1 October 2021

Dear Colleague,

A number of schools have been in touch with the Diocese with regard to the recent launch of LGBT Inclusive Education and the leaflet from the National Parent Forum of Scotland for parents and carers.

As you know, Catholic schools are enabled by the Scottish Government and required by the Church to follow Church guidance, provided via the Scottish Catholic Education Service, to give witness to the Catholic faith and to uphold the tradition of Catholic education (SCES RSHP Guidance 2015).

There is no national curriculum in Scotland, and resources – whether badged by Scottish Government or not – have no mandatory basis. Schools should continue to plan from the E&Os and TIOF, using appropriate resources to match the planned learning and teaching. Comprehensive and sensitive Equalities and Inclusion resources for Catholic schools are available from the SCES website to support the whole school community. [Scottish Catholic Education Service | SCES | Equality & Inclusion Learning and Teaching](https://sces.org.uk/equality-learning-and-teaching/)

You may find it helpful to refer to ***The Ten protocols for Partnership Working*** (SCES *Understanding RME in Catholic Schools*) which was distributed at SCES CLPL sessions on Equalities and Inclusion. It is also downloadable on the SCES Equality & Inclusion Whole School page [Understanding RME in Catholic school.pdf](file:///C:\Users\Director.Schools\Downloads\Understanding%20RME%20in%20Catholic%20school.pdf) The protocols refer to the involvement of partners including what are perceived to be “National” representatives such as NPFS and the role of the Head Teacher in approving their contribution.

Unfortunately, we were not consulted by the NPFS when they were putting together their leaflet with the effect that we do not believe it reflects the approach to Equalities and Inclusion in Catholic Schools and, therefore, it would be misleading to issue it to parents. I have attached the parent leaflet for use in Catholic Schools which was produced by the SCES Parent Group and can be adapted by schools for their own use. It can also be downloaded from the SCES website. <https://sces.org.uk/download/adaptable-equality-policy-for-schools/>

In the meantime, if any specific issues arise in your school, please do not hesitate to contact the Diocesan Education Department.

In addition, since the Equalities and Inclusion CLPL was delivered for Primary Schools in Renfrewshire (October 2019) and Inverclyde (February 2020), you may have new staff, including promoted staff, who have not participated in this training. Please get in touch and we will seek to provide in-service for them.

Yours sincerely,

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Neil Roarty

**Director of Schools**