

Inclusive Policy Making Screening Assessment

Document: Sex and relationships education in schools; guidance circular

Overview: Guidance on how schools should develop their sex education policy, plan and deliver their sex and relationships education provision and work in partnership with others.

Assessment by: Curriculum Division officials based on an internal review of the draft guidance circular.

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Date: 29.06.2010

Equality Strand	Summary of evidence identified (by paragraph)	Weighting (credibility of evidence)			Relevance of evidence	Policy or practice relevance to equality strand			
		unsatisfactory	satisfactory	strong		No relevance	Low	Medium	High
Disability	Explicit reference in sections 3.12 – 3.18; 4.17		✓		The principles of equality and diversity are embedded throughout the guidance circular. The introduction confirms that the purpose of the guidance is to deliver Welsh Assembly Government's core aims and UNCRC rights for children and young people.		✓		
Race	Indirect references to cultural backgrounds in sections 2.15; 4.17		✓				✓		
Gender and Gender re-assignment	Explicit reference in sections 3.19; 3.37; 3.38; 3.48; 3.50		✓				✓		
Age	Appropriate terminology used throughout the document e.g. children, young people, all learners. Explicit reference in sections 1.8; 1.15; 1.16; 3.3; 3.8		✓				✓		
Religion and Belief and Non-belief	Explicit reference to learners' backgrounds, beliefs and		✓				✓		

	culture in sections 2.15; 3.27; 3.41; 3.45 Implicit in 1.19				It takes account of learners' backgrounds, culture, beliefs and needs – these principles are explicit all through the document.				
Sexual Orientation	Explicit reference 1.18 – 4 th bp; 2.18; 2.20; 3.50		✓				✓		
Human Rights	Explicit reference 1.2; 1.8; 2.4; 3.46		✓				✓		
General references to equality and inclusion	Explicit reference 1.1; 1.4; 1.5 – 6 th bp; 1.19; 2.3 – 6 th bp; intro page 11; 2.14; 2.17; 2.20; 3.8; 3.20; 4.7		✓				✓		

Supporting evidence:

1. Schools are familiar with *Sex and relationships education in schools NAfW Circular No 11/2002* and have followed this guidance when developing their policies.
2. The national curriculum subject orders and the Personal and social education framework *for 7-19-year olds in Wales* were revised in 2008. It was therefore appropriate to revise *Circular No 11/2002* to reflect the requirements of the revised school curriculum in Wales.
3. An advisory group with a practical understanding of the curriculum, and an understanding of the different aspects of discrimination and inequality related to sex and relationships education, was established. The group, comprising a cross-section of teachers across all sectors together with representatives from local authorities and other interested organisations, provided a steer and professional advice during the updating of the guidance circular.
4. Officials from the Curriculum Division also worked with colleagues across the Welsh Assembly Government to ensure the accuracy and relevance of the circular and to ensure it was compatible with Inclusive Policy Making requirements.
5. The updated guidance circular was made available on the Assembly website and all schools and other stakeholders were invited by letter to feedback.
6. All the comments received were analysed. Comments related to equality issues were considered and the guidance amended to address these where practicable.
7. An initial IPM screening of the draft guidance circular was completed by Curriculum Division officials.

8. The effect of the online SRE guidance on equality groups will be monitored for any adverse or negative impacts or for further opportunities to promote equality that may emerge. These will be captured and will inform any future development of the guidance. This initial assessment will be reviewed in September 2011.