

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (Statutory Requirement) Bill

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TO

Require the Secretary of State to provide that Personal, Social, Health and Economic education (PSHE) be a statutory requirement for all state-funded schools; for PSHE to include Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) and education on ending violence against women and girls; to provide for initial and continuing teacher education and guidance on best practice for delivering and inspecting PSHE and SRE education; and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 PSHE in maintained schools

(1) In section 84 of Education Act 2002, in subsection (3) (foundation subjects), after paragraph (h) there is added—
 “(i) personal, social, health and economic education”.

(2) In section 85 of Education Act 2002 (curriculum requirements for the fourth key stage), in subsection (3) (foundation subjects), at the end there is inserted “, and
 “(d) personal, social, health and economic education”.

(3) Before section 86 of Education Act 2002 there is inserted—

“85B Personal, social, health and economic education 10

(1) For the purposes of this Part, personal, social, health and economic education (“PSHE”) shall comprise formal lessons which aim to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence of pupils to prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life.

(2) The topics covered under subsection (1) shall comprise— 15
 (a) sex and relationships education;
 (b) education on ending violence against women and girls;
 (c) education about emotional health, mental health and wellbeing;
 (d) education about equality;

- (e) education about alcohol, tobacco and other drugs;
- (f) (education about individual safety, including online;
- (g) education about physical health (including emergency lifesaving skills), nutrition and physical activity; and
- (h) education about personal finance, careers, enterprise and employability. 5
- (3) The detail of the curriculum under subsections (1) and (2) shall be determined by the governing body and head teacher.
- (4) The Secretary of State may by order amend subsections (1) and (2).
- (5) The National Curriculum for England is not required to specify attainment targets or assessment arrangements for PSHE (and section 84(1) has effect accordingly). 10
- (6) It is the duty of the governing body and head teacher of any school in which PSHE is provided in pursuance of this section to secure that the principles set out in subsections (7) to (9) are complied with. 15
- (7) The first principle is that information presented in the course of providing PSHE should be accurate and balanced.
- (8) The second principle is that PSHE should be taught in a way that is appropriate to the ages and backgrounds of the pupils concerned.
- (9) The third principle is that PSHE should be taught in a way that – 20
- (a) promotes equality as defined with reference to the protected characteristics included in the Equality Act 2010;
- (b) encourages acceptance of diversity and difference; and
- (c) emphasises the importance of responsibilities and rights.
- (10) In the exercise of their functions under this Part so far as they relate to PSHE, a local authority, governing body or head teacher shall have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State. 25
- (11) It should be a duty on the Secretary of State to –
- (a) ensure that PSHE is included in accredited initial and continuing teacher education; and 30
- (b) to issue guidance on best practice in delivering and inspecting PSHE education.
- (12) The guidance mentioned in subsection (11) shall be informed by –
- (a) HM Government’s strategy on ending violence against women and girls entitled *Call to End Violence Against Women and Girls* published on 25 November 2010; 35
- (b) the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women; and
- (c) any other source of information which the Secretary of State considers appropriate. 40
- The guidance shall include a clear emphasis on safeguarding, including teaching about healthy relationships, gaining consent and how to recognise and report abuse, and where to access support.
- (13) The Secretary of State shall review the guidance mentioned in subsection (11) at least annually, and in reviewing the guidance the Secretary of State must consult such persons as the Secretary of State 45

considers appropriate. The Secretary of State must amend and reissue the guidance if the Secretary of State considers it would otherwise not be fit for purpose.”

2 PSHE in other state funded schools

In Chapter 4 of Part 7 of Education Act 1996 (city colleges), after section 483A there is inserted – 5

“483B Personal, social, health and economic education

- (1) For the first, second, third and fourth key stages, the curriculum for a school to which this section applies shall include personal, social, health and economic education (“PSHE”), comprising the matters set out in section 85B(1) of the Education Act 2002. 10
- (2) It is the duty of the proprietor and head teacher of a school in which PSHE is provided in pursuance of this section to secure that the principles set out in section 85B(7) to (9) of the Education Act 2002 are complied with. 15
- (3) In carrying out functions exercisable by virtue of this section, the proprietor and head teacher of a school to which the section applies shall have regard to any guidance issued from time to time by the Secretary of State.
- (4) The schools to which this section applies are city technology colleges, city colleges for the technology of the arts and academy schools. 20
- (5) In this section “first, second, third and fourth key stages” has the meaning given by section 82(1)(a) and (d) of the Education Act 2002.
- (6) Section (1) of the Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (Statutory Requirement) Act 2017 applies to schools mentioned in subsection (1) as though they were maintained schools.” 25

3 Short title, commencement and extent

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (Statutory Requirement) Act 2017.
- (2) This Act comes into force on 1 September in the year after the year in which this Act is passed. 30
- (3) This Act extends to England and Wales.

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*Presented by Caroline Lucas
supported by
Mrs Maria Miller,
Kate Green,
Teresa Pearce,
Liz Saville Roberts,
Barbara Keeley,
Valerie Vaz,
Thangam Debbonaire,
Jess Phillips,
Sarah Champion and Diana Johnson.*

*Ordered, by The House of Commons,
to be Printed, 4 July 2016.*

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