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Address

Date:

Dear Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills,

I write in response to the **Consultation on, the revised *Conduct of Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood Education in Schools* teaching guidance.**

The introduction offers an overview of some of the developments in education since 2014 with the suggestion that these are the reasons why the 2014 iteration of guidance requires o be refreshed. However, there is no explanation or justification for why the 2023 version should have departed so far from the previous version, why sections should be deleted and why dis proportionate emphasis should be given to certain aspects.

The 2014 guidance could have been adapted and enhanced to include necessary developments while maintaining the previous content and ensuring that it remained high level guidance.

As a member of the Catholic Education Community, I have grave concerns that the paragraphs dedicated to Denominational Education (paragraphs 38 – 41) in the 2014 iteration of guidance have been deleted.

I ask that these be fully reinstated.

In addition, I request that Scottish Government reiterates their support for Denominational Education and that the Religious Authorities with a role in denominational education, in our context the Bishops’ Conference of Scotland, continue to have the right to provide guidance on RSHP for their schools and that Scottish Government Guidance is complementary to that of the Religious Authority – not as 4.11 states that the guidance from religious authorities is ‘additional and complementary’.

Name

Signature