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# Dundonald Gospel Hall

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8 October 2024

To Northern Ireland Assembly Committee for Education

## **Inquiry into Relationship and Sexuality Education in Schools**

Just under a year ago, we submitted views as part of the consultation on the above subject undertaken by the Department of Education.

It therefore appears somewhat strange that the matter is once again the subject of a public consultation, but we would take the opportunity to state our views that spiritual and moral development is important in relation to teaching on healthy relationships, consent, well-being and related topics. These topics should be taught in a way that is age-appropriate, comprehensive and scientifically accurate, reflecting moral and ethical perspectives.

In relation to information about abortion, the fact the many people, particularly those of faith, believe that ending life in the womb is morally wrong should be made known to pupils.

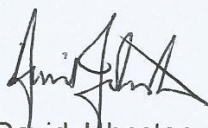
(Genesis 2 v 7: "the Lord God ... breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul".)

We believe that those with parental responsibility have the right to know (in any subject) what is being taught in order to make informed judgements.

We believe that young children (Primary School) should be largely protected and guided on these subjects. Those with parental responsibility should be consulted along this pathway.

Any regulations need to balance the rights of children and the rights of those with parental responsibility. It is our view that parental rights and views should be paramount until the child reaches age 16.

Yours faithfully,



David Johnston

Secretary