



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Education News



The patron "saint" of bullies, Martin

So ran the headlines in the Belfast Telegraph of an article, reporting on the latest hypocrisy planned by unrepentant former terrorist boss and Sinn Fein leader, Martin McGuinness. As Education Minister, he is planning to introduce legislation to ensure that every school in Northern Ireland has an anti-bullying policy.

McGuinness said: "Every school is required to have a written discipline policy which must promote self-discipline among the pupils, good behaviour and respect for others." "My Department has advised schools, in its booklet Pastoral Care in Schools: Child Protection that they should have a clear, whole-school anti-bullying policy statement within their pastoral care and discipline policies."

"This should set out what measures the school will take to prevent bullying, and how they will tackle it when it happens." "My Department also issues on a regular basis guidance on bullying produced by other statutory and voluntary agencies such as the NSPCC." "I intend to strengthen this by taking the next available legislative opportunity to make it a mandatory requirement upon every school to have an anti-bullying policy in place." He said that the Department was also preparing substantial guidance to schools on the promotion of good behaviour." "This guidance will have a major section on combating bullying, and practical advice on how to deal with both bullies and their victims," he explained. "A major piece of research into bullying in Northern Ireland has also been commissioned from the University of Ulster. The report is due next summer."

Now, we have to acknowledge the vast experience that Martin McGuinness has in bullying! Indeed, he and his colleagues in Sinn Fein are amongst the world's experts on intimidation. They make Flashman and his ilk look positively angelic! He owes all that he is as a Minister of the Crown and a statesman on kissing terms with Hilary, wife of the President of the US, Bill Clinton, to his expert use of bullying. He has bullied his way into public life, into the Northern Ireland Assembly, into negotiations with British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, into the office of Education Minister and into partnership in government with David Trimble. Only the most churlish would quibble about McGuinness's ability as a bully. Doubtless, his legislation will successfully deal with the issue. It might also show the rest of us how to rid ourselves of this political parasite once and for all.

Congratulations to Bangor Christian school pupil



Included in the list of names released by the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment as attaining the best results in GCSE and A-Level examinations in Northern Ireland in the summer past, was that of Lorna Graham. She obtained the top mark in Classical Civilisation. Speaking of the achievements of those who obtained the tops marks, Mr. Gavin Boyd said: "To gain one of the top three places in a GCSE or A-Level examination in Northern Ireland is a tremendous



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achievement and worthy of the highest praise." Lorna is the daughter of Mr and Mrs. Alan Graham. Mr. Graham is a deacon in Bangor Free Presbyterian Church.