

24 June 2020

Mr. Barry Mulholland,  
Chief Executive,  
Controlled Schools Support Council

Dear Mr Mulholland,

On behalf of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland I would like to acknowledge and commend the response of school leaders, teachers and governors across the school system in Northern Ireland to the many challenges presented by the global pandemic.

The word 'unprecedented' has undoubtedly been overused over recent months, but there still is probably no better description of the sheer enormity of the situation you have all had to confront. This includes the closure of school buildings, preparation of materials for home schooling, creating hubs to provide education to children of key workers, adapting to guidance for assessing GCSE and A-Level grades, alongside everything that needs to be taken into consideration as schools make plans to re-open. This list is of course is not exhaustive!

I also want to acknowledge the role of your own organisation in providing advice and support to schools, whilst adapting to new ways of working and caring for vulnerable family and friends.

I recognise that this will have taken its toll on all involved – physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually and also relationally. As society begins to emerge out of lockdown, and the full extent of the consequences of all that has happened over the last three months starts to be realised, we are aware that many challenges lie ahead.

While it may not be your own practice or tradition, please know that as a denomination we continue to hold all those involved in the education sector in our prayers, and will continue to do so in the weeks and months to come.

Yours sincerely,



Rt Rev Dr David Bruce  
Moderator of the General Assembly  
Presbyterian Church in Ireland