BRACKENAGH WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Dear Parent

I am writing to make you aware of a serious and significant development in education, which will impact on the future of Brackenagh West Primary School, and all controlled schools. Currently, a private member's bill, called the 'Integrated Education Bill', is progressing through the Northern Ireland Assembly, which gives preference to integrated Schools above every other type of school.

If this bill is passed, in its current form, it means that integrated schools will have clear advantages and will benefit from more opportunities for extra places, additional schools and resources, including funding. Brackenagh West Primary School, and all other controlled schools in Northern Ireland will not benefit from this, which is both unfair and discriminatory. Details of the bill can be found at http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/assembly-business/legislation/2017-2022-mandate/non-executive-bill-proposals/integrated-education-bill/.

There has been no direct consultation with schools, parents or the community on this matter. As you know our school is well established and has been part of our community for many years. It is open to all young people to be educated together, as are schools across the controlled sector. There are a number of different school types in Northern Ireland, and it is important that each type of school has **equal access** to resources, funding and opportunities, and that one school type is not elevated above another. We firmly believe that all children and young people should be educated together. This is happening in Brackenagh West Primary School, and across controlled schools every day. This bill completely ignores this fact, is inequitable, and prioritises only one type of school.

Our support body, the Controlled Schools' Support Council, has provided evidence to the Assembly Committee for Education stating the above and continue to talk to individual assembly members and local councillors, raising our concerns: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zyi_hpmSV_c . If you share our concerns, we would ask you to do likewise, to ensure that all our local Assembly Members (MLAs) are aware of this, as a matter of urgency. The bill reaches its final stages in the Assembly on the 7th and 8th February. It's important that the wider community is aware of our concerns around the serious impact of this bill.

The email addresses of the MLAs who represent our constituency can be found overleaf. Your local Councillors can be found on the Council webpage.

I thank you for taking the time to read my concerns, and would encourage you to act if you share them.

Yours sincerely

M.J. Peacock

Principal

Constituency	Candidate	Party Short	CONTACT
South Down	Emma Rogan	Sinn Féin	emma.rogan@mla.niassembly.gov.uk
South Down	Colin McGrath	SDLP	colin.mcgrath@mla.niassembly.gov.uk
South Down	Jim Wells	DUP	jim.wells@mla.niassembly.gov.uk
South Down	Sinéad Bradley	SDLP	sinead.bradley@mla.niassembly.gov.uk
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Members of Assembly Education Committee			
Belfast East	Chris Lyttle	Alliance	chris.lyttle@mla.niassembly.gov.uk
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Belfast West	Pat Sheehan	Sinn Féin	pat.sheehan@mla.niassembly.gov.uk
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Newry and Armagh	Justin McNulty	SDLP	justin@mcnulty@mla.niassembly.gov.uk
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West Tyrone	Daniel McCrossan	SDLP	daniel.mccrossan@mla.niassembly.gov.uk