



Ref. CB

7<sup>th</sup> May 2010

RECEIVED

10 MAY 2010

STATES GREFFE

Dr Roy le Hérisssier  
Chairman Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Sub-Panel (Political Education  
Review)  
Scrutiny Office  
States Greffe  
Morier House  
St Helier  
JE1 1DD

Dear Roy

Thank you for your letter of 31<sup>st</sup> March informing me of the intention of the Panel to undertake a review of Political Education in Jersey Secondary Schools.

As a Private (Independent) School, Beaulieu Convent School, has the freedom to determine its curriculum provision outside that set out in Jersey by the Jersey Curriculum Council, which advises the Minister and School Head teachers on these matters.

In practice, we seek to follow the guidelines and good practice of the UK National Curriculum Provision in our core and foundation subjects but have sought to work more proactively within the areas of Religious Education and Personal, Social and Health Education as mandated by the Trust Deed of the school and in accordance with the wishes of our Trustees.

As a Catholic School, we see in our tradition that responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation. The decisions we make as citizens about who leads us and what politics are enacted, have important moral and ethical dimensions. The values of our faith should be and are our guide to public life.

As a school, we believe that this message is important, not just for adults, but also for young Catholics, as they learn about their faith tradition and its implications for how we live our lives. At Beaulieu we seek to create an important setting for sharing our Church's teaching on civic responsibility.

Continued/.....

Our curriculum at Key Stage 3 seeks to cover a range of opportunities for our students to explore and engage with these issues:

In Year 7 the focus is on understanding the local provision, its history the people and the politics, Parish structures and understanding the context that young people find themselves in Jersey.

In Year 8 we focus on Society and our Community leading to a study Choices and Consequences in Year 9.

Our Programme in the Sixth Form gives opportunity for a deeper understanding of local voting processes and creates opportunity for political enquiry. The results and the quality of this engagement are demonstrated each year in the Chamber through the Youth Assembly.

Student feedback tells us that our students view local politics as a contest of powerful interests, partisan attacks, sound bites and media hype. As a Catholic school, we call for a different kind of political engagement: one shaped by the moral convictions of well-formed consciences and focused on the dignity of every human being, the pursuit of the common good, and the protection of the weak and the vulnerable. The Catholic call to faithful citizenship affirms for us the importance of political participation and insists that public service is a worthy vocation.

As Catholics, we believe, and as a Catholic school we teach that we should be guided more by our moral convictions than by our attachment to a political party or interest group. When necessary, our participation should help transform the party line to which we belong. We are called to bring together our principles and our political choices, our values and our votes, to help build a better world.

Building a world of respect for human life and dignity, where justice and peace prevail, requires more than just political commitment and school involvement. Individuals, families, businesses, community organisations, and governments all have a role to play. Participation in political life in light of fundamental moral principles is an essential duty for all people of good will.

In light of these principles, which underpin this aspect of our curriculum at Beaulieu, we welcome any development that would enable a renewed call to awareness enabling students to engage with a new kind of politics;

- Focused more on moral principles than on political votes
- Focused more on the needs of the weak than on benefits for the strong
- Focused more on the pursuit of the common good than on the demands of narrow interests.

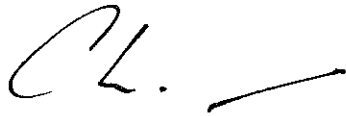
Continued/.....

This kind of political participation supporting a curriculum reflecting the social teaching of our faith and the best traditions of our Island and Nation would be most welcome.

I commend the work you are undertaking and in response to your request for our views, happily submit these comments to you and wish you and your committee success with your review.

With my best wishes,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'C' followed by 'L.' and a horizontal line extending to the right.

C. Beirne  
**Headmaster**