



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

**EQUALITIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE
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Dear James,

It is not Cool to be Cruel: Prejudice-based bullying and harassment of children and young people in school

I am writing on behalf of the Equalities and Human Rights Committee (EHRiC) to draw to your attention the EHRiC report on prejudice-based bullying and harassment of children and young people in school. This report was published today, 6 July, and is now available on the EHRiC website:

- [It is not Cool to be Cruel: Prejudice-based bullying and harassment of children and young people in school](#)

I have written today to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, John Swinney MSP, bringing the report to his attention and setting out the steps EHRiC proposed to undertake following this inquiry. I have copied that letter to you for your attention. EHRiC is seeking a written response to our recommendations from the Scottish Government by 4 September 2017.

Issues relevant to the Education and Skills Committee

The EHRiC report makes recommendations with regard to the refresh process the Government is currently undertaking on *Respect for All*, the National Approach to Anti-Bullying. During our inquiry we considered the findings and

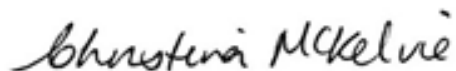
recommendations of your recent inquiry report on Personal and Social Education (PSE),¹ and we have endorsed those recommendations that are relevant to the work we have undertaken on prejudice-based bullying and harassment.

Given the alignment of several key issues in relation to PSE and prejudice-based bullying and harassment, I feel there is merit in EHRiC and Education and Skills Committee seeking an opportunity for a joint parliamentary debate on our respective recommendations, as well as the Government response to both of our reports. I would welcome your views on our recommendations and the proposal for a joint parliamentary debate.

I hope the findings and recommendations in the EHRiC report will prove helpful to the Education and Skills Committee in terms of your scrutiny function on education policy.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely,



Christina McKelvie
Convener
Equalities and Human Rights Committee

¹ Education and Skills Committee 7th Report 2017 (Session 5): *Let's Talk about Personal and Social Education*: <https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdnep.azureedge.net/published/ES/2017/5/22/Let-s-Talk-About-Personal-and-Social-Education-1/7th%20Report.%202017.pdf>