

PE1487/M



[www.christiansinscotland.org.uk](http://www.christiansinscotland.org.uk)  
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*Encourage one another and build each other up.  
1 Thessalonians 5:11*

10th October 2013

Dear Sir

**Public Petitions Committee of the Scottish Parliament**

**PETITION PE01487: RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE IN SCHOOLS**

We are writing on behalf of Christians in Scottish Education and wish to raise our concern about the changes being proposed for Religious Observance in Schools. Up until now and as displayed on the [educationscotland.gov.uk](http://educationscotland.gov.uk) website 'As well as being a statutory element of a school's provision, religious observance also has an important part to play in the development of the learner's four capacities, as a successful learner, confident individual, responsible citizen and effective contributor.'

As we agree with this statement and strongly believe that religious observance does have an important part to play in promoting positive mental and emotional wellbeing we fail to see why a few individuals are now wanting to change the system from opt out to opt in. With the growing number of mental health issues in Scotland and a quicker road to recovery when a person has a spiritual faith, shouldn't we be trying to keep religious observance in our schools?

We trust that you will give this matter careful consideration before changing the lives of our young people in a negative way.

Yours faithfully

Executive Committee of  
Christians in Scottish Education