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cc DHS

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THE PRIME MINISTER

8 June 1988

Dear Peter,

Thank you for your letter of 26 May and for your note on the provision of religious education in schools.

Your analysis was most interesting and thought provoking. I will not comment in detail on what you said since I know that you are seeing Kenneth Baker to discuss the matter. But I would not want to see religious education lost from some schools altogether, as your proposals, if I understand them aright, would seem to allow. That would be so unfair for the children involved.

I have asked Kenneth to let me have a report on your discussions with him.

Personally I incline towards the approach that religious education must be based on the Old and New Testament; that is the established Church, that is our history, which values have shaped our ideas and beliefs. I do not think we should be shy about saying so.

Yours ever

The Rt. Hon. Lord Thorneycroft, C.H.