

Children in Scotland is the umbrella body and collective voice for the children's sector. Our membership is made up of over 500 organisations and individuals working in the public, private and voluntary sectors in a variety of fields, including education, health, social care and childcare. We aim to play a leading role in creating a Scotland where children are valued, every child thrives and every childhood is a good one. We welcome the opportunity to contribute to this consultation on personal and social education.

We believe all children and young people must experience consistently high quality personal and social education sessions. This could be achieved by:

- PSE should receive the recognition it deserves as an essential subject on the curriculum. There is still some work to do to help everyone understand its importance to the development of young people in achieving their full potential and become successful learners, confident individual, responsible citizens and effective contributors. This will help combat issues that some schools experience such as staffing, timetabling and resourcing of PSE.
- Like any other curricular subject, PSE must offer personalisation and choice, challenge and enjoyment for every young person. Young people must be given opportunities to make progress and experience interdisciplinary learning. Planning and delivery should be based on information on every child's progress and achievements, to plan different learning to meet their individual needs. This includes any additional support needs young people may experience.
- PSE should be a place for young people to develop relationships with peers and with staff (who often have pastoral care responsibility for them) and develop their own understanding and opinions on often complex issues and topics that affect them directly or indirectly.
- PSE programmes should link to the school's own context and be informed by the needs of the local community. It should be a responsive and dynamic programme, taking into account local circumstances.
- Children and young people must be meaningfully involved in the planning, development and delivery of a PSE programme. **Education Scotland's Health And Wellbeing Impact Report 2013** states 'young people would like more input into the content and approach taken to delivering personal, social and health education' and 'To engage learners effectively in their own health and wellbeing, their views need to be sought, valued and acted upon'. The **Scottish Government's Conduct Of Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood Education in Schools December 2014** also states 'It is good practice to collaborate with and involve young people in the co-design of RSHP programmes in order to ensure they are kept relevant to their needs and interest'.
- Improved consultation with parents/carers and partners too is essential, developing local links and utilising local expertise. As stated in the **Scottish Government's Conduct Of Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood Education in Schools** 'Parents and carers play a key role in all aspects of their children's education and the collaborative partnership between them and school should be a key element of RSHP education delivery'. This can be said for all aspects of a PSE programme.
- With regard to specific content, through our work, children and young people have shared with us that they would like to experience more under these topics:
  - life skills, such as money management
  - bereavement and loss
  - parenthood
  - politics – voting, political systems
  - LGBTI issues – we support TIE Campaign's call for embedding LGBTI topics and issues into school curricula and social teaching