



Youth Work Ireland

Press Release
Youth Work Ireland
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"Delivery and Implementation the Challenge for new SPHE Programme" says Leading Youth Organisation

The new SPHE Programme published by the NCCA needs to be delivered in a speedy fashion according to Ireland's leading youth organisation which has welcomed the publication. The organisation which has conducted several consultations and research studies with young people on this topic. The organisation believes that there has been unwarranted delay in changes based on previous reports on the RSE curriculum and these should not occur in this instance.

"An urgent need for inclusive sex education has emerged as a key issue for young people with work with. They have told us that the current teaching in schools is inadequate, not fit for purpose and does not reflect or address the needs of young people growing up in Ireland today. Ireland has changed in the last decades, we are a more inclusive, equal and progressive society and sex education in Irish schools should reflect this. We feel that the proposed new short course will address the concerns the young people spoke about. Certainly, in terms of Strand 3 we feel the learning outcomes will support young people in receiving adequate, factual and appropriate education which in turn will support them to make healthy decisions around their life choices. We feel that the learning outcomes listed are comprehensive and the framework of the three cross cutting elements will support young people's learning across all areas and allow them a safe and support space to talk about these issues and get reliable information. There is also a welcome focus on sexual health and relationships, consent and the influence of online harms including pornography." Said Michael Mc Loughlin of Youth Work Ireland

"The focus on decision making, wellbeing, life skills and relationship building is very welcome, as is awareness around the impact of digital media. We particularly support the values and rights-based approach that is being put forward as a framework for the short course. This should ensure all young people's rights and identities are reflected in the teachings and that all young people feel included and receive the knowledge that is appropriate for them. The need for inclusive sex education has emerged as a key issue for young people leading to Youth Work Ireland's Positive Sexual Health Campaign. The Positive Sexual Health Campaign we launched with a resource for youth workers designed specifically to address the thorny issue of sex education has shown the need for much more work in this area and this report advances that" Mc Loughlin added

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