CAW10 Individual

Consultation on the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill

Evidence submitted to the <u>Children, Young People and Education Committee</u> for Stage 1 scrutiny of the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill.

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1. The Bill's general principles

1.1 Do you support the principles of the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill?

No

1.2 Please outline your reasons for your answer to question 1.1

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 1500 words)

I'm a parent of three "agnostic" children from a family of agnostics – you might also call use "atheist" but we're not spiritual in the least and atheism is a belief that cannot be proven any more than deism can be shown to be true. Living in this no-man's land leaves us floating with little support or recognition. We're often assumed to be Christian because of where we live (or how we act) but nothing could be further from the truth.

Ethics and compassion are key to an inclusive society, that is without question, but they can be taught and learned without reference to an improvable being that lives outside of our reality. By splitting things as you propose you are going to make the problem worse, not better. Religion has no place in the modern education system except to recognise that it exists and can be a force for good – or bad. Secular ethics however, have no such problem. They just are.

I give money to help people, I give aid to the suffering and I counsel those in crisis. I do these things because I recognise my own humanity, not because of some being I was taught to fear as a child. Separation causes fear and resentment. Just look at how African Americans are fighting white Americans with each side accusing the other of racism. This isn't going away any time soon and the problem here is similar – these kids are taught (in this case by oral history) to hate or distrust based simply on skin colour.

I've seen it here in the UK too. Black people complaining they are discriminated against and then acting out when faced with legal and appropriate approaches from police. This creates incidents and tensions that are not helpful – and then the same people go on the news and complain they were the victims.

Systemic religious hatred is no different it's just more easily hidden. The way to stamp it out is to put everyone in a single stream and keep god(s) out of it.

1.3	Do you think there is a need for legislation to deliver what this Bill is trying to
achiev	ve?

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 500 words)

2. The Bill's implementation

2.1 Do you have any comments about any potential barriers to implementing the Bill? If no, go to question 3.1

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 500 words)

2.2 Do you think the Bill takes account of these potential barriers?

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 500 words)

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3. Unintended consequences

3.1 Do you think there are there any unintended consequences arising from the Bill? If no, go to question 4.1

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 500 words)

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4. Financial implications

4.1	Do you have any comments on the financial implications of the Bill (as set out
in Par	t 2 of the Explanatory Memorandum)? If no, go to question 5.1

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 500 words)

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5. Powers to make subordinate legislation

5.1 Do you have any comments on the appropriateness of the powers in the Bill for Welsh Ministers to make subordinate legislation (as set out in Chapter 5 of Part 1 of the Explanatory Memorandum). If no, go to question 6.1.

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 500 words)

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6. Other considerations

6.1 Do you have any other points you wish to raise about this Bill?

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 1000 words)

I think, from what little I've seen, this needs scrapping and building from the ground up with one thing in mind: inclusivity for ALL.