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The Rt Hon Gillian Keegan MP
Secretary of State
Department for Education
20 Great Smith Street
London, SW1P 3BT

Sent by email only

2 November 2022

Dear Secretary of State

Congratulations on your appointment.

The work of your Department is crucial in helping to make life better for people across the country. We wish you every success in the role.

As you may know, the Catholic Union works with others to represent the views and interests of the 4.5 million Catholics in Britain and advance the common good. We bring the experience and expertise of Catholic laity from all walks of life and every part of the United Kingdom into the public sphere.

There are many areas of your work of interest of Catholics – including recognising and supporting the work of faith schools, promoting free speech on university and college campuses, and in making sure the school curriculum does not discriminate against mainstream religious views.

I know you have experience of Catholic schools firsthand. Now that you are Secretary of State, I hope you will do everything possible to support Catholic schools, including lifting the cap on faith-based admissions to new free schools – something that was promised in the 2017 Conservative manifesto.

We would welcome an early opportunity to meet you or your Special Advisers to discuss mutual areas of interest, and how we might be able to work together. If you are agreeable, we would be delighted to hear from your office with some suitable dates and times for a meeting.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

Nigel Parker
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