

Ted

(headed paper)

Tel: 01329-284471

25, Middleton Close,
Fareham,
Hants. PO14 1QN
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The Readers' Editor,
The Guardian,
Kings Place,
90, York Way,
London N1 9GU

Dear Sir,

I write on behalf of the Campaign to suggest that the parents who wrote to complain of swearwords in The Guardian (Open Door, Guardian, 23 May) were not trying to protect their children from obscenities. They were trying to protect themselves from embarrassment.

I doubt whether the man who complained of finding "Fucked Up" in The Guide is a regular Guardian reader. If he were, he would know that quite often the content of The Guide is obviously intended for adolescents.

The alleged welfare of children should never be used as an excuse to censor material which is legal and intended for adults. Amateur censors (including parents) do not really act on someone else's behalf. They act to defend themselves from what upsets them.

We can respect The Guardian because it does not try to write a paper suitable for children. People who want a paper suitable for junior school pupils can buy the Sun, which is said to need a reading age of no more than eight.

Children being what children are, content warnings, especially on a website, might make them more likely to take a look, not less.

Yours faithfully,

(Hon. Secretary)