

Safe at School
c/o Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC)
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Rt Hon Michael Gove
Secretary of State for Education
Castle View House
East Lane
Runcorn
Cheshire
WA7 2GJ

7 July 2010

Dear Mr Gove,

We wish to draw your attention to two matters of grave concern.

Schools have become a major target of those seeking to affect children's sexual behaviour, through such policies as the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy.

Parents are not kept informed of what their children are being taught in this sensitive area, and are even obstructed in their reasonable efforts to safeguard their children.

A case which is currently in the media illustrates this situation graphically. Christopher and Pauline Power from Wirral have spoken publicly of their distress and anger regarding the sex and relationships programme used in their son's primary school.

Their child's school uses the Channel 4 sex and relationships education course for primary schools, *Living and Growing*. One of the DVDs shows a naked cartoon couple having a pillow-fight and chasing each other before having sex in different positions. Mr and Mrs Powers raised the matter with the headteacher and Wirral education authority, but could get no satisfaction. Finally they raised the matter with their MP, Ms Alison McGovern.

They heard nothing from the MP until they received an accidental email from Ms McGovern's assistant:

"Alison, think we need to get a response out to this gentleman. Know it's an awfully uncomfortable discussion to have, but think we need to get a position (stop giggling at the back) sooner than later. Jay"

This highlights two key issues:

1. The explicit and pornographic nature of the materials being used in schools
2. The contempt in which parents who have acted with great courage and concern for the good of their child and others are held.

We would like to invite you to meet Mr and Mrs Power to hear for yourself the difficulties that parents face getting a satisfactory response when raising these issues, and the concerns about programmes currently being used in classrooms around the country.

This is what is at stake: Schools using programmes such as *Living and Growing* teach young children how to have sex, while trivialising sexual relationships, and then tell them how to try to prevent conception. This is grooming children for teenage sex.

I hope to hear from you soon so that I can introduce you to Mr and Mrs Powers.

Yours sincerely,

Antonia Tully
Co-ordinator
Safe at School

About the SPUC Safe at School Campaign

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) is a national pro-life organisation which works to defend human life from conception to natural death. We have been campaigning for over 40 years against abortion and work in every area of society where unborn children and their mothers are at risk from abortion.

The classroom has become one such area because explicit sex education in schools feeds the abortion culture by priming young children to become sexually active once they reach their teens, or even before. Schools are also the channel for 'signposting' abortion services, via bodies like Connexions and Brook working in schools, as well as through the school nurse network. Children are thus referred for abortions without the knowledge or consent of their parents through schools.

SPUC is not opposed to sex education programmes where the school is supporting the parents in teaching their own children about puberty and sexuality. SPUC campaigns against sex and relationships education (SRE) which is sexually explicit and which promotes sexual activity and the use of contraceptives and abortion services.