



Review Your School!

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Introduction

A key part of ensuring that schools teach a 'Curriculum to Prepare Us for Life' is consulting with their pupils as to what life skills they want to learn, how they want to learn it and the effectiveness of current position. This is your chance to assess your own school, help us build up a national picture of PSHE and Citizenship provision and to tell your school what you would like to be taught.

At the moment few students are actively consulted as to what their PSHE and Citizenship lessons should include. A survey by the sexual health charity Brook found that 78% of young people have never been consulted on what should be covered in their sex and relationships lessons.

You may have already succeeded in getting your school or other schools in your area to pledge to teach a 'Curriculum to Prepare Us For Life' and this review procedure will help to ensure that the provision they have put in place is effective, relevant and reflective of pupils views in that school. We want to make sure that each pledge is taken seriously and not forgotten as time goes on.

Alternatively you can use this tool to help persuade teachers, governors and the head teacher of your school to adopt a 'Curriculum To Prepare Us For Life' by showing them a student's view of PSHE and Citizenship within their schools.

Action List

- 1) Complete Section 1 of the questionnaire with the relevant member of staff from your school
- 2) Run the focus group session contained with your school or another suitable group of students from the school across a range of year groups
- 3) Using the responses from this session complete Section 2 of the questionnaire
- 4) Send the results of your questionnaire to hugo.brookes@byc.org.uk
- 5) Write a letter, or arrange a meeting with your head teacher giving the results of the survey and any recommendations raised by the school council
- 6) Request to present your results to your schools Governors
- 7) At the Governors meeting present your case for how your school can improve its curriculum to better prepare its students for life.
- 8) If your head teacher or Governors take action to improve your school's Curriculum let BYC know at hugo.brookes@byc.org.uk
- 9) Repeat this process on a regular basis to ensure that the PSHE and Citizenship curriculums remain relevant and a focus for your school.

Review Your School Questionnaire:

Section 1

This section should be completed with the help of the member of teaching staff responsible for Citizenship and PSHE provision.

School:

Staff Member:

Position in School:

1) Which year groups study PSHE and Citizenship and how is it delivered?
 (For example, weekly sessions, collapsed timetable days, as part of other subjects etc)

	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13
Delivery Style							

2) Do you cover any of the following areas of study within PSHE lessons? Please tick

	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13
Political Education							
Sex & Relationships Education							
Cultural Awareness Education							
Community Cohesion Education							
Finance Skills Education							
Sustainable Living Education							
Citizenship Education							
Other: _____							

3) Do you have a designated PSHE or Citizenship teacher at the school?

Yes / No

4) Do you engage with any outside agencies/voluntary sector/other providers to help deliver any PSHE and Citizenship programmes?

5) Does the school consult with students about the proposed content of the PSHE and Citizenship lessons?

Yes / No

Please explain the process below:

6) Does the school ask for feedback from students about the content and delivery of PSHE lessons?

Yes / No

Please explain the process below:

7) Has your school pledged to teach a 'Curriculum to Prepare Us for Life'?

Yes / No

Section 2

The answers to these questions should be discussed by a group of young people from the school such as a school council.

- 1) The way PSHE and Citizenship is taught in my school gives enough time to cover all suitable topics:

Strongly Agree Agree Don't Know Disagree Strongly Disagree

- 2) The way PSHE and Citizenship is taught in my school allows me to learn effectively:

Strongly Agree Agree Don't Know Disagree Strongly Disagree

Any comments about how PSHE and Citizenship are taught:

- 3) The people who teach PSHE and Citizenship are the most suitable people to do so:

Strongly Agree Agree Don't Know Disagree Strongly Disagree

Who would you like to be taught by?

- 4) The topics covered by my school are relevant and useful to students:

Strongly Agree Agree Don't Know Disagree Strongly Disagree

Other topics I would like to see taught are:

5) Students at this school can influence the content and delivery of PSHE and Citizenship lessons:

Strongly Agree Agree Don't Know Disagree Strongly Disagree

6) How would it be best to hear student's views about PSHE and Citizenship?

