



Thursday 21 November 2024

Dear Professor Becky Francis CBE and The Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP,

Re: Curriculum and Assessment Review:
Consultation response letter on behalf of Buckinghamshire's young SEND community

We are writing to you on behalf of the young SEND community of Buckinghamshire to share our voice on the Curriculum and Assessment Review, with a specific request to introduce SEND teaching in the PSHE curriculum, informed by our lived experiences.

In our children's and young people's plan 2024-2025, one of our actions is to campaign for SEND to be taught in schools as part of the PSHE curriculum. Both from our own experiences and feedback from other young people with SEND, we know that this is a key step in creating more inclusive schools where all students are welcome.

In the Curriculum and Assessment Review, it states that you will seek to deliver '*a curriculum that reflects the issues and diversities of our society, ensuring all children and young people are represented.*' We believe, that in a system where we are all becoming increasingly tolerant and aware of the challenges many different communities face, including SEND teaching in the PSHE curriculum and beyond will help achieve this ambition for the SEND community.

We are asking that children and young people with SEND are represented in our education settings, in a way that is both respectful to us and includes us.

We also believe that introducing content that teaches all students about SEND across the UK will likely result in freeing up resources in a system that is already stretched. Actions such as these will set up more inclusive school environments where more pupils will feel understood and accepted, more pupils will understand their own needs, and therefore, more pupils will be able to access mainstream provision.

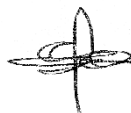
In conclusion, on behalf of all young people with SEND in Buckinghamshire and nationally, we urge you to consider including SEND in the national curriculum, specifically in PSHE.

This will positively impact our day to day lives and our access to education and jobs, and it will release pressure on a struggling SEND system.

Yours faithfully,



Pippa
Co-chair, Shout Out for SEND



Serena
Co-chair, Shout Out for SEND

Appendix 1 - About Shout Out for SEND

We, Shout Out for SEND, are a group run by Buckinghamshire Council that aims to improve the lives of young people with SEND in Buckinghamshire. We do this by holding monthly meetings where dedicated SEND young people act as representatives for their peers and local communities.

We have been involved in many conferences and workshops, all aimed at gathering SEND young people's thoughts, feelings and opinions on issues to create change. We have also fed into council strategies and services, where giving our input is essential in order to ensure that SEND young people are respected in decisions that ultimately affect them.

You can read more about Shout Out for SEND at www.youthvoicebucks.co.uk/shoutout-for-send.

Appendix 2 – Key comments from our Shout Out for SEND Reps on this matter

"Having SEND spoken about in PSHE would give us the feeling being allowed to exist, allowing me to be me."

"Bullying could be increased if SEND in PSHE is not taught sensitively, so PSHE Leads should receive training to understand how to deliver this effectively."

"This would be one route to help embed inclusive cultures within schools."

"It links to the values of so many schools - of tolerance and acceptance of all."

"If brought to life, there should be opportunities for pupils with SEND to contribute their own voices in their own schools, but only if they are comfortable and supported in doing so."

Thank you for reading.

We would be happy to continue contributing to this conversation and important decision. If you would like to contact us, please reach out to ShoutOutforSEND@Buckinghamshire.gov.uk.