

PE1487/DD

8th November 2013

Petitions Committee
Scottish Parliament

Dear Sir/Madam,

[PE01487: Religious observance in schools.](#)

I write to you as Church Representative of St Louise Primary School Parent/Staff Group regarding the above.

I attach a copy of a letter sent to SPTC regarding their letter to yourselves in connection with the above petition. From the contents it can be seen I wish to strongly disassociate the views of our parent council from those of the SPTC. This body is not representative of anyone other than its own members as far as I am aware. It certainly does not represent the views of St Louise Parent/Staff Group. We categorically oppose the petition for the reasons stated in the letter.

I would be obliged if you could take our views into account when considering the petition.

Yours faithfully,

Marie Croser (Mrs)
Church Representative
St Louise Parent/Staff Group

Dear Sir/Madam,

In response to the [SPTC letter dated October 11, 2013](#) in regard to the petition at the Scottish Parliament PE01487: Religious observance in schools I write to advise that the Parent/Staff Group of St Louise Primary School, East Kilbride **do not** support your position and I would be certain that all Catholic School Parent Councils will be advising you similarly.

The SPTC are not a representative body of parent councils nor should your views be taken as such. The Parent/Staff Group from St Louise disassociate themselves entirely from the views expressed in your letter.

There is no involvement from our Parent/Staff Group with this body and as far as I am aware the opinions of our Parent/Staff Group have not been sought. Your views are simply your own and should not be confused with those of the vast number of Parent Councils throughout Scotland. Our Parent Staff Group, representatives of parents in a Catholic school, wish the status quo to prevail. We reject the petition entirely. Catholic schools and religious observance in schools are part of the traditions of this country and should not be brushed aside on the whim of a fashionable position. The safeguards in place for parents and children who wish to opt- out are well established and adequate. There is therefore no need to change the present legislation.

We are concerned that your letter might give the impression that all Parent Councils have been involved in reaching the conclusions contained therein. They have not. Our council and I am sure a number of other school councils, if they were made aware of the situation, would reject the petition and also the views in your letter. It would therefore be appropriate for the SPTC to clarify that they do not speak for anyone other than themselves in this regard in order that there is no confusion.

I would be obliged if you could acknowledge receipt of this letter.

A copy of this letter is being sent to the Scottish Government department involved in the Petition.

Yours faithfully

Marie Croser (Mrs)
Church Representative
St Louise Parent/Staff Group