



LIMAVADY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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PRINCIPAL

Mr R Wilson BSc (Hons), MSc, Grad Cert Ed, PQH (NI)

09 October 2014

Mr P McCallion
Clerk to the Committee
Committee for Education
Room 375, Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3XX

Dear Mr McCallion

Shared and Integrated Education Inquiry

As a school my Board of Governors welcomes the concept of pupils, of all cultural and religious backgrounds, being educated and working together.

Limavady Grammar School is a Controlled Grammar School under the auspices of Western Education and Library Board. The Board of Governors is made up of DE Representatives, WELB Representatives, Parent Representatives and Teacher Representatives. As with all other Controlled Grammar Schools, there is no church representation on the Board and consequently the school is not aligned with any Transferor group.

The school has a long history of providing 'integrated' education. Indeed the demographic make-up of the school, pupils and staff, would suggest that it is probably one of the most integrated schools in Northern Ireland. It has a greater 'mix' than many schools which bear the label 'integrated'. Whilst encouraging parents to take the main lead in religious upbringing of their children, the school upholds a strong Christian ethos and facilitate pupils, whose parents request, to attend religious services during the school day on Days of Holy Obligation.

The natural process of integration as has developed in Limavady Grammar School, meeting the needs of the whole community, is undoubtedly the way forward. Initiatives like Shared Education Campuses, which attract huge financial investment, have the potential to maintain community divisions with only a small number of pupils benefiting from the elements of sharing. In the meantime schools like Limavady Grammar School will not benefit financially for the long established work that is undertaken to educate together pupils from all faiths and none.

In relation of your committee's terms of reference, I would suggest that existing models of good practice, such as Limavady Grammar School should, be given due consideration and priority.

Yours sincerely

AP

R Wilson
Principal