Dear Sir or Madam,

I strongly disagree with the removal of drama as an independent subject from the primary school curriculum. Especially as the reasons listed in the draft plan as being the cause of reduced literacy and numeracy are -
1. television in childrens' bedrooms
2. extensive internet usage and gaming
3. insufficient educational resources in the home

How, based on these reasons, could one deduce that removing drama from the curriculum will solve the problem?

Surely the fact of insufficient educational resources in the classroom should point us in the direction of the need to enrich a child's school experience as much as possible.

Instead of removing drama from the curriculum why not -
1. encourage the establishment of book clubs in schools
2. set up borrowing libraries in schools where children can borrow educational resources and bring them home
3. use the resource of the parents' associations to support the teaching of literacy and numeracy for example by weekly storyreading sessions and maths games mornings

2010 was the year where Dublin became one of a select few UNESCO cities of literature. In the land of such dramatists as Beckett, Wilde, Friel; is 2011 the year we are to see our children's cultural heritage diminished?

Also, as a parent, I think it is awful that the three reasons listed in the report as affecting literacy and numeracy levels are not made known to parents in general. After all, tv in the bedroom, gaming and resources at home are all issues that concern parents and maybe by educating parents as to these findings would have better results that reducing the cultural richness of our childrens' schooling.

Why not issue guidelines to parents on how to improve their children's literacy levels and highlight the findings of the report? Then at least parents are informed and have the choice to act on the information.

Please, please think creatively as to how best help our children grow, develop and learn. Removing drama from the curriculum is not the answer to how best nurture our childrens' literacy and numeracy skills.

Yours faithfully,

Susan Kennedy-Killian