

PE1530/CC

THE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SCOTLAND

GUIDANCE ON HOW CREATIONISM IS PRESENTED IN SCHOOLS

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT PETITION PE 1530

EIS RESPONSE

The EIS does not believe that the teaching of creationism or intelligent design is prevalent in Scottish schools. They are not part of the science curriculum and their discussion in RME or Social Studies classes would be part of a broader discussion on belief systems.

The banning of discussion of particular theories or belief systems is inconsistent with the principles of Curriculum for Excellence and the restricting of Christian (or other) views to discussion only within RME classes is contrary to the cross curricular approach that is at the core of CfE.

We believe that teachers are careful in not presenting their own beliefs or ideologies as either fact or in preference to other such belief or value systems and that teachers understand the importance of their role and their position of influence over the young people they teach.

Whilst there have been recent cases that have caused serious concern, there are systems in place both locally (through the Local Authority as employer) and nationally (through **the teachers' regulatory body the General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS), and through Education Scotland's HMIE inspection regime**) to address and remedy such situations.

The GTCS professional standards for teachers make clear that it would be inappropriate for a teacher to use his or her position to propagate particular personal views; the EIS position is that teachers can be trusted to conduct themselves professionally without the need for legislation.

We hold the view that the curriculum is a matter for teachers, both individually and collectively, and that legislative interference in the content of the curriculum is both undesirable and unnecessary.