

THE PARENT COUNCIL OF ST NINIAN'S HIGH SCHOOL

ANNUAL REPORT

2024 – 2025

1. Defending Catholic Education (at very short notice!)

This has been a perennial task for the SNHS PC and this year was no different.

Scottish Government (SG) Consultation on Religious Observance/Religious Education Opt-out

In November 2024, the Scottish Government (SG) published a Consultation seeking views on proposed changes to the current legislation on Religious Observance (RO) and Religious and Moral Education (RME) in schools. It was said that the proposed changes would support the "Alignment of legislation with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child."

In January 2025, SNHS PC submitted a robust Response to this Consultation setting out our five key objections to this proposed legislation. In summary, we believe the proposed amendment represents an unnecessary State interference in the cardinal issue of parental religious "conscience" which is better resolved within the family.

Worryingly, the SG has now pressed ahead with the publication of a Bill to enact its proposals and this Bill goes further than previously envisaged by proposing that a child will be able to veto the existing parental right of withdrawal from RO. We are concerned at the precedent set by SG's stated intention to override the exercise of parental rights of conscience on such matters.

Scottish Government Consultation on RSHP

The SNHS PC had previously submitted a Response to this Consultation in November 2023. In 2024-25 session, the SG published a detailed analysis of the public feedback on the Consultation. No further steps have yet been taken by the SG on its proposals.

2. Supporting School Initiatives

Discussion Paper on Proposed School Values

In October 2024, the School started a consultative process to identify and articulate the School's "values", a process instigated by Education Scotland. The SNHS PC was afforded the opportunity to contribute to this process prior to the wider Parent Forum being consulted. A Discussion Paper on Proposed School "Values" was tabled examining other