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The Director General

Letter Circular

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To: Educators, Educational Leaders and Parents

From: Ian Mifsud - Director General (DQSE)

Subject: A Tragic Awakening

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Waking in the aftermath of the tragic news that yesterday shocked Malta and the connected world, I could read in so many eyes, grief, anger, disbelief, sorrow and so many other intricate emotions that thankfully intimately still belong to us as humans. As a citizen, a father, and particularly an educator in my current role, I felt compelled to express the grievous awakening with which we are faced, reminding us of the collective responsibility for the formation of today's and tomorrow's society.

Whilst emphasising that the prime educators incontestably need to remain the parents, I deeply recognise that no other profession has been endowed with the potential agency to influence the moral fibre or social fabric as much as the one I proudly belong to. Our vocation is not to act as mere teachers of subjects, but to be educators of human beings, called to create a caring and safe, yet lovingly firm and orderly climate where learning and formation of spiritually, morally, emotionally, cognitively and physically healthy individuals unfold, particularly through the example we set. The curriculum is moulded by life, and today we are reminded that the fostering of active citizenship which upholds the values of life, love and genuine respect above all, is as, if not more, important as supporting individuals in becoming employable, lifelong learners. My plea to each and every one of us, is to be cognisant of the beacon we represent to so many youngsters, encouraging our interactions within formal education to inspire love, creativity and critical thinking, epitomised in the pursuit of a meaningful life within a just and better world, also through responsible freedom of speech.

I extend my same appeal to fellow parents and guardians, irrespective of political and/or other beliefs, fervently trusting, also as a Roman Catholic living within a multi-faceted, diverse community, that mankind's essence is good, and this should prevail when setting our priorities, which also entail personal sacrifices. I sincerely believe that most of us genuinely wish each other well, and this is to be nurtured through our thoughts, words and actions, so our children may flourish and inherit the values we jealously protect.

Thank you for collectively acknowledging this tragic awakening and sharing this responsibility entrusted to us.

Yours,
Ian

Ian Mifsud
Director General
Directorate for Quality and Standards in Education