



Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-559
Ein cyf/Our ref HL/01610/14

William Powell AM
Chair Petitions Committee

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

6 August 2014

Dear William

Thank you for your letter dated 23 July informing me of Eleanor Price's petition on the subject of increasing the number of education programmes regarding self harm in Welsh secondary schools.

As part of the school curriculum in Wales, personal and social education (PSE) prepares learners to be personally and socially effective by providing learning experiences in which they can develop and apply skills, explore personal attitudes and values, and acquire appropriate knowledge and understanding.

The PSE framework for 7 to 19-year-olds in Wales sets out the aim to provide the foundation for a broad, balanced holistic approach to PSE which features a range of experiences to promote the personal and social development and well-being of learners. This framework is the key document that schools should use in planning their personal and social education programme. A copy of this framework can be found from the attached link below:

<http://learning.wales.gov.uk/resources/personal-and-social-education/?skip=1&lang=en>

The five key themes identified in the PSE framework are: Active Citizenship; Health and Emotional Well-being; Moral and Spiritual Development; Preparing for Lifelong Learning; and Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship.

Through the Health and Emotional Well-being theme, learners can be helped to maintain their emotional and physical health, sustain their growth and development, and know how to keep themselves safe. Learners are given opportunities to understand the short and longer term consequences when making decisions about personal health and how to access professional health advice and personal support with confidence.

The delivery of the curriculum is delegated to schools and decisions on the precise content, materials and resources of a school's PSE programme rests with head teachers and their governing bodies, to ensure that it meets the needs of children and their local community.

As part of their work for the Welsh Network of Healthy School Schemes (WNHSS), schools will be looking at all aspects of mental and emotional health and well-being. They will identify areas of concern in their school, and may choose to develop a programme to deal with the issue. Although self harm is not specifically mentioned in the WNHSS guidance, this does not preclude schools from dealing with this issue.

In March, I announced the appointment of Professor Graham Donaldson to lead a wide ranging, independent review of the national curriculum and assessment arrangements in Wales, which includes PSE.

The full terms of reference for Professor Donaldson's review are available from the link below:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/schoolshome/curriculuminwales/curriculum-for-wales/terms-of-reference/?lang=en>.

Listening is at the heart of Professor Donaldson's review, and I will forward a copy of your letter to him. If you would like further information on the review please contact: CurriculumReview@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

I hope that this information demonstrates that the Welsh Government is committed to working with secondary schools to develop programmes, policies and guidance aimed at tackling the issue of self harm in secondary schools.

Yours sincerely



Huw Lewis AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau
Minister for Education and Skills