



**St Francis Primary School  
& Nursery Class**  
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**Scottish Government Consultation on Relationships, Sexual Health and  
Parenthood (RSHP) Education**

Dear families,

The Scottish Government has produced new draft guidance on Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood (RSHP) Education. They are consulting on the new guidance and are keen to hear the views of stakeholders before the deadline of Thursday 23 November. This guidance was last updated in 2014 and contained the following paragraphs.

***38. In Scotland, provision is made for some publicly funded schools that are denominational in character. The majority of these schools are Roman Catholic and they are an integral part of the public education system. Denominational schools play an important part in Scottish education. The Scottish Government values this provision and is committed to maintaining it.***

***39. The Scottish Government supports the right of the Roman Catholic Church to give witness to its faith, and to uphold the traditions of Catholic education. We value the contribution made by Catholic schools, and have no intention of changing the current position where faith aspects of the curriculum in Catholic schools are determined by the Scottish Catholic Education Service acting on behalf of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland. These faith aspects relate to religious education and religious observance.***

***40. In February 2011, the Scottish Government issued advice to local authorities and head teachers reiterating that the experiences and outcome for Religious Education in Roman Catholic schools should be delivered in conjunction with guidance provided by the Scottish Catholic Education Service. We have no plans to change this advice.***

***41. National guidance on the curriculum is always developed on the basis of wide consultation. It is recognised that religious authorities with a role in denominational education provide guidance on RSHP education for their denominational schools and that right will continue as at present. This national guidance should be seen to be complementary to the guidance provided by the religious authority while at the same time serving as a useful basis for everyone.***

The updated guidance has removed these paragraphs.

The Bishops' Conference of Scotland has issued a statement expressing its disappointment and confusion that the Government has decided to delete all reference to Catholic schools. The bishops have strongly requested the re-insertion of the paragraphs relating to Denominational Education from the previous iteration of the guidance, which would reflect both the legal protection for schools with a Religious Character, and the previously supportive position of Scottish Government for Catholic schools.

The Scottish Catholic Education Service (SCES) have subsequently called for many as possible to respond to the consultation to protect the autonomy of our Catholic schools.

The consultation ends on **Thursday 23 November**. Below is a link to completing the consultation:

<https://consult.gov.scot/learning-directorate/teaching-guidance-for-relationships-sexual-health/>

We feel that St Francis' Primary does an excellent job for the young people and families that it serves and we feel that Catholic Schools serve young people very well in this area. We think it is important that you are aware that this process is taking place. We would ask you to take the time to read this information carefully and ensure that this consultation reflects the views of all parents involved. We ask for your support in this matter by completing the questions in this consultation.

Kindest regards,

*C Lynch*

Caroline Lynch

Depute Head Teacher