

F/T: 0131-244 0983 F: 0131-244 0834  
E: andrew.bruce@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Dear colleague

Further to our letter to you in December, and consultation responses that we subsequently received, we are now writing to thank you for your involvement in this process of revising the Scottish Government's guidance on Religious Observance in Scottish Schools.

Please find attached to this letter a copy of the guidance which has now been finalised to reflect the comments received. We were grateful for all consultation responses and views about this area of school practice. While we have not been able to accommodate all the suggestions for specific wording which were made in respect of various sections of the document, readers may notice various changes made in the interests of clarity and consistency.

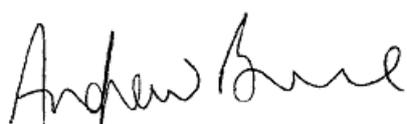
The predominant view which emerged was that the revisions being proposed to the guidance were worthwhile. Some consultees expressed the view that a more thoroughgoing review of the policy should be undertaken to look at more fundamental aspects of policy and practice. This is something which we in Scottish Government will continue to keep under review, bearing in mind the various aspects and issues which would need to be taken into consideration.

As we said in December, this was not a review of the legislative provisions underpinning the provision of Religious Observance in schools, neither does it mark a shift in Scottish Government policy. Instead, the revisions to the guidance serve two purposes:

- To ensure that readers are clear that young people should be involved in decisions about Religious Observance in their education; and
- To bring references and language up-to-date and provide additional clarity where it is thought this is needed.

We hope that this revised guidance will prove useful to schools, local authorities and anyone involved in Religious Observance in schools, complementing the guidance available from Education Scotland.

Yours sincerely



**ANDREW BRUCE**

Cidhe Bhictòria, Dùn Èideann, EH6 6QQ  
Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ  
www.scotland.gov.uk

