

PE1623/E

Janet Briggs email of 21 November 2016

In support of the Scottish Secular Society's petition, I wish to say that three mandatory Christian Church representatives on the Education Committees of all Local Authorities hardly reflects the composition of 21st Century Scottish society. Many people choose not to attend church, and, particularly in our cities, we can find many families who follow other religions than Christianity. Are their interests safeguarded?

I am not against religious observance, being myself secretary to the Glasgow Unitarian Church, where I have been a member since 1969. I understand that children (I had four) should be taught something of the culture of the land we live in, but should they not also learn something of the insights of other major religions, which are also built upon moral values? As a Unitarian, I would particularly emphasize the importance of respect and tolerance for those who think differently, rather than the conformity which the major Christian churches prescribe.

I recognise that religious bodies have a keen interest in religious schools, but this need not extend to a heavy hand on the so-called Non-Denominational ones. Sectarianism has been one of the curses of our society. Good citizenship need not depend on any metaphorical religious belief.