

I live in your constituency and I am writing to you today regarding the Government's Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill. I'm a strong supporter of Catholic schools and I'm very concerned about both the damage this Bill will do to parents' rights as well as the message it sends to Welsh parents, that the Government does not trust them to choose what is right for their own children. I believe parents and not the State are the primary educators of their children. This is particularly important when it comes to sensitive subjects such as Religious Education and Relationship and Sex Education given how intrinsic they are to faith and belief. By removing this right of withdrawal, the Government is either signalling it doesn't want parents to raise their children in line with their own values and beliefs or that the Catholic faith is incompatible with life in modern Wales. Church schools already teach high-quality RE and RSE and work closely with parents to ensure that they are delivered respectfully in a holistic manner. On a practical level the parental right of withdrawal encourages this essential dialogue between schools and parents. Not all Catholic families have the option to send their children to a Catholic school. As such they may decide to use their current right to ensure their child receives RE and RSE that is compatible with their faith. Even more astonishingly, this Bill would not only remove these rights, but would allow non-Catholic parents in a Catholic school to request a secular RE curriculum yet prohibit Catholics in non-Catholic schools requesting a Catholic alternative. This is unfair and penalises those with religious beliefs. It has always been clear that the right of withdrawal is of vital importance for the Catholic community and has provided the essential balance for parents of all faiths and none to ensure their beliefs are respected in all schools. I would ask you listen to the voice of Welsh Catholics and raise my concerns in the Senedd during the Bill's passage.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Name.....

Address.....

City.....

Postcode.....

Email Address.....