

Dear sir

I have read with great interest the draft version of the above document and welcome a great deal of what is contained therein. I further welcome the inclusive mention of other minority languages in a cosmopolitan land we wish to see as 'One Scotland'.

Nevertheless I am somewhat dismayed at what appears to be a deliberate downplaying of my native language, Scots, which receives no specific mention in '3 - 18 - A Curriculum for Excellence.' I for one was particularly delighted when the 5-14 Guidelines gave the Scots Language an acceptability, a credibility, a respectability which hitherto had not been the case. I had grown up in a society which had demeaned the language of my home, of my parents and of my friends.

As a headteacher with a passion for my language as well as a desire for all my young people to be able to communicate within a wider world context, I valued enormously the stance taken within the 5-14 Guidelines. It is essential, in my view, that we do not lose this status and importance afforded to the Mither Tongue. I teach children every day who need to translate in their heads when I ask them to write in English. Many of them can, when asked, be quite fluent in the language of their home because there is no need to translate it first.

I urge you to add to this fine document a section which maintains the status of Scots so that the huge strides taken in the last fifteen years or so are not squandered and lost.

Kind regards

**Stewart Anderson**

Headteacher