



19th June 2024

To the Right Reverend Patrick McKinney

CC: James McGeachie, CEO, Our Lady of Lords Trust; Kevin Gritton, CEO, St Ralph Sherwin Trust; Neil Lockyer, CEO, St Thomas Aquinas Trust.

We are writing with deep concern as representatives of staff working in schools in the Diocese concerning the Bishop's instruction not to celebrate Pride Month as reported in the media [EXCLUSIVE: Diocese bans celebration of 'Pride month' in Catholic schools - Catholic Herald](#)

Pride Month is a celebration of love, equality and diversity and events over the globe involve many people of multiple faiths who equally associate these values with their faith.

We are very concerned therefore that this move by the Diocese to ban Pride celebrations sends completely the wrong, and deeply hurtful, message about the lack of value the Diocese places on inclusivity, diversity and support in schools.

It is our sincere hope that this is a misunderstanding that can be swiftly resolved. We would therefore request that the Diocese lifts this ban as a matter of urgency and confirms so in writing by 28th June.

There are wider implications of the statements made not least the reliance on the DfE draft guidance, although consultation has closed, the final document has not been released and is certainly widely disputed with the joint trade unions responding accordingly through the TUC.

We would welcome meeting with you, the Director for Education and the CEO's to address our ongoing concerns and as well as our request above for you to withdraw the ban we look forward to hearing from you to arrange that meeting.

We understand that you may also receive individual submissions with further detail from trade unions but ask that you consider this to be the joint trade union position.

Yours sincerely

Emma Roberts
UNISON Regional Organiser & Regional Schools Lead

Sheena Wheatley
Joint District Secretary
Nottingham City NEU

Adana Godden
GMB Organiser

Anne Thompson
NASUWT