7) My school prepares students for life:

Strongly Agree Agree Don't Know Disagree Strongly Disagree

Any other comments:

Focus Group Plan

This plan is designed for an hour session, although it can be adapted as necessary to suit your school

Participants:

Each group will be made up of a range of young people from the same school. This may be a school council or other equivalent group, but should contain students from different school years.

Resources:

Paper and pens, someone not in the discussion to take notes

Introduction (5 minutes):

“As part of the UK Youth Parliament’s campaign ‘A Curriculum to Prepare Us For Life’ we are reviewing the Citizenship and PSHE education in schools across the country. Today we are going to run a session to look at what you think of the provision in your school and what you would like to see taught in this area. There are no right or wrong answers and everything you say will be anonymous when we report on the results

Personal, Social and Health education is an optional subject for schools to teach and Citizenship with some financial skills is part of the national curriculum. However if your school is a private, free or academy school they are free to set their own curriculum. Typically PSHE and Citizenship education may include topics such as political education, sex and relationships education, financial education, sustainable living, community cohesion.

From Section 1 let the group know how the school offers PSHE and Citizenship lessons in terms of structure, teaching staff and topics covered.

Icebreaker (5 minutes):

What do you think young people should know before they become adults? Get students to write down their top three things and discuss amongst themselves.

Discussion (30 minutes):

Introduce each topic and allow students to discuss each point, although don’t worry about sticking directly to each question if the discussion is about PSHE and Citizenship. Ensure someone makes brief notes about what is discussed in order to fill out Section 2 of the questionnaire.

- Structure of lessons
 - Is there enough time given to PSHE and Citizenship?
 - Do you feel like you learn things in PSHE and Citizenship?
 - How could the way PSHE and Citizenship is taught be improved?

- Who teaches lessons
 - Are the people who teach PSHE and Citizenship the most suitable?
 - What type of person would you prefer to be taught by? (e.g specially trained teachers, people from outside organisations etc)
- Topics covered
 - Do you feel the topics currently taught are relevant to young people?
 - Which topics would you like to see taught which aren't currently covered?
- Pupil involvement
 - Do you feel you can influence the content and delivery of your lessons?
 - How would it be best to ensure pupils voices are heard on this issue?

Recommendations (15 minutes)

Following the discussions of the group ask them to identify any areas where the school could improve its PSHE and Citizenship lessons. Try to find feasible actions the school to take to improve its provision. One of these actions may be to pledge to teach a 'Curriculum to Prepare us For Life' if your school has not already done so. Make sure you make a note of these!

Conclusion (5 minutes)

Thank you for helping to review your school. The results from our discussions today will be sent to our head teacher along with our recommendations. In addition to this, it will also be presented to our Governors who influence the school's curriculum. Results from across the country will give a national picture of PSHE and Citizenship provision.

What next?

Well after going to all of that effort I'm sure that you would like to see your school acknowledge the views you have collected and perhaps even implement some of your recommendations. Your head teacher and your governing body are the two most powerful areas for you to target. In addition to this, sending your survey to hugo.brookes@byc.org.uk will make sure we can acknowledge your work and build up a national picture

Arranging a meeting with your head teacher:

Ask at reception how you can make an appointment with your head teacher. There will probably be somebody for you to email or speak to who can give you a specific slot of time with the headteacher.

What to say to your head teacher:

Explain that you have reviewed the school's PSHE and Citizenship provision with students and discuss any area of concern with your head teacher. Present the recommendations to them and ask if they will consider adopting any of them.

How to arrange a meeting with your Governors:

While meeting with your head teacher you could ask them if you could present your findings to the Governing body.

Alternatively you could again ask at reception or ask one of your teachers for the Chair or Clerk of your Governing board's email address, and email them to ask if you could present at their next meeting.

What to present to your Governors:

Explain that you have reviewed the school's PSHE and Citizenship provision with students and present any areas of concern to the Governors. Remember to praise any strong areas too. Then give your recommendations to the Governing body and ask that the Governors responsible for deciding the curriculum and teaching consider adopting some of them.

Ensuring quality PSHE and Citizenship in the future:

Repeat this review process every year and continue to present your findings to the head teacher and Governing board. Even if they didn't take up your recommendations the first time continuing to remind them of where the school could improve may help them to improve PSHE and Citizenship.