

**PE1530/X**



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To: **Public Petitions Committee**

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Re: **Public Petition PE1530**

I am writing in response to an e-mail requesting our views on the above petition.

We do not feel this is a serious issue for schools despite the inflammatory rhetoric frequently used by the petitioners. Speaking on behalf of secondary schools, we feel there are enough checks and balances already within the system to prevent extremist views being perpetrated within the school curriculum.

There are fairly detailed curricular guidelines applying to both the science and RME domains. Frequently schools are also encouraged to break down subject boundaries by reflecting where different disciplines interact and most schools are increasingly confident in dealing with this.

It is we feel always dangerous to identify particular views, whatever they be, and take the approach that is being suggested here. Issues such as this are best dealt with in the context of the school and we have every confidence in the ability of teaching staff and their school leaders to handle such appropriately.

This would be a dangerous precedent. To link it to the situation in Birmingham as someone has suggested is a little disingenuous given the significant differences between our two education systems. That is not to suggest complacency at national or at school level but to recognise, value and emphasise the significant and important checks and balances which, as we have noted above, are already in place.

Ken Cunningham  
General Secretary