does not care about children

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As the [TES has reported](#):

The education recovery commissioner, Sir Kevan Collins has written to the prime minister Boris Johnson to offer his resignation this afternoon.

Sir Kevan was unveiled by Boris Johnson as the government's catch-up tsar just five months ago, tasked with overseeing the creation of a plan that would ensure pupils could recover after two periods of school closures during the coronavirus pandemic.

It was revealed this week that he had asked the government to fund a £15bn catch-up fund, but today the Department for Education came up with just £1.4bn.

Amazing, a person of principle in an age when that is so rare. And principled for all the right reasons. This was his letter of resignation:

Rt. Hon. Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 0AA

2nd June 2021

Dear Prime Minister,
I am writing to offer my resignation as Education Recovery Commissioner.
The pandemic has caused a huge disruption to the lives of England's children. Since my appointment, I have spoken to hundreds of parents and over a thousand school leaders. Based on these meetings and my analysis of assessment data, I am in no doubt about the size of the recovery challenge we face. Without a comprehensive and urgent response, we risk failing hundreds of thousands of pupils.

Prior to my appointment, you announced the ambition that lost learning caused by the pandemic be recovered within this Parliament. I applauded this goal and viewed the responsibility of advising the Government on its approach to securing an effective recovery for all children as the most important task of my professional life.

When we met last week, I told you that I do not believe it will be possible to deliver a successful recovery without significantly greater support than the Government has, to date, indicated it intends to provide. I am concerned that the apparent savings offered by an incremental approach to recovery represent a false economy, as learning losses that are not addressed quickly are likely to compound.

I believe our approach to recovery should also offer children opportunities to re-engage with music and the rich range of activities that define a great education. I proposed extending school time as a way to provide this breadth, as well as to ensure that additional academic support does not cause existing

We now know three things about this government's attitude to children, based on what they have done today.

The first is that they do not count when issuing data on population and the achievement of vaccine immunity: only adults apparently count for this, which is ludicrous.

Second, they have no intention of vaccinating them, leaving them at massive risk of long Covid (and yes, they get it).

And third, they are not worth investing in, as this evidence shows. I estimate the proposed investment per child at under £100, others make it around £60. The requirement was ten times that.

This is callous indifference. And if parents don't begin to notice they clearly don't care either.