

PE1487/CC

St Matthew's Primary School Parent Council Email of 8 November 2013

Dear Clerk

As Chair of the St Matthew's Primary School Parent Council in Bishopbriggs, Glasgow, I write on behalf of the Parent Council including our Church Representative.

We are disappointed that the Petition submitted in relation to Religious Observance in schools appears to have been drafted without any regard to the position of denominational schools in Scotland and in particular the right, enshrined in the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, of the Catholic Church to determine religious observance in Catholic schools. It is critical that any legislation on this issue does not undermine or erode this right.

Catholic schools develop a Gospel - based vision, values and leadership which together underpin the life and work of the school. It is based on the Catholic Church's teaching on the purpose of Catholic education in the modern world and a Catholic school has been chosen specifically by parents for the education of their children, at least in part, because of this.

The Petition seeks to subjugate Catholic parents' rights by proposing to change what has been legally granted to them. Making decisions for all schools does not take into consideration the rights of parents who send their children to Catholic schools.

We hope that the Scottish Parliament takes account of the views of parents with children in Catholic schools should they choose to legislate in this area.

Your sincerely

Julie Devlin
Chair
St Matthew's Primary School
Bishopbriggs