

PE1530/Y

Phil Butcher Email of 18 November 2014

Dear Mr Sharratt,

I am writing to express deep concern that there are no published guidelines against the teaching of creationism and intelligent design as though they were science. There is room for pupils in RE lessons to be taught about (but hopefully not taught as fact) these extremely reactionary and out-dated views, but the idea that they should be taught as science is shocking. We should not reject the strong evidence accumulated by scientists that evolution is as near to fact as anything can be in the world. "Nothing in biology makes any sense except in the light of evolution." As scientists our main aim is to teach that the world should be questioned by observation and experiment, and the answers listened to, and not fought against on the basis of doctrine. Intelligent design encourages a kind of biased enquiry that prejudges the outcome and is not open to the real evidence. This is no way to teach science. Teachers have a strong responsibility and privilege because of their influence on young minds. Teaching ID as science is abuse of that privilege.

Yours sincerely,

Phil Butcher