

22.2.2023

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing in relation to the new proposed ALRC review for Catholic Schools as a concerned parent and Catholic person of faith.

Many parents, predominately non-religious , send their children to a Faith Based School because they value the ethos, standard of education and values that these schools offer the student. I have listed below some of the reasons that highlight the benefits of this type of educations as it is not limited to academic prowess, moreso to the development of the whole person, spiritually, emotionally and academically.

1. Being accountable for student learning
2. Being courageous and encountering possibilities and engaging in dialogue to achieve excellence in all we do.
3. Embracing and enhancing individual gifts, talents, wisdom and capabilities.
4. Moving forward together, strengthening the bond between families, staff, school and system headers.
5. Collaborating contributors who find meaning , dignity and purpose in work and life and who respect the rights of all and who contribute to the common good.
6. Creative critical thinkers who solve problems and make responsible decisions with an informed moral conscience for the common good.

As we live in a Pluralistic and democratic society and we have choices for our children to attend state or Faith based schools , I feel that the changes to the anti discrimination laws must go hand in hand with proactive legislation to protect our religious freedom.

I feel very strongly that Catholic Schools should be free to be Catholic.

This means being able to build a community of faith within the school and Parish which is not limited to a narrow approach to preferencing the enrolment or employment of Catholic students or staff.

It should allow for faithful people to give expression to their beliefs as do other religious schools of diverse faiths such as Jewish Schools.

In accordance with their Religious beliefs, Catholic Schools do not discriminate and are not seeking to discriminate base on a person's attributes.

As an Catholic parent I do think is essential that the staff of our schools are prepared, (when choosing to work and teach) in a Catholic School, that they uphold the ethos and values of that school.

I hope and pray that you will leave in place the current status quo of our Pluralistic differences in our Catholic Schools.

Yours faithfully,

Teresa Jadwischczak

Parent of 2 Students and Mother

