Equalities and Human Rights Committee  
Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Bill  
Meeting in a Box – alternative format template for responses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group name (how you would like to be identified)</th>
<th>S5 Penicuik High School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Facilitator</td>
<td>Hollie Lyon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact details (email or address)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meeting date</td>
<td>26/2/19 and 5/3/19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of people who participated</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geographical area participants are from</td>
<td>Penicuik, Midlothian</td>
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</tbody>
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Do you support the Bill's aim to end the physical punishment of children by parents or carers? What are the reasons for your answer?

4 voted yes.
Reasons:
• Unable to educate children if resorting to violence
• Promotes bad behaviour being dealt with by using further negative behaviour

9 voted no.
Reasons:
• Children are more likely to respond when punishment gives them a fright
• Verbal punishment is not strong enough, especially if behaviour is unsafe
• Gives a clear definition of what is right or wrong
• Gives a clear indication that parents have authority
• Allows for child to be disciplined

9 voted unsure.
Reasons:
• Depends on the individual situation
• Adults might use it as an excuse to be violent/abuse child

What groups do you think would be impacted by the change? For example, parents, children, public services, the legal profession, etc. How will they be impacted?

• Parents will lose authority
• Teachers will have to deal with a rise in bad behaviour and will need to report parents if violence is suspected which could have knock on results at home.
• Police – there might be a rise in children reporting parents. Also a rise in costs for such cases to be investigated.
• Community buildings – may be damaged as a result of no respect
Do you think there will be any additional impact on groups with protected characteristics? For example, disability, race, religion or belief, etc?

Did not respond.

Are there any equalities and human rights issues that you think should be considered?

Some pupils think that children should have the same rights as parents however if children gain too much freedom, where does it end? It is impossible to class a child and an adult as the same as they have a different understanding of the world.