



Mr Barry Mulholland
Chief Executive
Controlled Schools' Support Council
Second Floor, Main Building
Stranmillis University College
Stranmillis Road
BELFAST
BT9 5DY

25 June 2020

Dear Mr Mulholland,

May I express the thanks and deep appreciation of the Methodist Church in Ireland for the response of school governors, principals and teaching staff through Northern Ireland to the ever-changing and increasingly challenging times during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is important to acknowledge their role and CSSC in bringing stability and some normality to civil society. I commend you for all the extra work with which you have been involved. For many you do not have to return to school, the truth is you have never left it!

Enormous pressures have meant massive preparation and pressures for home schooling and internet resources, closure of schools, attending to children of key workers, adapting to almost daily guidance from the Education Authority and the Department of Education for the purposes of examination assessment and a return to school policy.

As you approach the end of a School Year, I commend you for all your efforts.

The Controlled Schools' Support Council has been 'hands on' in support of all their schools and staff during these days. You too have had to adapt and learn new ways of supporting teachers and those families who are considered vulnerable. Thank you too for all your hard work.

I have been full of admiration and am realistic to know that all of this has been extremely difficult and there has been a price to pay among teaching staff, parents and pupils. The consequences may yet become evident as we emerge from the pandemic.

I convey my best wishes and prayers

Yours sincerely,

