

PE1530/U

Roddy Robertson Email of 9 November 2014

Petition PE01530

I write to fully endorse the above petition and to urge the Scottish Government to take cognisance of the potential threat to school children posed by these Young Earth Creationists

I approached all MSPs in 2011 regarding this problem and although everyone agreed the teaching of this mind stultifying nonsense in schools was unacceptable the majority failed to see it as an imminent threat.

We now have numerous incidents of their infiltration into schools with the recent furore at St Andrews Academy Paisley a good example wherein the problem is only highlighted when parents inform the press in the absence of any external monitoring of the teachers.

Kirktonholme Primary School in East Kilbride is another example wherein the head teacher invited creationist into the school to spread their absurd nonsense and once again only came to light when the parents approached the press.

Lasswade High School Bonnyrigg wherein a science teacher with 27 year service does not believe in evolution and once again only came to light when the parents approached the press.

The protection of our children's minds is paramount however it would appear to be at the discretion of their teachers as, unlike England the curriculum in Scotland is non-statutory and is therefore not dictated by the Government, whose only responsibility is to provide the framework for learning and teaching.

Clearly this situation is open to abuse and right wing creationist groups in America have identified this weakness in the Scottish system and we have become one of their targets along with Northern Ireland where a similar situation exists.

The above gives rise to the question of how many other schools have been infiltrated of which we are unaware, there is clearly a problem which now urgently requires to be addressed.

R Robertson