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Piaskowski K (Karen)

From: Kevin Connell [rcdom3@adslmail.newnet.co.uk]
Sent: 10 June 2005 12:05
To: Parental Involvement Bill
Subject: 1006

Importance: High



Consultation
Document.doc (34 ..

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Please find attachment regarding Making the Difference Involving Parents Better

Fr. R. Kane
Diocese of Motherwell

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RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM:

Please complete the details below and return it with your response. This will help ensure we handle your response appropriately. Thank you for your help.

Name: Robert Kane, Diocese of Motherwell

Postal Address: DIOCESAN CENTRE
COURSGINGTON RD
MOTHERWELL ML1 1PW

1. Are you responding: (please tick one box)
- (a) as an individual go to Q2a/b and then Q4
- (b) **on behalf of a group/organisation** go to Q3 and then Q4

INDIVIDUALS

- 2a. Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in Scottish Executive library and/or on the Scottish Executive website)?

Yes (go to 2b below)

No, not at all We will treat your response as confidential

- 2b. **Where confidentiality is not requested**, we will make your response available to the public on the following basis (please tick one of the following boxes)

Yes, make my response, name and address all available

Yes, make my response available, but not my name or address

Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address

ON BEHALF OF GROUPS OR ORGANISATIONS:

3. The name and address of your organisation **will be** made available to the public (in the Scottish Executive library and/or on the Scottish Executive website). Are you also content for your response to be made available?

Yes

No We will treat your response as confidential

SHARING RESPONSES/FUTURE ENGAGEMENT

4. We will share your response internally with other Scottish Executive policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for the Scottish Executive to contact you again in the future in relation to this consultation response?

Yes

No



Submission of the Diocese of Motherwell

to

**Making the Difference
Involving Parents Better**

**This submission is the result of a meeting
on Tuesday 7th June 2005
at the Diocesan Centre Motherwell
with Church Representatives on School Boards**

A:

The Diocese of Motherwell welcomes the aim of the proposed changes to School Boards i.e. to encourage the greater involvement of parents, but is concerned that the positive aspects of current School Board Legislation might be lost under the current proposals.

The Diocese is aware of current good practice of School Boards that presently ensures that parents are already involved in the life of the school and would hope that this good practice would be continued in the future. However the consultation document does not seem to be aware of this good practice nor of the tremendous work that is already being done by school board members for the life and growth of school communities.

The Aspects of the current legislation which are particularly valued are:

- the supportive nature of School boards as a partnership between parents, teachers and the local community (in Catholic Schools, particularly the local parish)
- the significant involvement of parents in the appointment of Head Teachers
- the legal right of the Church to representation on School Boards in Catholic Schools.

B:

We wish to express the following concerns regarding the proposals:

- the lack of proposed structures for future parental involvement
- the vagueness about responsibilities and duties of members of parent forums
- the lack of reference to a vision of parental forums as a partnership between teachers, the local community/parish and parents
- the prospect of small groups of parents being able to set their own agenda without reference to the concerns of the wider school community
- the lack of involvement of the Head Teacher
- the removal of the involvement of parents in the appointment of Head Teachers
- the removal of the right of the Church to representation on School Boards in Catholic Schools.

C:

Our hope for the future is:

- that the current good practice of parental involvement that we value of the school, community/parish and parents partnership would be strengthened by any further legislation
- that any proposed changes would be based upon an examination of the present practice of School Boards so that positive good practice be maintained and nourished and that any ineffective practice may be either eliminated or renewed to ensure that parental involvement contributes to the highest standard of education of all pupils.

Fr R Kane
Vicar Episcopal for Education