

National Council for  
Curriculum and Assessment

13 JAN 1995

Association of Irish Humanists

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Mr. Albert O Ceallaigh,  
Chief Executive,  
National Council for Curriculum & Assessment,  
Dublin Castle,  
Dublin 2.

10th Jan. 1995

Dear Mr. O Ceallaigh,

With reference to a letter of 30th November from Anne Looney, Education Officer, on the plans to make religion a Leaving Certificate subject. The Course Committee is offering to send us a draft syllabus when prepared, for our comments and suggestions.

As the Association representative of the largest minority in Ireland, which is the non-religious minority (*see figures attached*) - we would expect to be represented on this Course committee currently developing a secondary school programme for a religious education course that may become a Leaving Certificate subject, possibly by 1997.

Our contribution to the committee's work would be in the area of Humanism which would cover secularism and atheism. We already have a teaching module for secondary schools consisting of a video and teaching pack.

According to M/s Looney's letter, the "initial" work of the committee has been with those directly involved in religious education at secondary level. We also have already presented an introduction to Humanism in a number of secondary schools. Our viewpoint is represented in the book "Contemporary Moral Issues" by Joe Jenkins published by Heinemann Educational, 1987.

Our Association understands that representatives of the main churches are included on this committee. Accordingly we also would expect to be included on the committee at this stage.

We thank you and await your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Ellen Sides

Ellen Sides,  
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cc. Sr. Pat Murray