

From: [Redacted s.38(1)(b)]  
Sent: 28 November 2017 12:34:42  
To: Public Engagement Unit  
Subject: FW: [Redacted s.38(1)(b)] physical literacy  
Attachments: Letter from [Redacted s.38(1)(b)] 26 Nov.pdf

For MACCS please

[Redacted s.38(1)(b)] | [Redacted s.38(1)(b)] | Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary Education and Skills | Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | Ext [Redacted s.38(1)(b)]

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From: [Redacted s.38(1)(b)]  
Sent: 27 November 2017 15:24  
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills  
Cc: [Redacted s.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted s.38(1)(b)]  
Subject: [Redacted s.38(1)(b)] physical literacy

Hi

Please find attached correspondence for John Swinney.

Thanks

[Redacted s.38(1)(b)]

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Mr John Swinney  
Deputy First Minister and  
Cabinet Secretary for Education

26 November 2017

Dear John,

Thank you so much for coming to visit St David's RC Primary to see STEP in action and to hear from the head teachers about the impact it is having in Scottish classrooms. I know we share a common purpose to help children who are struggling to achieve their potential and I am a firm believer that a child's physical literacy is critical to achieving this goal. Given my own experiences I am passionate about helping Scottish children who need that bit more to become confident learners.

I thought three things stood out on Thursday: the significant improvement in the behaviour and engagement of the STEP pupils, the direct benefit on the whole class, and the added benefit of improvement in teacher wellbeing. STEP embeds key skills in children that enables them to function in the classroom and as you said, this in itself, will increase the chance of them learning.

I really appreciate your offer to help us overcome the obstacles we face which are very real. On Thursday afternoon I was at Balbardie primary school in Bathgate taking assembly and meeting STEP students to be told yet again that a person from Education Scotland was actively discouraging schools from West Lothian from taking part in STEP. I am seeing Graeme Logan this week and will be raising the matter with him in person. We are facing a struggle in trying to engage with local authorities who have been told by "Education Scotland" that the STEP Programme should not be used. Consequently, accessing head teachers is extremely challenging. Schools in Edinburgh were told by authority education officials that they were not allowed to take part in STEP as Education Scotland had issued a statement that advised against it. The decision in Edinburgh has now been reversed but only after considerable intervention with the council's leaders.

We both want to do better for the Scottish children who need our support the most and I will continue to work with you and MSPs across all parties who believe that physical literacy is a key component.

Thank you again for your time, your interest and your sincerity.

Best wishes,

[Redacted s.38(1)(b)]

PS, what a fantastic result for Scotland at the weekend role on the Six Nations..



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