

Standards-Not-Tiers
Press Release
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Conservative Party Policy Ignored as Pugh and Wells Seek to Destroy Island Education System

Standards Not Tiers, now in their 4th year as a campaign group, have learned that plans by David Pugh and Alan Wells to close many small rural primary schools, are not only alienating their local party members but are in direct conflict with Conservative party policy on education.

Chris Welsford, Chairman of Standards Not Tiers said: "Team Pugh-Wells must have missed the publication of the Conservative green paper in November last year. Their plans seem to have ignored their own party's political lead on this. Maybe they are about to form their own breakaway party, in another country hopefully!

"The green paper clearly states that they are in favour of allowing 'smaller schools and more intimate learning environments to be established to respond to parental demands'. It goes on to state that, 'Parents need to feel that they have a stronger bond with their child's education and the school community. We want to help every parent be actively involved with their child's education, making it easier to work effectively with the school to provide the best opportunities'. The Pugh-Wells Plan will have the opposite effect"

Debbie Hart, Campaign Coordinator for the group said: "The council's plans will reduce parental involvement in their children's education, not strengthen it. Involvement is strongest in Primary Schools and Middle Schools but reduces considerably when young people arrive at High School. Local schools where parents can walk their children to school and maintain close links with their children's education is key to higher standards. It is a fact that children whose parents are interested and involved in their education do better at school. We need to be making it easier for parents to engage, not harder!"

This is a link to the green paper http://www.conservatives.com/pdf/New%20opportunity_proof.pdf

For further information editors should contact Chris Welsford, Chairman - Standards-Not-Tiers
07854 744 062 or 01983 853 600